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**Commission Finds Flawed and Inequitable Services to First Nations Children and Families;  
PEI Chiefs Demand Action**

**Charlottetown PE, --- January 26, 2016**

In a landmark ruling released today, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found the federal government is discriminating against 163,000 First Nations children and their families. The Tribunal found that the government is discriminating by providing flawed and inequitable child welfare services and by failing to implement Jordan's Principle, which is intended to resolve jurisdictional disputes and ensure equitable access to government services for First Nations children that are available to other children.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has ordered that government cease its discriminatory practices and reform its policies and programs. The Tribunal is requesting additional information from the parties prior to providing orders related to the remedy and compensation for the discrimination.

"It is unfortunate that First Nations people must take the government to task for failing to provide equitable services for our children and families. It is clear that they must act and act now," said Chief Matilda Ramjattan of Lennox Island First Nation. "Given the new federal government's pledge to renew Canada's relationship with First Nations peoples, we are hopeful that immediate action will be taken."

"Following on the heels of the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in June, this ruling demonstrates that the federal government has continued to fail our children and communities," said Chief Brian Francis of Abegweit First Nation. "The time has come for government to end inequalities, such as equal access to an education, to health care services, to clean drinking water and to housing."

The case was originally filed by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations in 2007.

**For more information contact:**

Don MacKenzie  
Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI  
902-626-2882 | [dmackenzie@mcpei.ca](mailto:dmackenzie@mcpei.ca)

**For a spokesperson on the decision:**

Marilyn LeFrank  
Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI  
902-438-2109 | [mlefrank@mcpei.ca](mailto:mlefrank@mcpei.ca)

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