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NDP AND FIRST NATIONS KIDS ASK FOR JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE SUPPORT

OTTAWA – NDP Aboriginal Affairs Critic Jean Crowder (Nanaimo-Cowichan) joined children from Norway House Cree Nation today to call on parliamentarians to support her private member's motion M-296 on Jordan's Principle.

"These are the children who will be freed from discrimination when governments implement Jordan's Principle," said Crowder. "Unlike Jordan, these children will stay in their community and receive medical care, not spend their whole lives in hospitals, waiting while governments bicker over who should pay the bills."

"Jordan's Principle means governments must meet the needs of the child first and then figure out the jurisdictional dispute later. Jordan waited two years hoping the federal and provincial governments would pay for the services he needed so he could live in a family home. Jordan died waiting – never having spent a day in a family home because government put their needs first and his second," said Cindy Blackstock, executive director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

"In Norway House Cree Nation, we've had to create a special project to provide services for our children with special needs who are not in care because the government refuses to pay the bills. Children should not have to suffer because they reside on a reserve," said Mike Muswagon, chair of the child welfare agency at Norway House Cree Nation.

"We all have to work together to move quickly but diligently to ensure that no child goes without the services they require," said MKO Grand Chief Sydney Garrioch. "After the House of Commons votes in favour of Jordan's Principle, our next step is to lobby the provinces and the federal government to implement Jordan's Principle as soon as possible."

"No child should be left behind," said Crowder. "I am committed to seeing Jordan's Principle implemented across Canada."

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