



March 23, 2026

**By e-mail**

Dear Parties,

**Re: First Nations Child and Family Caring Society et al. v. Attorney General of Canada  
Tribunal File: T1340/7008**

**Letter-decision National Children's Chiefs Commission with reasons to follow**

The Tribunal welcomes the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) as an interested party joining these proceedings and grants its motion in part, with reasons to follow. The Tribunal considers the NCCC's participation to be positive and that it will assist the Tribunal moving forward.

The Tribunal recognizes and values the voices of Chiefs speaking on behalf of their children, as expressed through resolutions within their respective institutions, as well as their inherent right to self-determination. This principle must be applied by this Tribunal consistently to all Chiefs' organizations nationally or across all regions of Canada who are part of this complaint.

The National Children's Chiefs Commission's motion seeking interested party status in the proceedings generally is allowed in part with reasons to follow.

The NCCC (new interested party) is granted limited interested party status with the following conditions:

- a) The new interested party shall not participate in or bring interim motions. The new interested parties shall not bring any motions, whether procedural or substantive, before the Tribunal.
- b) The new interested party shall abide by all Tribunal directions.
- c) The new interested party may participate in the national long-term reform plan hearing process and the long-term reform of Jordan's Principle but shall not participate in interim motions.
- d) The new interested party shall not be permitted to participate in mediation, or other dispute resolution or administrative processes unless specifically directed by the Tribunal. The new interested party may participate in case management conferences at the invitation of the Tribunal.
- e) The new interested party shall accept the proceedings and the official record as they find them and shall not seek to reopen matters, add or raise new issues, expand the scope of the complaint, revisit the evidence, or challenge previous orders or decisions. They shall assist

the Tribunal, through their expertise, in determining the future final long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle.

- f) The new interested party shall not duplicate the submissions of other parties and may adopt the submissions of parties with whom they are aligned.
- g) The Caring Society, the AFN and the NCCC shall coordinate their submissions to avoid duplication.
- h) The new interested party shall provide submissions limited to their expertise in child and family services for on-reserve First Nations children and in the Yukon and on Jordan's Principle.
- i) The new interested party shall not seek adjournments, postponements, or other modifications to Tribunal deadlines and shall comply with all Tribunal timelines. Missed deadlines will be considered a renunciation of participation in the motion, round of submissions, or other procedural or substantive matter for which they are late.
- j) The new interested party shall make themselves available in accordance with the Tribunal's schedule.
- k) The new interested party shall seek permission from the Tribunal before filing affidavits or exhibits and shall comply with any page limits imposed where such filings are permitted. Should the Tribunal permit the new party to present evidence related to potential future long-term orders, that evidence shall assist the Tribunal, avoid duplicating that of the other parties or generating unnecessary procedural issues, and be relevant, useful, and focused.
- l) The new interested party shall not cross-examine witnesses unless otherwise permitted by the Tribunal.
- m) The Tribunal reserves the right to determine the time allocated to the new interested party for oral submissions. The Tribunal will establish time limits, and the new interested party shall comply with those limits.
- n) All parties shall be provided with a meaningful opportunity to respond to any written and oral submissions from new interested party, where such submissions are permitted by the Tribunal.
- o) The new interested party shall familiarize itself with the procedures of administrative tribunals and govern itself accordingly. The Tribunal reserves the right to add to or modify the above conditions, depending on the evolution of the case and as required by the circumstances, particularly if the proceedings risk being slowed or halted.
- p) The Tribunal will not delay motions, hearings, or established schedules to accommodate new groups seeking to join these proceedings at this late stage, except in extraordinary circumstances or where a long-term reform agreement is reached with Canada and Canada seeks the Tribunal's approval of that agreement. This is not an invitation to bring forward regional long-term agreements one at a time, year after year, as occurred with the OFA; rather, it reflects Canada's proposed approach as set out in its national long-term reform plan. The Tribunal is not deciding the merits of Canada's national long-term reform plan here. This is for procedural planning purposes only.

The Tribunal remains focused on final long-term reform orders relating to the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle and, aside from Jordan's Principle interim orders, will not prioritize adjudicating other matters before addressing these important long-term issues. At any given time, the Tribunal may pause or limit the number of interventions and/or matters before it to ensure that the proceedings are not halted and continue to move forward effectively toward a final resolution.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Registry Office by e-mail at [registry.office@chrt-tcdp.gc.ca](mailto:registry.office@chrt-tcdp.gc.ca) or by fax at 613-995-3484.

Yours truly,

Judy Dubois  
Registry Officer