



Let's create a Canada fit for children. Let's stop hitting them.

November 20 is National Child Day. This date celebrates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Canada in 1991. The 2003 theme is ***A Community Fit for Children***.

The U.N. Convention requires countries to protect children from *all* forms of violence. Section 43 of Canada's Criminal Code allows physical punishment of children by teachers and parents for "correction". The U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child has twice asked Canada to repeal Section 43.

Physical punishment violates a child's right to safety and dignity. It negatively affects a child's well-being and development. A recent national survey shows a majority of Canadians agree that Section 43 should be repealed.

A Community Fit for Children is a Canada where children's rights to safety and dignity are respected. More than 70 organizations across the country are calling on the Government of Canada to:

Repeal Section 43

Association québécoise des centres jeunesse du Québec	National Youth in Care Network
BC Institute Against Family Violence	New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
Canadian Association for Community Living	Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counsellors
Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs	Ontario Association of Social Workers
Canadian Association of Social Workers	Parenting Education Saskatchewan
Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children	Parenting Today
Canadian Institute of Child Health	Repeal 43 Committee
Canadian Nurses Association	Sparrow Lake Alliance
Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	The Society for Children and Youth of B.C.
Direction de santé publique de Montréal	Toronto Public Health
Family Service Canada	University College of Cape Breton Children's Rights Centre
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition	Voices for Children
Manitoba Child Care Association	Yukon Family Services Association
National Council of Women of Canada	<i>and others</i>

To Learn More

- about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, visit www.unhchr.ch
- about Section 43, visit www.repeal43.org
- about the national survey on Section 43, visit www.toronto.ca/health
- about the research on physical punishment, see the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth, www.cheo.on.ca