

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL

B E T W E E N:

**FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA and
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**

Complainants

- and –

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Commission

-and-

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA
(Representing the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada)**

-and-

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and
NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION**

Interested Parties

WILL SAY STATEMENT OF URSULA LARSSON

1. Ursula Larsson is the Director of Developmental Services for Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (“SLFNHA”) in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Ms. Larsson has been in this position since 2020. From 1999-2020, Ms. Larsson worked in various progressive roles at Firefly, transitioning to Director of Firefly in 2008. Ms. Larsson was seconded from Firefly to SLFNHA in 2017, with her employment officially beginning in 2020.

2. Ms. Larsson has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg (1987), a Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation from the University of Manitoba (1990), Certificate in Indigenous Human

Resources Essentials – Leading strategic Change Management (2021); and Public Sector Institute of Leadership and Management Program – Rotman School of Management (2022).

3. SLFNHA delivers health services to First Nations communities across the Sioux Lookout region, an area characterized by fly-in access, jurisdictional complexity, and historic service gaps. At SLFNHA, Ms. Larsson leads and oversees the Developmental Services department, which serves multiple remote First Nations communities, with a staff of 95. Ms. Larsson has led complex management changes initiatives to respond to evolving community needs and within changing funding structures; has collaborated with executive leadership, communities and external partners to align services with community and cultural practices; and has led the design and building/renovation of four (4) community health hubs.

4. Firefly is a multi-service, non-profit organization that provides a wide range of services for children, youth, and families in communities across the Districts of Kiiwetinoong, Kenora and Rainy River. At Firefly, Ms. Larsson held several different positions, including physiotherapist, team leader, Director of Rehabilitation, Director of clinical innovations and partnerships, Director of service excellence (Mental Health and Rehabilitation).

5. At both SLFNHA and Firefly, Ms. Larsson's work included securing funding through Jordan's Principle multi-year applications and annual applications for service coordination. In addition, Ms. Larsson and her team have assisted in hundreds of individual Jordan's Principle requests.

6. Ms. Larsson co-wrote Firefly's original Jordan's Principle proposal for normative service delivery for children with special needs on behalf of the 56 First Nations served by Firefly in 2016. This submission was split into 4 submissions: Kenora Chiefs Advisory (14 member communities),

Fort Frances Tribal Area (10 member communities), Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (33 member communities), and Sandy Lake First Nation, all four of which were approved in 2016. Ms. Larsson also assisted these groups in building internal capacity to run their own Jordan's Principle programs independently.

7. Ms. Larsson's evidence will provide an overview of the experiences of SLFNHA in accessing Jordan's Principle funding, and the unique experiences of the First Nation children served by SLFNHA.

8. Ms. Larsson's evidence will further touch on the negatives impacts of ISC's release of the February 10, 2025 Jordan's Principle Operational Bulletin: Updates to the Implementation of Jordan's Principle (the "**Operational Bulletin**") as it pertains to Jordan's Principle requests, with a focus on service delivery and service coordination. Ms. Larsson's evidence will specifically address the challenges faced by staff, families and service providers as a result of the Operational Bulletin, and the negative impact of the Operational Bulletin on SLFNHA's funding, service coordination, and scope of services offered. Ms. Larsson will also address the significant delays in receiving responses from Indigenous Services Canada ("**ISC**") in relation to Jordan's Principle requests, well outside the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal timelines, the impact of those delays on service delivery, and the new administrative barriers and obstacles introduced for group requests, including the new requirement of providing identifying information of First Nations children to ISC who are accessing services and supports through service coordination.