

Jordan's Principle Survey Overview and Key Recommendations

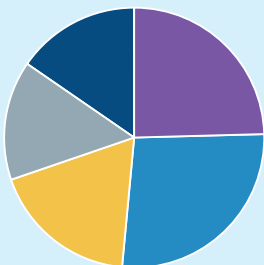
Background

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) conducted a national survey in September 2025 to better understand members' experiences with **Jordan's Principle**, a federal program ensuring First Nations children can access the health, social, and educational supports they need.

Participation

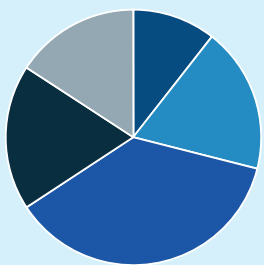
- **Total responses: 599**
- Respondents represented all provinces and territories and a range of professions (including S-LPs, audiologists, and CHAs), practice settings, and experience levels.

Key Findings



Top 5 types of services offered by S-LPs funded through Jordan's Principle:

- Assessment and diagnosis of speech, language, communication, fluency, voice, and/or swallowing disorders
- Treatment and intervention for speech delays, language disorders, stuttering, apraxia, and/or feeding/swallowing difficulties
- Therapy for social communication challenges, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Literacy and learning support related to communication disorders
- Parent/caregiver training and coaching to support language development at home



Top 5 types of services offered by audiologists funded through Jordan's Principle:

- Development of individualized therapy plans and collaboration with school teams
- Hearing assessments and diagnostic testing
- Provision and fitting of hearing aids, assistive listening devices, or cochlear implants
- Ongoing monitoring and follow-up for hearing health
- Education for families, educators, and caregivers on hearing loss and device care



Awareness and Involvement

- Most respondents were familiar with Jordan's Principle.
- Approximately 60% of the respondents had supported at least one client or family under Jordan's Principle funding.

Barriers Identified

- Many clinicians reported administrative and/or funding barriers when accessing Jordan's Principle supports.
- Common challenges included complex application processes, inconsistent communication channels, billing and reimbursement challenges, and unclear eligibility criteria.
- Approximately 20% of respondents indicated they had declined to provide services due to funding or administrative constraints.

Training and Cultural Safety

- Less than half of the survey respondents had received formal training on Indigenous health, cultural safety, or Jordan's Principle.
- Respondents expressed strong interest in additional education and resources to enhance culturally safe and informed practice.

Future Needs

- More streamlined administration processes to obtain access to funding through Jordan's Principle.
- Practical tools and guidance on navigating Jordan's Principle funding.
- More training opportunities related to Indigenous health, cultural safety, and Jordan's Principle.
- Stronger partnerships, collaborations and knowledge sharing with Indigenous organizations and communities.
- Improved access to qualified speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and communication health assistants in rural and remote areas.

"We have had to write off thousands of dollars in unpaid invoices because of unclear or changing approval requirements."

"Delays in approval of applications and payments cause interruptions in therapy and create stress for families and clinicians."

"I've seen great outcomes when Jordan's Principle funding works smoothly—children finally receive services they've been waiting years for."



These findings strengthen SAC's national advocacy efforts to advance equitable access to communication health services for Indigenous children and communities. Together, we can help ensure that every First Nations child receives the communication health support they deserve.

Join SAC's Indigenous [Member Practice Network \(MPN\)](#).

Contact us at advocacy@sac-oac.ca



SAC-OAC.CA

Who is SAC?

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) is the only national organization representing S-LPs, audiologists, and communication health assistants. Through advocacy, knowledge sharing, and professional support, we raise the profile of our professions and champion the needs of people with communication disorders. From early intervention and communication support for children to helping adults with balance or swallowing issues, SAC works to enhance Canadians' quality of life at every stage.