



OPEN LETTER TO THE RT. HON. PAUL MARTIN

Let's create a Canada fit for children.

**Let's respect their right to be protected
from physical punishment.**

November 20, 2004

Dear Prime Minister:

Today is National Child Day - a day to celebrate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Canada in 1991.

Article 19 of this Convention requires governments to protect children from *all* forms of physical or mental violence, injury, or abuse.

A growing volume of research confirms that physical punishment is harmful to children. It creates a risk of physical injury and abuse, depression and anxiety. A recent Statistics Canada study also confirms that children who are physically punished are more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour such as bullying.

Section 43 of the Canadian Criminal Code permits physical punishment of children. It therefore violates the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In 1995, and again in 2003, the United Nations Committee responsible for this Convention urged Canada to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code.

We, the co-signing organizations, call on your government to honour Canada's commitment to the U.N. Convention.

Repeal Section 43 Now!

Join our campaign to repeal Section 43.

Contact the Prime Minister and your local M.P. to urge support.

For MP 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

Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre
Alliance for Children & Youth of Waterloo Region
Association des centres jeunesse du Québec
Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario
BC Institute Against Family Violence
BC Pediatric Society
Canadian Association for Community Living
Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Child Care Federation
Canadian Council of Provincial Child & Youth Advocates
Canadian Council for Reform Judaism
Canadian Forum for Crime Prevention
Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law
Canadian Nurses 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
Centres des services communautaires de Vanier
Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia
Child Abuse Prevention Council of London & Middlesex
Child & Youth Friendly Ottawa
Child Development Institute (Toronto)
Child Welfare League of Canada
Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex
Children's Aid Society of Peel
Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO)
Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth
College Montrose Children's Place
Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse
Community Living Toronto
Community Safety & Crime Prevention Council of Waterloo Region
Community Social Services Component, BCGSEU
Defence for Children International-Canada
Developmental Disabilities Association of Vancouver/Richmond
Direction de santé publique de Montréal
Family & Children's Services of Brockville and Leeds & Grenville Counties
Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County
Family Education Centre (Brampton)
Family Service Canada
Family Service London
Family Service Saskatoon
First Call: BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition
Halton Child & Youth Services
Humanist Association of Canada
Jewish Family & Child Service (Toronto)
John Howard Society of Sudbury
Kids Help Phone/Parent Help Line
Kingston Interval House
Kootenay Region Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada
National Council of Women of Canada
New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
Northern Child & Family Clinic, Prince George, BC
NorWest Community Health Centres, Armstrong, Longlac & Ogden
Office of Child & Family Service Advocacy, ON
Ontario Association of Child & Youth Counsellors
Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
Ontario Association of Social Workers
Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse/Best Start
Parent Resource Centre, Ottawa
Parenting Education Saskatchewan
Parenting Today Productions Inc.
Repeal 43 Committee
Society for Children & Youth of BC
South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre
Sparrow Lake Alliance
Toronto Child Abuse Centre
Toronto Public Health
University College of Cape Breton Children's Rights Centre
V.O.I.C.E. (Violence Overcome In Creative Ensemble)
Voices for Children
Whole Family Attachment Parenting Association
YMCA of Greater Toronto
Yorktown Family Services
Yukon Family Services Association