

Our Children, Our Future: Launch of Regional Engagements on First Nations Child & Family Services Reform

National Webinar

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**First Nations Child &
Family Caring Society**



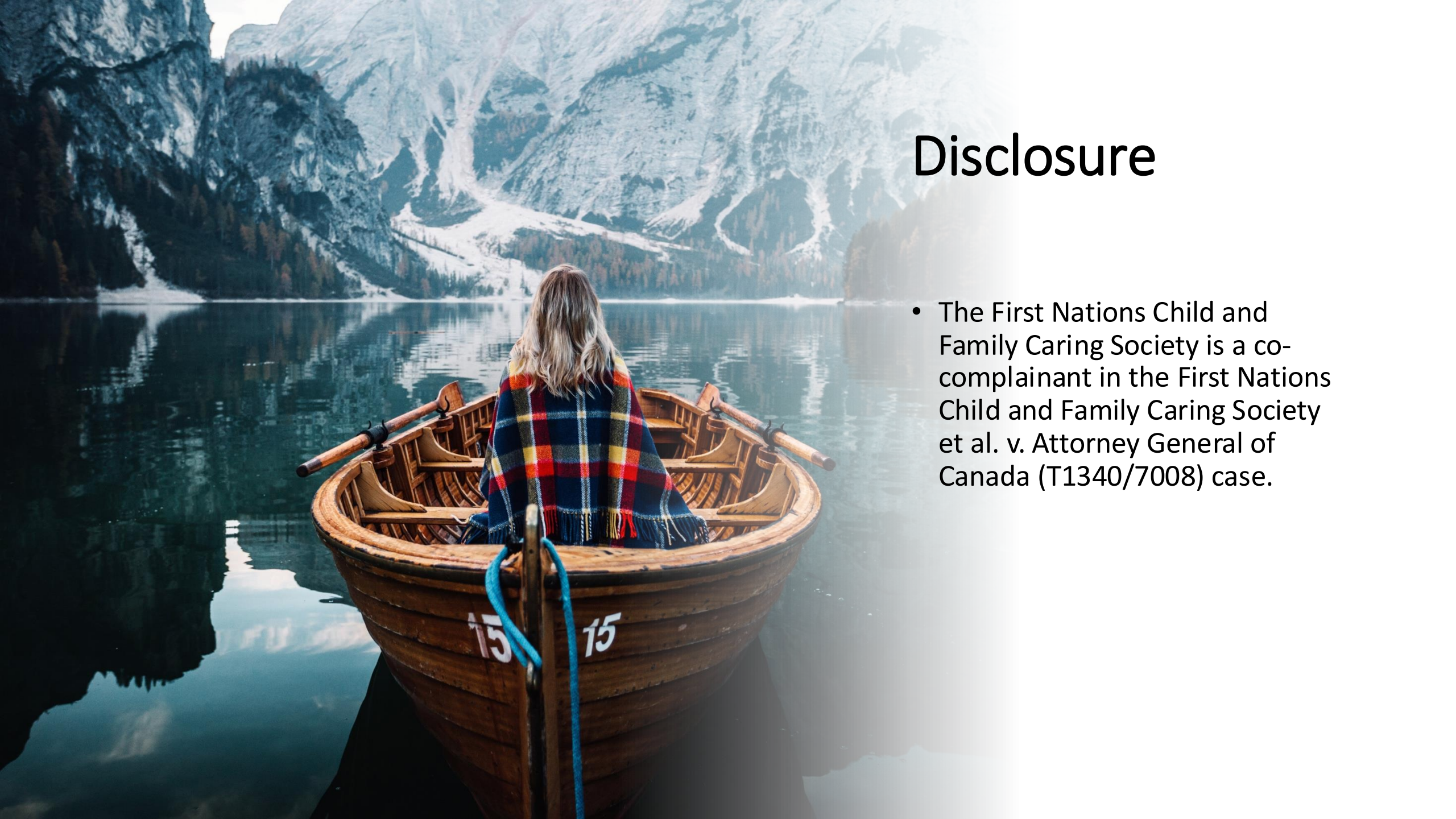
Presented by the Our Children Our Way Society

2025 CHRT 80

Within **four months** of the date of this ruling, the Caring Society and the AFN shall consult, in accordance with the parameters set out above, with the National Children's Chiefs Commission, First Nations Chiefs, and other experts, including First Nations and First Nations organizations outside Ontario, as well as those that have filed interested party motions, to develop an **evidence-based, comprehensive National FNCFS long-term reform plan** and requested remedies outside Ontario.

