

Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre  
 Alliance for Children and Youth of Waterloo Region  
 Amnesty International Canada  
 Association des centres jeunesse du Québec  
 Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario  
 Attachment Parenting Canada  
 B.C. Council for Families  
 B.C. Institute Against Family Violence  
 B.C. Pediatric Society  
 Canadian Association for Community Living  
 Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs  
 Canadian Association of Social Workers  
 Canadian Child Care Federation  
 Canadian Council for Reform Judaism  
 Canadian Council of Provincial Child & Youth Advocates  
 Canadian Council on Social Development  
 Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law  
 Canadian Institute of Child Health  
 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  
 Catholic Social Services of Edmonton  
 Centres des services communautaires de Vanier  
 Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia  
 CHEO: Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario  
 Child Abuse Prevention Council of London and Middlesex  
 Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa  
 Child Development Institute  
 Child Protection Centre at the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg  
 Child Welfare League of Canada  
 Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex  
 Children's Aid Society of Toronto  
 Children's Mental Health Ontario  
 Children's Rights Centre, Cape Breton University  
 Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children & Youth  
 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 Social Services Component, BCGEU  
 Defence for Children International - Canada  
 Developmental Disabilities Association of Vancouver/Richmond  
 Direction de santé publique de Montréal  
 Family Service Canada  
 Family Service Saskatoon  
 Family Service Thames Valley  
 Federation of Child and Family Services of BC  
 First Call: B.C. Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition  
 First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada  
 Halton Child & Youth Advocates  
 Humanist Association of Canada  
 Jewish Family & Child Service (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  
 National Council of Women of Canada  
 National Youth in Care Network  
 New Brunswick Association of Social Workers  
 NorWest Community Health Centres  
 Northern Child and Family SCAN Clinic, Prince George, BC  
 Office of Child & Family Service Advocacy, Ontario  
 Ontario Association of Child & Youth Counsellors  
 Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies  
 Ontario Association of Social Workers  
 Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse/Best Start  
 Ontario Public Health Association  
 Parenting Education Saskatchewan  
 Parenting Today Productions Inc.  
 P.E.I. Victim Services  
 Peel Children's Aid  
 Peel Family Education Centre  
 Repeal 43 Committee  
 Save the Children Canada  
 SMARTRISK  
 Society for Children and Youth of B.C.  
 South-East Ottawa Centre For A Healthy Community  
 Sparrow Lake Alliance  
 SPIRAL HOME (Survivors Power in Reciprocal Arts Learning)  
 Toronto Child Abuse Centre  
 Toronto Public Health  
 University of British Columbia Department of Paediatrics  
 University of Toronto School of Social Work  
 V.O.I.C.E. (Violence Overcome In Creative Ensemble)  
 Voices for Children  
 Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre  
 YMCA of Greater Toronto  
 Yorktown Family Services

## OPEN LETTER TO THE RT. HON. PAUL MARTIN



*It's time to protect children.*

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

November 20, 2005

Dear Prime Minister:

November 20<sup>th</sup> is National Child Day – a day to celebrate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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

But in Canada, section 43 of the Criminal Code still allows and even justifies teachers and parents hitting children for the purpose of “correction.”

This 19<sup>th</sup> century provision contradicts Canada's commitment to the U.N. Convention. This fact has been made clear to you and your government by the U.N. Committee monitoring adherence to the Convention.

The Supreme Court of Canada has not resolved concerns about section 43 of the Criminal Code. The protection of children must start with repeal of what is, in effect, a legal license to hit them.

We, the undersigned, once again call on you to honour Canada's obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to:

- Repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code
- Recommend provincial Attorneys General develop guidelines to prevent unnecessary prosecutions
- Implement a national education campaign on positive discipline

**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](http://www.repeal43.org)

For research on physical punishment, see the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* at [www.cheo.on.ca](http://www.cheo.on.ca)