



Our Statement on Canada's Decision to Appeal the Compensation Decision (2019 CHRT 39)



The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society is disappointed that today the Federal Government filed its appeal of the Federal Court's Decision upholding the decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to compensate the victims of Canada's discrimination in the provision of First Nations child and family services and implementation of Jordan's Principle. Victims of discrimination are entitled to and should receive compensation without delay.

While the Caring Society is disappointed that the appeal was filed, we have consented to Canada's request to pause the appeal for a very short period of time to allow for focused and intense negotiations to try and reach an agreement to end the Federal Government's discrimination and prevent its recurrence in the provision of child and family services and Jordan's Principle. These discussions will be open only until December 2021. This is an important opportunity for the government to do the right thing: end its discriminatory practices, implement enforceable measures to prevent its recurrence, and compensate every victim of discrimination. If there is no resolution, the appeal will be back in court on an expedited basis starting in January 2022 and the Caring Society will continue to vigorously defend the rights of First Nations children, youth and families to be compensated for the discrimination they have experienced. We will not step away from the Tribunal's compensation order.

The Caring Society is prepared to give this government a limited opportunity to end its discrimination, prevent its recurrence and compensate the victims. We have made clear that the Caring Society will not negotiate below the \$40,000 compensation order – every victim is entitled to what the Tribunal has ordered and what the Federal Court has upheld.

We owe it to every child, every youth and every family to try one more time and resolve every aspect of this complaint. The Caring Society is ready for this important work and is hopeful that the parties can address the past and ongoing discrimination together – to build a better future for First Nation children, youth and families and for Canada.

For more information about the case, please visit: fnwitness.ca. For media requests and other inquiries, please email: info@fncaringociety.com.