

# "JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE ENSURES EQUITY FOR FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN" -INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

By Ann Marie Jacques & LCHS

Jordan's Principle (JP) comes from the story of a First Nations boy named Jordan River Anderson. He was from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba and was born with severe medical issues that would require at-home health care. The province of Manitoba and the federal government could not determine who would be financially responsible for his at-home care. His life was spent in the hospital because an agreement could not be made regarding his at-home care. This dispute ultimately led to the passing of Jordan Anderson at the age of five years old. He wasn't given the opportunity to go home to his family and loved ones. Jordan's Principle was developed to ensure a situation like this wouldn't happen again. It states that any public service ordinarily available to all other children must be made available to First Nations children minimizing delay, denial, and disruption. Listuguj adopted Jordan's Principle under the Listuguj Community Health Services Directorate (LCHS) in 2017.

In the community, three employees working for LCHS specialize in JP. Sara Swasson, MA is the Jordan's Principle Manager, Kara Metallic, ECE is the Jordan's Principle Assistant, and Teeka Dedam is the Intervention Support Worker. Not only do they work specifically for JP, they are also responsible for various LCHS events in the community such as Healthy Breakfasts, Lunch and Learns, and more.

Sara Swasson said, "Jordan's Principle is to make sure our children have access to all essential services, needs, and supports in a timely manner, and trying to eliminate barriers."

Listuguj has implemented specific policies and procedures that have been created to fit the needs of the community. The services are for First Nations children 0-18 years of age, living on or off the reserve. As stated in the policy, a child will need to meet one of the following criteria to be eligible:

- Is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act with the Listuguj First Nation (Band #051);
- Has one parent or guardian who is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act;
- Must reside on, or within a 5KM radius of the community.

There are many financial and support services available. These include various health services, such as diagnostic assessments and screenings, mobility aids, orthodontic care, optometry, speech therapy, medical supplies and equipment, and more. Social and educational tools, products, and services are available as well. Other things that could be approved on a case-by-case basis are household and family items and services such as emergency housing accommodations, housing modifications, temporary food and clothing allowance, assistive technology, and more.

The initial step for someone looking to receive services is to reach out to the Listuguj Health Centre. "They reach out to us, and we will give them the forms to fill out to let us know what their request is, and we go from there," said Metallic. The staff will then work closely with the family or guardian, the school, and the professionals involved in the case to ensure they have gathered all the information and supporting documents. Once the case is finalized, it will be sent off to Jordan's Principle in Quebec to decide. If they approve the request, it is sent back to the staff here in Listuguj to fulfill, if not, it is then escalated to Jordan's Principle in Ottawa.

LCHS would like to note, that while Jordan's Principle is a helpful resource available to community members, it is important for parents, guardians, and family members to be aware of pre-existing resources that the JP team can assist you with before applying for services. Swasson said, "It's about navigating the existing programs and services available in and around the community, and then if not available, that's when we can begin the process to submit an application." In some cases, an individual will need to prove that they have explored other avenues and were denied before having access to Jordan's Principle services.

When it comes to a child's development, early intervention is key. There are several resources for children available in the community. One of these is an Occupational Therapist. An Occupational Therapist from New Richmond visits Listuguj frequently and provides regular assessments to children at Alaqsite'w Gitpu School, Head Start, and the Mawo'ltijig Mijjuaji'jg Child Care Centre, as well as at-home visits and assessments. The Occupational Therapist will evaluate several things with the children, such as fine and gross motor skills, sensory needs, developmental milestones, and more. After these assessments, they will then report back to the family/guardians, teaching staff, and health center staff with recommendations on the next steps for any children that are showing delays or that could benefit from a service offered. There is also a Speech Language Pathologist in the community available to assess children and provide tools and tips to the family/guardians and will let them know if any other services or tools could help the children with their daily activities and livelihood in general. These types of assessments can guide the team working with the child's family to help the child reach developmental milestones.

Overall, Jordan's Principle is extremely beneficial to many children and families in the community of Listuguj. It's all about doing what is best for the children, as they are our future and the next generation. "We want to give them the best outcome in life," said Metallic. It was created to give all First Nations children access to resources to increase their overall well-being. It's not hard to see that Listuguj takes pride in its children and assists and supports families in times of need. Teeka Dedam said, "We like to see the children in the community benefitting from the services they're able to access through JP." If you would like to have information on Jordan's Principle, or would like to inquire if your child could benefit from any of the services and tools offered, please reach out to the Listuguj Community Health Services at (418) 788-2155 or stop by the Health Centre at 6 Pacific Drive to make an appointment.

