



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Trudeau Government files an application for Judicial Review on Important Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision for First Nations Children and Families**

The Six Nations Elected Council is disheartened by the Trudeau Liberal government's decision to halt the momentum for justice for children and families.

In 2007, Cindy Blackstock of the First Nations and Family Caring Society filed a complaint against the Canadian government with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, citing discrimination against First Nations children by failing to provide equality in care to First Nations children, youth and families on-reserve as compared to that which exists in the rest of Canada. In 2016 the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) found that First Nations children and families were in fact being discriminated against by Canada.

On September 5, 2019, the CHRT ordered the federal government to pay up to \$40,000 to certain children and families, who experienced systemic racial discrimination in the provision of child welfare services, specifically those children removed from homes based on discriminating factors and accessing Jordan's Principle funding.

On October 4, 2019, the Attorney General of Canada filed an application for a judicial review of the CHRT ruling. After twelve years of costly legal action, the decision to appeal the CHRT decision sends a clear message that reconciliation is not a priority for the Liberal government. This action is, in fact, a step backward, creating further non-confidence in the ability to develop a renewed relationship with the Canadian government, based on basic human rights and decency. The health and welfare of our children and family are at the heart of wellness for our community and this continued degradation by the Canadian government is not acceptable nor will it continued to be tolerated. Six Nations supports the recommendations put forward by the First Nations Caring Society, and calls upon the Canadian government to comply with all CHRT rulings to:

- Immediately cease discriminatory funding;
- Consult with First Nations on a plan to end all inequalities that inhibit the healthy development of First Nations children;
- Conduct a 360 evaluation on programs providing service to First Nations children to identify ongoing discriminatory ideologies, policies, and practices, and work to end them;
- Require all public servant employees to attend training that will support the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls To Action.