National Children's Chiefs Commission

- Created by the First Nations-in-Assembly via Resolution 60/2024
- Mandated to work openly and transparently to provide strategic direction and oversight of long-term reform Agreements negotiations, reporting back to the First Nations-in-Assembly
- Representation appointed by 11 regions
- Recognized by the CHRT
- Launching regional engagements to inform the National FNCFS long-term reform plan



Disclosure

- The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society is a co-complainant in the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society et al. v. Attorney General of Canada (T1340/7008) case.

What is the CHRT case about?

Permanently end the federal governments systemic discrimination affecting First Nations children, youth, and families:

- First Nations Child and Family Services
- Jordan's Principle



What is the focus of CHRT Long Term Reform?

Reforming Child Welfare?



Stopping Canada's discrimination in child and family and Jordan's Principle now and forever?



2025 CHRT 80: Safeguarding Future Generations

- Lasting effects, adequately resourced, sustainable for generations
- Flexible & improve upon previous orders
- Incorporate regional & local First Nations perspectives
- Evidence-based without delay for additional studies
- Align with the spirit of findings & rulings non-rigidly
- First Nations-centered, respectful of needs & perspectives
- Culturally appropriate, respect: substantive equality, best interests of the child, specific needs of children & families
- Comply with domestic & international human rights
- Strive for excellence, not perfection, without narrowing the Tribunal's findings & orders

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Legal Issues

- Canada's Judicial Review of 2025 CHRT 80
 - Implications
 - Next steps
- Implications of CHRT final orders for Nations resuming jurisdiction
- Recurring themes in Canada's behaviour

Regional Engagements



Engagement Themes

- Purpose, principles & definitions
- Governance
- Enforcement & durability
- Funding commitments & arrangements
- Accountability
- Regional variations
- Reform of Indigenous Services Canada
- Research and outcome data
- Transitions & readiness



Engagement Toolkit

Canada v. Powless (2025 FC 1227)

Grandmother challenges Ottawa's refusal to apply Jordan's Principle to renovate mouldy home

Jordan's Principle is designed to ensure Indigenous kids get care, services supports in a timely manner



Isha Bhargava · CBC News · Posted: May 15, 2025 9:34 AM EDT | Last Updated: May 15



Joanne Powless, 65 of the Oneida Nation of the Thames is the primary caregiver for her two granddaughters. The family has been fighting Ottawa for three years to fix their mould-contaminated home which has caused the girls, aged eight and 10, to suffer from severe asthma and multiple hospitalizations. (Submitted by Joanne Powless)

- Children with respiratory illness need mould remediation
- ISC denied the request, stating that Jordan's Principle is not intended to change the scope of special or ameliorative programs and referred the family to another program.
- The Federal Court found the ISC denial to be unreasonable because:
 - ISC narrowly assessed the request without considering key principles (i.e., needs, substantive equality).
 - ISC relied heavily on the cost to deny the request
 - ISC's conclusion that other programs suffice.
- **The Federal Court affirmed that Canada must consider whether the children's needs are met, rather than whether an ameliorative program exists.**
- **Canada appealed the FC decision. Hearing in the Federal Court of Appeal (A-270-25) on October 6, 2025**

Mississaugas of Credit First Nation v. Attorney General of Canada

- Filed in 2012 (T1810/4012)
- The case alleges Canada is discriminating against First Nations children on the prohibited grounds of race, national or ethnic origin and disability through inequitable special education services
- Hearings scheduled to begin on October 27, 2025



How to help



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National Children's Chiefs Commission

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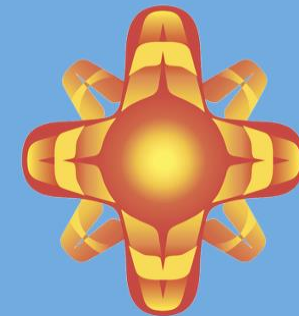
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The NCCC is hosted by the Our Children Our Way Society

*La Commission nationale des chefs des enfants est hébergée par
société Our Children Our Way*



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