



Newsletter



Remembering Martha Albert

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family, loved ones, and community of Martha Albert. We hold you in our thoughts and prayers as you grieve this tremendous loss.

Martha was an Elder with Mnaasged from the very beginning, and her presence, wisdom, and guidance helped shape our work in meaningful ways. She was a steadfast champion for First Nations youth and brought compassion, strength, and cultural grounding to everything she did. Her loss will be felt deeply for a long time to come. We are profoundly grateful for her service to Mnaasged and honour the legacy she leaves behind.



Upcoming Dates - January

January 4, 2026:
National Ribbon Skirt Day

Spirit Moon (Mnido Giizis)
Midwinter (Tsha 'tekohselh^)

Member Nations

Mnaasged is proud to have partnership with our communities
"Working together, we can move forward"



Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation for a generous **\$3,161.25 donation** to Mnaasged Child and Family Services.

Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation started in 2004 with the vision of listening to and empowering the next generation of Indigenous youth. In order to do this our mission was clear: "we hear you".

From "HEAR" our mandates were born: 1) H -health, 2) E – education, 3) A – arts & culture, and 4) R – recreation & sports. Today, through the contributions and shared vision of our Dreamcatcher supporters and partners, we are empowered to increase our positive impact on more youth and Indigenous communities across Ontario.

To learn more information about Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation please visit their website: dreamcatchercharity.org

A message from Executive Director

Mnaasged is excited to begin the new year and looks forward to a year of growth and continued momentum.

As our work expands, we invite community members to keep an eye out for upcoming job postings and opportunities to join our team. We are deeply honoured to carry out this important work and look forward to continuing to work alongside our Member Nations in the year ahead.

Thank you,

Melissa Patrquin



QR Code



Jordan's Principle Update

Suzanne Riley has now stepped into the Jordan's Principle Role for Mnaasged and continue operations.

Suzanne Riley, Jordan's Principle
519-289-1117EXT 222
Suzanne.riley@mnaasged.com



Victory for Jordan's Principle: Federal Court of Appeal Upholds Ruling in Powless Case

On December 15, 2025, the Federal Court of Appeal delivered a significant win for First Nations children and families, dismissing Canada's appeal in Canada v. Powless and affirming the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders on Jordan's Principle.

The case centers on Elder Joanne Powless from the Oneida Nation of the Thames, who sought funding under Jordan's Principle for urgent mould remediation in her home. Her two grandchildren suffer severe health impacts from the mould, with their doctor describing the remediation as a "life-saving necessity" and an "urgent medical need."

Despite this, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) denied the request, arguing Jordan's Principle did not apply. Canada then appealed the Federal Court's earlier decision, which found ISC's denial unreasonable.

The Federal Court of Appeal upheld that ruling, limiting ISC's discretion in Jordan's Principle determinations and ordering reconsideration of Ms. Powless's request. This marks the first time the Appeal Court has addressed key legal issues surrounding Jordan's Principle implementation.

In a statement released on December 18, 2025, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society expressed profound relief:

"We are thrilled that Ms. Powless and her two grandchildren will finally get the medical support they need and deserve. Her love for her grandchildren and commitment to ensuring Canada follows the legal rulings on Jordan's Principle are to be commended."



The Caring Society strongly criticized Canada's decision to litigate against a grandmother and vulnerable children for three years, rather than providing the necessary support. They urged the government not to appeal further, to comply fully with Tribunal orders, and to immediately approve the remediation so the family can enjoy a safe and healthy home.

This decision reinforces that Jordan's Principle must prioritize the substantive needs of First Nations children, ensuring they receive timely services without jurisdictional delays or discrimination.

The Caring Society stands in solidarity with Ms. Powless and her family, noting that their courage will benefit future generations of First Nations children.

For more details, visit the Caring Society's website or read the full decision (2025 FCA 226).

Caring Society page on the decision (2025 FCA 226):

<https://fncaringsociety.com/publications/2025-fca-226-canada-v-powless>

Full text of the Federal Court of Appeal decision (Canada (Attorney General) v. Powless, 2025 FCA 226):

On CanLII (official legal database):

<https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/fca/doc/2025/2025fca226/2025fca226.html>

PDF version hosted on the Caring Society site:

https://fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/A-270-25_20251215_R_E_OOTT_20251215141603_WBB_MNH_PAM_2025_FCA_226.pdf

Youth in Transition - January Update

During the month of January, our Youth in Transition Worker Sovannaroth will be out of office and returning February 2nd. During this time if you have any questions please reach out to Melissa Patriquin, Executive Director.

melissa.patriquin@mnaasged.com
519-289-1117 Ext. 229

Update on Long-Term Child Welfare Reform

A major development occurred just before the holidays: On December 22, 2025, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society (with support from the National Children's Chiefs Commission and the Assembly of First Nations) submitted the Loving Justice National Plan to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. This comprehensive First Nations-led plan aims to fully end discrimination in First Nations child and family services.

Canada submitted its own national reform plan around the same time. These submissions meet a key Tribunal deadline in the long-standing human rights case, paving the way for potential approval and implementation in 2026.

This is a hopeful step toward systemic change and preventing future families from facing the discrimination seen in cases like Powless.

Additonal Questions?

Byran Halona, Communications Officer
[519-289-1117 ext. 230 | Byran.halona@mnaasged.com](mailto:Byran.halona@mnaasged.com)