

travels away for care and then wants to return to the community and receive continuing care.

The situation came to a head a few years back with the tragic case of a boy named Jordan from the Norway House Cree Nation in northern Manitoba.

Jordan – whose family asked that his last name not be published to protect their privacy – was born in 1999 with a severe neuromuscular disorder. He was referred for care in Winnipeg, where he became wheelchair-bound and ventilator-dependent. But his health stabilised and he was discharged in 2001.

He was placed in a specialised home near his home reserve but Ottawa and Winnipeg could not agree on who would pay.

For two years, bureaucrats warred over the most mundane details of Jordan's care, right down to who would pay for a showerhead required for a wheelchair-accessible shower.

Jordan ended up back in a Winnipeg hospital where he died at age of four.

Patient's interests second

“Jordan's interests fell a distant second; intergovernmental squabbling over the duty to pay came first,” Dr. MacDonald and Dr. Attaran write in their editorial.

“Many of the services Jordan needed would be paid for without question for a white Manitoban, or off-reserve aboriginal. It was Jordan's living on-reserve that caused the bureaucracy to choke.”

The boy's case became a cause célèbre in social welfare and child health circles. The term “Jordan's principle” was coined – the principle being that the needs of a child should supersede bickering over who pays the bills.

A pdf of the report is available at:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/huma-e/rep-e/rep10apr07-e.pdf>
[Source: CRINMAIL Globe and Mail, Canada:
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/>]

UNITED KINGDOM: 5,000 Child Prostitutes

Save The Children's *Small Hands Of Slavery* claims millions of youngsters are regularly attacked and raped in their lives as child slaves. The shocking figures were released to coincide with Slavery Remembrance Day, the bi-centenary of the trade's abolition.

Bill Bell, Save the Children's head of protection, said: “Child slavery is not a thing of the past. There are still millions of children in both rich and poor countries who are being forced to lead slave-like lives under horrific conditions of humiliation and abuse.

“Currently across the world there are, for example, 1.8 million children trapped in the sex trade, over a million children risking their lives working in mines, and millions more, some as young as six, forced to work up to 15 hour days as domestic workers. These children are treated as commodities, liable to be lent or sold to other owners without warning.

“World leaders and international donors must act with urgency to address child slavery and put in place the laws and resources needed to eradicate these terrible practices.”

The report states that 1.2 million children and babies are trafficked every year, including into Western Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean, and the number is increasing.

Gangs involved in child and people trafficking make an estimated profit of 32 billion dollars (£16 billion) per year, the charity said.

Approximately 1.8 million children are being abused through prostitution, child pornography and sex tourism - and 75% of the UK's child prostitutes are girls.

The report states that youngsters often lose their childhood by being sold into adult relationships. The report states: “Child marriage, which often includes mail order and internet brides, is one of the most widespread - yet hidden - forms of slavery. Girls as young as four are forced to live and have sex with their husband, and are often kept trapped indoors. Girls under 15 are five times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth than women over 20. In Afghanistan more than half of all girls are married before they are 16.”

[source: The Guardian.
See: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uklatest/story/0,-6869293,00.html>]