# CHELSEA LEE-ANNE CULLINS LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER SPOTLIGHT

By Ann Marie Jacques

Chelsea Lee-Anne Cullins (Germain) is originally from Listuguj, and now resides in Millville, New Brunswick. While working at the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre in Fredericton, Cullins redesigned the centre's website, and this kickstarted her drive to create her business, Claw Connections. The name "Claw Connections" has a special meaning behind it. The title, CLAW comes from Cullin's initials, "Chelsea Lee-Ann" and the last two letters come from Cullin's children's initials. The logo was designed by local Listuguj artist, Griffin Germain.

Claw Connections helps develop Indigenous resources online through creating and collaborating with Indigenous businesses, website development, and helping businesses establish and maintain an online presence. The business really developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cullins said, "Connecting with people, and chatting with people, I found there weren't any Indigenous resources that were available online – especially during that time period when everyone began navigating online." Cullins is creating a tool where people can search for Indigenous resources easier, when using social media may not be an option. She also mentioned having these resources accessible to elders is very important.

She said the first real collaboration with Claw Connections was the project "Traveling the Wabanaki Way." From here she has taken on many other significant projects, such as the New Brunswick First Nation Child Welfare Jurisdiction, Listuguj's MMA club The Vault, and more. Most recently were two events and workshops with the Mi'kmaq Wolastoqiyik Association of Social Workers.

Cullins said she is excited to be an entrepreneur as an Indigenous woman. She loves helping businesses connect with their clients. She appreciates and learns a lot from the businesses she collaborates with. "I get to be a part of a glimpse into these businesses, and I can take away the teachings they're sharing," said Cullins.

The process of collaborating with Claw Connections is very easy and productive. Clients will reach out to Cullins and provide information about their business or anything else they're looking to promote. Cullins will connect and go over the client's needs and wants to pertain to their business and come up with a plan on helping client's grow their business online and reach larger audiences.

On top of being a business owner, Cullins has recently started a new position at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs as the Indigenous Navigator. She has also been accepted to VanArts (Vancouver Institute of Media Arts) this fall for Website Development and 3D design. She is very excited to further her expertise in the field.

"The whole purpose of Claw Connections was just to highlight Indigenous businesses," said Cullins. If you are interested in giving your business an online boost or inquiring about the many services available at Claw Connections, visit clawconnections.com. and contact Chelsea Lee-Ann Cullins.



# SKIN CANCER AWARENESS

By Listuguj Community Health Services

The month of May is skin cancer awareness month.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of skin cancer in Canada. Frequent severe sunburns and intense sun exposure in childhood increase the risk of basal cell cancer in adulthood.

Malignant Melanoma is a less common but highly dangerous skin cancer. In 2019, it was the 7th most common type of newly diagnosed cancers for both males and females and it continues to increase annually.

Reduce your risk for skin cancer by taking the following precautions:

- Avoid tanning devices, such as tanning booths and tanning lamps.
- Limit your exposure to sunlight, especially between 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Wear sunglasses with UV and UVB protection when exposed to sunlight.
- Use sunscreens with an SPF of 30 or higher.
- Wear sun protective hats and clothing.

# **Chief's Corner**



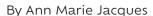
We are six months into the term, and I am optimistic about how we have moved forward with Chief and Council's commitment to supporting the community. Earlier this month we held a Staff Appreciation Dinner for employees celebrating 20 years of service in Listuguj. The community would not be what it is today without the efforts of our hard-working employees.

On behalf of Chief and Council, we thank you for your years of service.

Photo by: Franky Photography



# 20 YEAR STAFF CELEBRATION



On May 25th, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government held a Staff Appreciation Dinner celebrating staff who served the LMG for 20 years or more.

## Congratulations to the following staff:

# **Public Security**

Sharon Barnaby Jacob Mitchell

# **Chipper Operations**

Henry Metallic

# Capital and Infrastructure

John Metallic

## **Social Services**

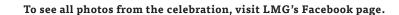
Tina Caplin Tanya Isaac Tierra Ritchie

### Health

Jennifer Caplin Valery Jacques Bonnie Isaac Donna V. Metallic

## **Education**

Derek Barnaby Karla Condo Jean Isaac Suzie Isaac Tammy Isaac Bobbi Madahbee Patsy Mallaley Naomi Marchand











#### GET TO KNOW MICHAEL MARTIN

KNOWLEDGE KEEPER AT LISTUGUJ COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

By Ann Marie Jacques



Michael Martin has taken on the role of Knowledge Keeper/Addictions Worker for the Listuguj Community Social Services Directorate (LCSSD) for roughly three months but has held this position in the community for several years. He is well known in Listuguj for offering his guidance and advice to community members who are interested in receiving cultural support and teachings.

