

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



It's time to protect children.

It's time to remove the license to hit them.

November 20th is National Child Day – a day to celebrate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires governments to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse.

Unfortunately, Canada is in violation of this Convention because it has not repealed Section 43 of the Criminal Code – a 19th century provision allowing parents to hit children for the purpose of “correction.”

Physical punishment causes harm to children. It carries the risk of physical injury and negative psychological impact. Children who are physically punished are more likely to exhibit anxiety, depression or aggressive behaviour such as bullying.

We, the co-signing organizations, urge the repeal of Section 43 and call on the government to send a message that children have the same right to protection from assault as all other Canadians.

Join our campaign to repeal Section 43. Contact the Prime Minister and your local M.P. to urge support.

For M.P. contacts or information on Section 43 of the Criminal Code and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, visit www.repeal43.org

For research on physical punishment, see the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* at www.cheo.on.ca

Abbotsford Community Services
Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre
Alliance for Children and Youth of Waterloo Region
Amnesty International Canada
Amnistie internationale, section canadienne francophone
Andrew Fleck Child Care Services
Association des centres jeunesse du Québec
Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario
Attachment Parenting Canada
BC Council for Families
BCGEU Community Social Services Component
Blue Hills Child and Family Centre
Burnaby Family Life Institute
CAMH Centre for Prevention Science
Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Canadian Association for Community Living
Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Child Care Federation
Canadian Children's Rights Council
Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children
Canadian Council for Reform Judaism
Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates
Canadian Council on Social Development
Canadian Federation of University Women
Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law
Canadian Institute of Child Health
Canadian Physiotherapy Association
Canadian Psychological Association
Canadian Public Health Association
Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon
Catholic Social Services of Edmonton
Centres des services communautaires de Vanier

CHEO: Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Child Abuse Prevention Council of London and Middlesex
Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa
Child Development Institute
Child Welfare League of Canada
Children's Aid Foundation
Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Children's Mental Health Ontario
Children's Rights Centre, Cape Breton University
College-Montrose Children's Place
Comité hospitalier de protection de l'enfance du CHUL, QC
Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse
Community Living Toronto
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council
Defence for Children International - Canada
Direction de santé publique, ASSS de Montréal
Early Childhood Educators of BC
Family and Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County
Family Service Canada
Family Service Saskatoon
Family Service Thames Valley
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Family Services of the North Shore
Federation of Child and Family Services of BC
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition
Halton Child and Youth Services
Humanist Association of Canada
Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto
John Howard Society of Sudbury
Kids Help Phone
Kingston Interval House
Kootenay Region Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada
Manitoba Child Care Association
McMaster Children's Hospital Child Advocacy and Assessment Program
National Council of Women of Canada

National Youth in Care Network
New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association
Northern Child and Family SCAN Clinic, Prince George, BC
NorWest Community Health Centres
Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy, Ontario
Oliver Centre Early Learning Programs for Children and Families
Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counsellors
Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
Ontario Association of Social Workers
Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse/Best Start Resource Centre
Ontario Public Health Association
Parent Support Services of BC
Parenting Education Saskatchewan
Parenting Today Productions Inc.
Peel Children's Aid Society
Peel Family Education Centre
Repeal 43 Committee
Saskatchewan Children's Advocate Office
Save the Children Canada
SMARTRISK
Society for Children and Youth of BC
South-East Ottawa Centre for a Healthy Community
Sparrow Lake Alliance
Toronto Child Abuse Centre
Toronto Public Health
University of British Columbia Department of Paediatrics
University of Toronto Faculty of Social Work
Voices for Children
Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
Winnipeg Children's Hospital Child Protection Centre
YMCA of Greater Toronto
Yorktown Family Services
Yukon Family Services Association