

CALL FOR PAPERS: Special Issue

Title: The implementation of Jordan's Principle across Canada: policy and practice lessons

Guest Editors: Vandna Sinha (University of Colorado), Josée G. Lavoie (University of Manitoba), Alison Gerlach (University of Victoria), Marlyn Bennett (University of Calgary), Lucyna Lach (McGill University)

Across Canada, the implementation of Jordan's Principle – and its Inuit equivalent, the Inuit Child First Initiative – has improved access to services that were previously only marginally available to First Nations and Inuit children. Driven by rulings from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the implementation of Jordan's Principle has radically redefined Canada's obligations to First Nations children, dramatically increased funding for services to First Nations children, and opened new pathways and possibilities for First Nations to design and implement services. The Inuit Child First Initiative has extended these gains to Inuit children and communities. Important innovations have been implemented, despite structural barriers, and the landscape of health, social, and education services for First Nations and Inuit children has been rapidly transformed.

[*Health Reform Observer – Observatoire des Réformes de Santé \(HRO-ORS\)*](#) invites papers, letters to the editor, and commentaries for a special issue exploring the implementation of Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative. This special issue is an opportunity to share experiences with, explore barriers to, and highlight promising practices in the provision of Jordan's Principle and Inuit Child First services. It is intended to create an opportunity for service providers, First Nations and Inuit leadership, and policy experts to share experiences with and reflections on efforts to achieve equitable and effective services for First Nations and Inuit children and families. We are particularly interested in articles that:

- track and make sense of implementation processes;
- document the current structure of Jordan's Principle and Inuit Child First services in different regions, tribal councils, or Nations;
- describe innovative approaches to practice with First Nations and Inuit families receiving Jordan's Principle and Inuit Child First services;
- assess the extent to which Canada is meeting its obligations to First Nations and Inuit children;
- identify remaining gaps in, and barriers to, services for First Nations and Inuit children; and
- identify policy changes needed to achieve the full implementation of Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative.

We will consider four types of content for this issue:

- [**Provincial/Territorial Health Reform Analyses \(HRAs\)**](#) – short articles (3,500 words or less) focusing on Jordan's Principle or Inuit Child First Initiative programs, policies, or proposals in a **single** jurisdiction – for example, either Canada (focused on federal level policy), or a **single** province/territory, Nation, or tribal council.
- [**Comparative Health Reform Analyses \(CHRAs\)**](#) – longer articles (6,500 words or less) that analyze some aspect of Jordan's Principle and/or the Inuit Child First Initiative by looking across **two or more** jurisdictions (for example, provinces, territories, Nations, or tribal councils) or by examining the relationship between Jordan's Principle/the Inuit Child First Initiative and other policies/programs with a mandate to help meet the needs of children and families.

- **Letters to the Editor** or **Commentaries** that dispute, nuance, or support and illustrate a statement made in a Jordan's Principle or Inuit Child First Initiative related paper published in the journal.
 - **Letters to the Editor** are short, specific comments in response to a paper published in the journal.
 - **Commentaries** are longer pieces that either 1) provide background information or respond in some way to conclusions reached in an HRA or CHRA, or 2) present an evidence-informed stakeholder perspective on a reform.

Letters and commentaries are peer reviewed and can be rejected or revised for resubmission, but are not subject to the guidelines for HRAs or CHRAs.

HRO-ORS strongly encourages submissions by Indigenous scholars, researchers, and practitioners, as well as the engagement of Indigenous service providers and leadership who have guided, led, or worked to implement Jordan's Principle or Inuit Child First Initiative structures and services.

Submissions will be subject to *HRO-ORS'* open review process, meaning that the identities of both the author(s) and reviewers are disclosed to one other. Our reviewers are encouraged to provide all prospective authors with constructive and timely advice regarding how to improve their manuscript regardless of their recommendation to accept or decline the manuscript for publication.

Instructions for authors are available at the journal [website](#). For ease of identification for *HRO-ORS'* editors, please indicate in your cover letter that the paper is in response to the Call for Papers for ***The implementation of Jordan's Principle across Canada***. Prospective authors should also explain how they engaged with communities in the preparation of the submission and/or how the interpretation and contextualization of the reform under consideration take into account the experiential knowledge of those whom the reform impacts.

For any questions about the special issue or suitability of an article topic, please contact Vandna Sinha (vandna.sinha@colorado.edu) or Josée G. Lavoie (josee.lavoie@umanitoba.ca). Questions about the submission or review process can be addressed to Sonya Walton, managing editor (hro_ors@mcmaster.ca). Please label all correspondence with the subject line **Special Issue: *The implementation of Jordan's Principle across Canada: policy and practice lessons***.

Deadline for full manuscript submissions: January 15, 2024

Manuscripts can be submitted at any time before this date through the [HRO-ORS portal](#).

Anticipated publication: Fall 2024

To ensure timely access to new content, *HRO-ORS* publishes incrementally. This means that the journal will launch the special issue as soon as a first article is ready for publication, and it will continue to add articles to the issue over the course of 2024 as they are finalized for publication.