Martin offers a variety of these teachings in the form of stories, medicines, ceremonies, sweat lodges, and more. "I've been around traditional medicine people and knowledge keepers for over 30 years, and this is what I contribute and bring back to the community, and those who want to learn," said Martin. He passes on his life experience and knowledge to people of all generations. In Listuguj and other Indigenous communities, there is a lot of intergenerational trauma that leads to addictions and mental health issues. Martin tries to address these issues through counseling, support, and cultural knowledge. While he does focus mostly on spiritual and cultural treatments, he has other resources when it comes to treatments, such as Western medicine and doctors.

Since he began at LCSSD, he has seen success throughout the community. During the month of May, he held Traditional Lunch and Learns at LCSSD, and he plans on holding more in the future. After every Lunch and Learn he gathers feedback from participants to help improve future Lunch and Learn sessions, and to acquire information on what topics could be discussed and taught. In the future, he plans on focusing on trauma and addictions, and would like to extend his teachings to young women who have children, who are struggling with addictions. He also plans on offering workshops at the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Centre (LMDC) and sweat lodges at the Gignu. Martin said, "I believe even if one person comes to seek some teachings, or knowledge from me, it's a plus."

Martin expressed that the LCSSD offers a wide variety of services and resources for everyone. There are lots of positive success stories that come out of LCSSD, and he wants to let everyone know they are always welcome. If an individual is unsure of what type of resource they need, someone at LCSSD can direct them. Martin ended the interview with the following: "Don't ever tell people that there are no services or help here. There is help for you."

If you'd like more information on Michael Martin's services, or any other programs or services at Listuguj Community Social Services, at 418-788-3039 or visit them at 2 GEF Street.

### KICKS FOR KIDS

By Ann Marie Jacques

Erwin Molley has many roles in the community. He is a Councillor for the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, he is a Male Mentor with the Listuguj Community Social Services Directorate, he runs a basketball program, and he is also head of the non-profit organization, Kicks for Kids.

Kicks for Kids began in 2021, and it provides athletic footwear for youth in the community, free of charge. "It started with basketball. I noticed some kids just didn't have the proper shoes," said Molley. The organization offers a wide variety of footwear such as basketball shoes, soccer and baseball cleats, skateboard shoes, dance shoes, and more. The organization has also received donations of non-athletic shoes that are still in mint condition that can be worn on more special occasions, like graduation ceremonies. Molley provides footwear for community members who are currently not residing in Listuguj. Individuals can purchase reasonably priced sports footwear, provide Molley with proof of the purchase, and can get reimbursed.

Kicks for Kids gives all children in the community an equal opportunity to take part in sports. Having this resource may take some financial stress off families. Some families have multiple children who are enrolled in sports, and shoes can run \$50-\$90. While it is a free service for all children, Molley does encourage youth to show they are committed to a sport and are dedicated when it comes to attending practices and games before opting for free footwear.

Having the proper footwear when playing sports leads to more confidence in our youth. It allows them to live more healthy and active lifestyles. Playing sports is beneficial and helps develop sportsmanship and teamwork skills, and Kicks for Kids assists children in achieving this.

The program is non-profit, and Molley volunteers his time to ensure the footwear is always stocked up for the community. "It has to be an ongoing, steady thing because everybody's feet grow," laughed Molley. When it comes to the program itself, Molley receives support and donations from several sources, such as small businesses, branches of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, and the public in general.

If you or your child would like a free pair of shoes to participate in sports, you can reach out to Erwin Molley via Facebook, or stop into the Youth Centre to inquire. As of recently there is an official Kicks for Kids page that provides information and updates.



# **MOTHER'S DAY SOCIAL 2023**

Photos By Ann Marie Jacques











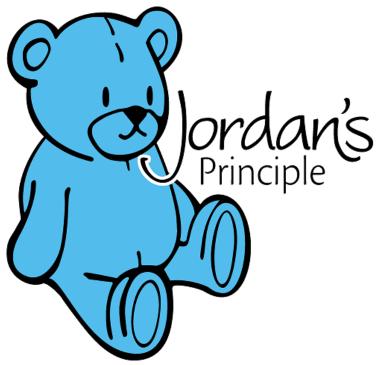














# LISTUGUJ GRADUATES

June 20th – Listuguj High School Prom at AGS

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Listuguj Safe Grad at Bingo Hall

June 29th - Listugui Grad Banquet



# SSHS GRADUATES

June 17th - SSHS Prom

June 19th - SSHS Grad Banquet

June 20th - Grad Rehearsal at PRP auditorium

June 21st - SSHS Grad Activities

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Graduation Ceremony at PRP





# PRP GRADUATES

June 9th - Safe Grad

June 21st - Prom

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Graduation Ceremony

Did You Know?

Articles and photos can be also accessed online on our website: news.listuguj.ca.

For community inquiries contact: feedback@listuguj.ca

