



Dear _____, (MP's name)

Please have a heart—First Nations children should not have to fight for services other people in Canada enjoy.

I am writing to you today because I am deeply concerned about discrimination against First Nations children, youth, and their families. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the Auditor General of Canada, and many others have noted that First Nations children receive less funding from the Canadian Government for public services (e.g., education, child welfare, health services, et cetera) than other children in Canada enjoy as a matter of course. This is not okay. That's why I'm happy to hear that Minister Philpott has promised to end discrimination in First Nations child welfare. **These promises are essential for justice and equity for Indigenous children and must be implemented.**

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Born with complex medical needs, Jordan spent more than two years in the hospital unnecessarily while the Province of Manitoba and the federal government argued over who should pay for his in-home care. **Jordan died in the hospital at the age of five years old, never having spent a day in his family home.** Jordan's Principle aims to make sure First Nations children can access all public services when they need them.

Shannen Koostachin, from Attawapiskat First Nation in Ontario, had a dream: safe and comfy schools and culturally based education for First Nations children and youth. Inadequate education funding creates serious challenges for those working to create safe and appropriate learning environments for First Nations children. **Shannen worked tirelessly to try to convince the federal government to give First Nations children a proper education.** Unfortunately, she passed away in a car accident at the age of 15 before her dream could come true. Shannen remains an important role model for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people who continue to carry her dream for safe and comfy schools for all First Nations children in Canada.

I stand with Jordan River Anderson, Shannen Koostachin, and all First Nations children and youth.

I echo the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and urge you to give First Nations children the chance to grow up safely at home, get a good education, and be healthy and proud of who they are—equitable funding for Indigenous health, social services and education are essential for this. As my elected representative I ask you, as an urgent priority, to work for the implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 1-5 (Child Welfare) and 6-12 (Education).

Respectfully,

_____ (your name)

_____ (your address)