

Status of Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action on Child Welfare & Education

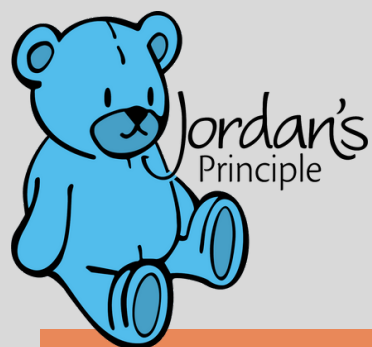
Child Welfare and Education comprise two of the five Legacy Calls to Action intended to end injustices by addressing ongoing structural inequalities.

Caring Society Campaign

i am a witness



The human rights case ensuring Canada ends its discrimination against First Nations children in its funding of child welfare and ensuring it properly implements Jordan's Principle



Named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, Jordan's Principle is a child-first legal rule ensuring First Nations children get the services they need when they need them.



Named in memory of Shannen Koostachin, Shannen's Dream is about ensuring First Nations children and youth have the same education opportunities as others in ways that respect their languages and cultures.

Related Calls to Action

Child Welfare

Calls to Action 1 - 5

1. Reduce the number of Indigenous children in care
2. Publish annual child welfare reports
3. Fully implement Jordan's Principle
4. Enact Indigenous child welfare legislation
5. Develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Indigenous families

Education

Calls to Action 7 -10

7. Develop, with Indigenous groups, a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians
8. Eliminate unequal federal education funding for First Nations children educated on and off reserves
9. Publish annual education reports
10. Draft new Indigenous education legislation with the full participation of Indigenous peoples

Completion Status

0/5 completed

1. The number of children in care has not been reduced. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ordered Canada to fund prevention services for First Nations children intended to keep families together when it's possible. It's unclear what would happen to this funding when the CHRT's jurisdiction ends.
2. There is no data available on the number of Indigenous children in care compared with non-Indigenous children, reasons for apprehension, total spending on preventive and care services and effectiveness of interventions.
3. CHRT ordered Canada to implement Jordan's Principle, resulting in a 530% increase in approved requests going to First Nations kids since 2017. However, Jordan's Principle is not fully implemented and inequalities persist in many service areas.
4. Bill C-92 came into force in 2020, but there are no binding requirements for Canada to fund child welfare programs run by First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.
5. CHRT ordered Canada to fund prevention and least disruptive measures for First Nations families, which could include parenting programs.

0/11 completed

7. Federal budgets 2018, 2021 and 2022 allocated funding, but there is no clear joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps.
8. Money allocated in 2019, 2021 and 2022 budgets, but no data available on amounts dedicated to eliminate unequal funding or results of funding
9. No annual reports published, making it impossible to validate government claims that they are supplying comparable funding to First Nations children on and off reserves
10. Canada claims to be funding and negotiating separately with First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups. There is no information on where the funding is going and if it's effective in closing educational gaps, improving attainment levels or developing culturally appropriate curricula.