

Provincial & Regional Partners:

Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
ACT Autism Community Training Society
Adoptive Families Association of BC
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies & Service Agencies
Alternate Shelter Society
Association for Community Education BC
Autism Society of BC
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society
BC Assoc. for Child Development & Rehabilitation
BC Association for Community Living
BC Association for Play Therapy
BC Association of Child Care Employers
BC Association of Family Resource Programs
BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach Programs
BC Association of Social Workers
BC Council for Families
BC Crime Prevention Association
BC Early Years Alliance • BC Farm Women's Network
BC Federation of Foster Parents Association
BC Government & Service Employees' Union
BC Institute Against Family Violence
BC Pediatric Society • BC Recreation and Parks Association
BC School Trustees Association
BC Teachers' Federation
BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses
Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland
Boys & Girls Clubs of BC
Canadian Association for Young Children
Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region
Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division
Canadian Red Cross • Capilano Student Union
Caring for First Nations Children Society
Centre for Safe Schools and Communities
Cerebral Palsy Association of BC
Child & Family Counseling Association
Child & Youth Care Association of BC
Child Care Advocacy Forum
Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Council of Parent Participation Preschools BC
Deaf Children's Society of BC
Dietitians of Canada, BC Region
Developmental Disabilities Association
Early Childhood Educators of BC
East Kootenay Childhood Coalition
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Federated Anti-Poverty Groups
Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks
Federation of Child & Family Services of BC
Health Officers Council of BC
Hospital Employees' Union
Infant Development Program of BC
Invest in Kids • Justice Institute of BC
Labour Environmental Alliance Society
Learning Disabilities Association of BC
Literacy BC • McCreary Centre Society
MOSAIC • Nisika Community Services
National Council of Jewish Women
Pacific Association of First Nations Women
Pacific Community Resources Society
Pacific Legal Education Association • PARCA
Parent Support Services Society of BC
Penticton & District Community Resources Society
Public Health Association of BC
Self Help Resource Association of BC
Social Planning & Research Council BC
Society for Children & Youth of BC
Society for Public Education of BC
Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
United Way of the Lower Mainland
Vancouver Coastal Health – Population Health
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
Westcoast Family Resources Society
Working Group on Poverty
YWCA of Greater Vancouver
...and 26 Community Coalition Partners.

May 27, 2008

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Room 156, West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Campbell;

Re: First Call's Resolution in Support of Jordan's Principle

We are writing to applaud your government's commitment to Jordan's Principle, and to inform you that the partner organizations of First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition have passed a resolution in support of full implementation of the Principle. Our coalition is acutely aware of the urgency of the task of improving the quality of life and supports available to First Nations children, youth and their families in BC and across Canada. The statement made by your government in the 2008 Throne Speech that the Principle will be put into action, and that no Aboriginal child should be put at risk due to jurisdictional disputes, is very encouraging.

Our coalition's resolution, adopted at our April 9, 2008 meeting, calls on your government to begin taking action on this commitment immediately by:

- Bringing a bill to the provincial legislature for a vote that confirms British Columbia's commitment to implementing a child first principle, based on Jordan's Principle, to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children without disrupting services to or negatively impacting the quality of life of First Nations children;
- Including in the proposed bill a commitment to immediate implementation of the principle when the dispute is between provincial ministries;
- Including in the proposed bill a timeline for concluding negotiations with the federal government on the implementation of the principle in the case of federal-provincial disputes;

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- Working on an ongoing basis to ensure adequate support and care for First Nations children across ministries and jurisdictions.

First Call coalition partners have resolved that we will continue advocating for the full implementation of Jordan's Principle until we are satisfied that the needs of First Nations children in BC will no longer be compromised by jurisdictional disputes. First Call recognizes the complexities of implementing Jordan's Principle and looks forward to supporting and contributing to the process of successful implementation at the provincial level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Montani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Adrienne Montani
Provincial Coordinator

cc: Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Representative for Children and Youth
Carole James, Leader of the Opposition
All BC MLAs