



# Newsletter



## Stage C Updates

As we continue our vital work supporting our children, families, and communities, we are thrilled to share some exciting news. We have recently secured \$384,000 in additional funding to support our operations through March 31.

This much-needed investment allows us to immediately begin hiring more dedicated staff to strengthen our services. Looking to the future, we have also begun positive discussions with the Province of Ontario regarding additional, ongoing funding starting April 1.

## Upcoming Dates

- |        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Mar 19 | Two Spirit Celebration Day        |
| Mar 20 | Spring Equinox/Sugar Moon         |
| Mar 22 | World Water Day                   |
| Mar 31 | National Indigenous Languages Day |

Hard Crest on Snow (Onaabani-giizis)  
Thundering Moon (Wahsakyu:tehse')

## Member Nations

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



## Annual General Assembly

On February 9th, Mnaasged Child and Family Services held our Annual General Assembly (AGA). Chaired by Stan Cloud, the event was a productive review of our milestones, governance, and future goals.

### Assembly Highlights:

**Opening Ceremony:** Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit community members and youth opened the day in a good way with a prayer and a big drum song.

**Leadership Updates:** Board President Vince George shared our strategic vision, while Pat Lake outlined our operational progress and the ongoing path toward Stage C Designation.

**Accountability & Guidance:** BDO Canada presented a clean Auditor's Report on our fiscal health. Crucially, John Stonefish delivered a message from the Elders Council, ensuring our corporate path remains rooted in traditional teachings.

We were also pleased to welcome Ministry representatives, reinforcing our collaborative relationship. Want to dive deeper? **The 2024-25 AGA Packet is now available on our website.**

## A message from Executive Director

As we focus on expansion and agency progress, fueled by our recent funding additions, we are actively expanding our team to advance the Stage C designation process and look forward to sharing new career opportunities with you this month.

We are honored to continue this journey and remain committed to working alongside our Member Nations as we build on this momentum for the new fiscal year ahead.

Thank you,

*Melissa Patriguin*



## Jordan's Principle Update

### Federal Government Commits \$1.55 Billion to Renew Jordan's Principle

On February 26, Indigenous Services Minister Mandy Gull-Masty announced a federal commitment of \$1.55 billion to renew funding for Jordan's Principle through March 31, 2027. This crucial investment aims to provide immediate stability for First Nations families and ensure uninterrupted access to essential medical, educational, and social supports for our children.

With over 10 million products and services approved over the last decade, Jordan's Principle has seen a massive surge in demand, leading to significant administrative backlogs. This renewed funding is intended to help process those delays while the government works alongside First Nations leadership to reform the program.

While this funding is a welcome and necessary step to protect our children's rights to equitable care, child welfare advocates across the country continue to push for long-term solutions.

<https://tinyurl.com/Jordan-Principle-Update>

"Children are at the heart of who we are as First Nations. Jordan's Principle must work for those who depend on it. By committing \$1.55 billion over the next year, we are reducing uncertainty and strengthening stability for communities. We will continue working with First Nations leadership and families to ensure Jordan's Principle remains predictable, practical, and grounded in fairness and respect."

The Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty

Minister of Indigenous Services



## Federal Cuts Target Indigenous Rights Legal Teams

A recent CBC News report has revealed that over 20% of looming job cuts at the federal Department of Justice are targeted at staff within the Indigenous rights and relations portfolio.

**The Concern:** Legal experts and unions warn that slashing these specific legal teams is "reckless" and will severely hamper Indigenous consultation, negotiation, and access to the justice system.

**The Impact:** Critics fear this move indicates a step backward for reconciliation, potentially delaying vital systemic progress for Indigenous communities across the country.

CBC Full Article  
<https://tinyurl.com/CBC-Indigenous-Rights>



### Additional Questions?

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