



*Child-friendly Information Sheet*

# The Government of Canada Needs to Treat First Nations Kids Fairly Right Away

## The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal tells the Government of Canada that it needs to stop breaking the law

*April 26, 2016*

### **The Government of Canada is breaking the law**

On January 26, 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (Tribunal) made an important decision. It said that the Government of Canada was breaking a law called the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. It was breaking the law because First Nations kids and families on reserves and in the Yukon were getting less child welfare services than other people. The Tribunal told the Government of Canada that it needed to stop breaking the law right away by treating First Nations kids and their families fairly and respecting their culture.

### **The Government of Canada has to stop breaking the law right away**

On April 26, 2016, the Tribunal made another very important decision about First Nations kids. It reminded the Government of Canada that treating First Nations kids and their families unfairly was against the law and said that it needed to stop doing this right away. It said that the Government of Canada needed to explain what it was going to do to make sure it was treating First Nations kids and their families fairly and respecting their culture.

The Tribunal said that not following Jordan's Principle is against the law too. A lot of First Nations kids do not get the same services that other kids in Canada get because of where they live. The Tribunal asked the Government of Canada to make sure that First Nations kids did not have to wait longer than other kids to get things they need like special beds and mattresses they need when they are sick, visits to dentists and activities at school.

The Government of Canada needs to explain to the Tribunal what it is doing to stop treating First Nations kids and their families unfairly. If the Tribunal thinks that the Government of Canada is not doing enough to treat First Nations kids fairly, it can force the Government of Canada to do more things like give them better services in schools, in hospitals and at the dentist.

The Tribunal said that if the Government of Canada does the right thing now, it can make a big difference for our whole country and around the world for a long time. It said that the Government of Canada needs to talk to First Nations peoples and be honest with them if it wants to help and be respected by First Nations peoples.

## **What will happen if the Government of Canada does not stop breaking the law?**

The Government of Canada needs to follow the decision of the Tribunal. It is the law. If it doesn't follow the decision and keeps breaking the law, the courts could force the government to pay a fine or make up for it in other ways.

## **What can kids do to help?**

There is a lot you can do to make sure that the Government of Canada stops breaking the law and treats First Nations kids fairly. You can learn more about the First Nations child welfare human rights

case at [www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca). Ask your teacher to help you learn about the laws that protect children's rights like the Canadian Human Rights Act and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. You can also write to the Prime Minister of Canada or your Member of Parliament and remind them that it is very important to follow human rights laws and treat First Nations children fairly. First Nations kids deserve to be treated fairly right away so that all kids in Canada have a chance to grow up safely with their families and communities and make their dreams come true.

**For more information on the case go to  
[www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca) or contact [info@fncaringsociety.com](mailto:info@fncaringsociety.com)**

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