

# OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



*It's time to protect children.*

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

November 20<sup>th</sup> 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Unfortunately, Canada is in violation of this Convention because it has not repealed Section 43 of the Criminal Code – a 19<sup>th</sup> 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](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)

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