

Child Welfare



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada



THE 60'S SCOOP

- Pre-contact indigenous peoples had their own well-established systems of childcare and education that were rooted in the community, the natural environment, and spiritual teachings.¹
- In 1951, revisions to the Indian Act granted provincial child-welfare agencies legal authority on reserve leading to Indigenous children being taken into care at an unbelievable rate.
- More than 11, 000 First Nation and other Indigenous children were adopted; often removed from their homes without knowledge or consent from families or communities.
- Mainly white families adopted these children resulting in cultural and identity dislocation and confusion.
- Today, there are more indigenous children in child welfare services than at the height of the residential school system; we recognize this generation as the "Millennium Scoop."²



JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE³

- All children deserve to grow up in healthy, safe and nurturing environments and this is not the case for indigenous children in Canada.
- Jordan River Anderson was a First Nations child that was born on reserve with complex medical needs and was sent to Winnipeg to receive treatment.
- After two years of care doctors decided, it was best to send Jordan home and provide home care.
- The federal and provincial governments fell into a jurisdictional dispute, arguing over who was to pay for Jordan's care.
- Jordan was 5 years old when he passed away without spending a day of his life in his community or family home.
- In 2007, the federal government implemented Jordan's Principle which meant to ensure that Indigenous children are not caught in government disputes and have access to the same level of services as all other Canadians.
- Implementation remains limited in scope and the government continues to challenge Human Rights Tribunal cases that involve the principle.

Works Cited

1. National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health. (2017). *Indigenous Children and the Child Welfare System in Canada*.
2. Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. (2015). *Supporting Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA Youth in the Ontario Child Welfare System*.
3. First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. (2011). *Jordan & Shannen: First Nations children demand that the Canadian Government stop racially discriminating against them*. National Aboriginal Health Organization. (2011). *Inuit Child Welfare and Family Support: Policies, Programs and Strategies Summary*.
4. Statistics Canada. (2016). *Living Arrangements of Aboriginal Children Aged 14 and Under*.
5. Assembly of First Nations. (2013). *Fact Sheet – Child Welfare*.

Child Welfare



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN IN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

- Indigenous children are **6 to 8** times more likely to enter child welfare systems because of neglect related to poverty^{1,3}
- **3/4** of Indigenous children in child welfare services **live in the western provinces**⁴
- Indigenous children in care are more likely to live in a household with 3 or more foster children⁴
- First Nations social workers report higher case loads⁵
- Federal government denies responsibility for Metis families¹
- More data is necessary to understand Inuit access to Child and Family Services⁵
- LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit youth in care are likely to leave home due to intolerant families/communities²
- Not all of these youth are given the option of non-disclosure and can be "outed" by child welfare services²
- Compliance orders have been issued from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal calling for immediate action¹

Indigenous children under 14 make up
7% of all Canadian children



● Non-Indigenous Children

● Indigenous Children

BUT Indigenous children make up 48%
of all children in Child Welfare Services!



● Other Children in Child Welfare Services

● Indigenous Children in Child Welfare Servi...

INDIGENOUS CHILD WELFARE & GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION³

- Federal government is responsible for Indigenous services
- Provinces/territories are responsible for child welfare
- Federal government provides lower levels of funding than Provinces/Territories for Indigenous child welfare programs
- Provinces/Territories typically do not top up funding
- This creates a two tiered system, where Indigenous children do not receive the same level of service as other non-Indigenous children
- Full implementation of Jordan's Principle would eliminate this two-tiered system

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT:

NWAC

613-722-3033

reception@nwac.ca

