



Open Letter to Senators

Vote for the rights and protection of children.

Vote for removing the license to hit them.

You can make National Child Day, November 20, 2007, an historic milestone for the rights and protection of Canada's children by voting for Bill S-209 to repeal Section 43 of the *Criminal Code*.

Section 43 allows parents and teachers to hit children for 'correction.' It has been in our *Criminal Code* since 1892. It is harmful, discriminatory and 115 years out of date. It reflects a 19th century approach to children that ignores their rights and contributes to child abuse. The 2004 Supreme Court decision on Section 43 continues to put children at risk of physical and psychological harm.

We, the organizations listed below, agree with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child that legal approval of hitting children for 'correction' threatens their well-being and violates their right to physical integrity.

We urge Senators to protect children, our most vulnerable citizens, by passing Bill S-209 NOW.

For 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	Child Care Resource & Referral Program	McMaster Children's Hospital Child Advocacy and Assessment Program
Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre	Child Development Institute	National Council of Women of Canada
Alliance for Children and Youth of Waterloo Region	Child Welfare League of Canada	National Youth in Care Network
Amnesty International Canada	Children's Aid Foundation	New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
Amnistie internationale, section canadienne francophone	Children's Aid Society of Owen Sound & County of Grey	New Brunswick Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate
Andrew Fleck Child Care Services	Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex	Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association
Association des centres jeunesse du Québec	Children's Aid Society of Toronto	Northern Child and Family SCAN Clinic
Association des médecins en protection de l'enfance du Québec	Children's Mental Health Ontario	Office of the Child & Youth Advocate, Province of Alberta
Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario	Children's Rights Centre, Cape Breton University	Ontario Association of Child & Youth Counsellors
Atlantic Therapy and Assessment Centre	Clinique de pédiatrie sociojuridique de l'Hôpital Ste-Justine	Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
Attachment Parenting Canada	College-Montrose Children's Place	Ontario Association of Social Workers
Bayfield Treatment Centers	Collingwood Neighbourhood House	Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse/Best Start Resource Centre
B.C. Council for Families	Comité hospitalier de protection de l'enfance du CHUL	Ontario's Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth
BCGEU, Community Social Services Component	Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse	Ontario Public Health Association
Blue Hills Child and Family Centre	Community Living Toronto	Ottawa Community Committee on Child Abuse
BOOST Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention	Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council of Waterloo Region	P.E.I. Victim Services
Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada	Defence for Children International - Canada	Parenting Education Saskatchewan
Burnaby Family Life Institute	Direction de santé publique, ASSS de Montréal	Parenting Today
CAMH Centre for Prevention Science	Educating for Peace	Peel Children's Aid Society
Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario	Peel Family Education Centre
Canadian Association for Community Living	Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina	Professional Parenting Canada
Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs	Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County	Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse, Manitoba
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists	Family Education Centre, Brampton	Repeal 43 Committee
Canadian Association of Social Workers	Family Service Association of Toronto	Representative for Children and Youth, Province of BC
Canadian Child Care Federation	Family Services of Greater Vancouver	ROCK - Reach Out Centre for Kids
Canadian Children's Rights Council	Family Service Saskatoon	Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers
Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children	Family Service Thames Valley	Saskatchewan Children's Advocate Office
Canadian Council for Reform Judaism	Family Services of the North Shore	Save the Children Canada
Canadian Federation of University Women	Federation of Child and Family Services of BC	SMARTRISK
Canadian Foster Family Association	First Call: BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition	Society for Children and Youth of B.C.
Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law	First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada	South-East Ottawa Centre For A Healthy Community
Canadian Institute of Child Health	IWK Health Centre, Department of Pediatrics	Sparrow Lake Alliance
Canadian Physiotherapy Association	Infant Mental Health Promotion, Hospital for Sick Children	SPIRAL HOME (Survivors Power in Reciprocal Arts Learning)
Canadian Psychological Association	Jewish Family & Child Service of Greater Toronto	Stay Focused, Calgary Parent Education Group
Canadian Public Health Association	Jewish Child and Family Service, Winnipeg	Thames Valley Children's Centre
Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	John Howard Society of Sudbury	Toronto Public Health
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto	Kids Help Phone	UNICEF Canada
Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon	Kinark Child and Family Services	United Church of Canada
Catholic Social Services of Edmonton	Kingston Interval House	V.O.I.C.E. (Violence Overcome In Creative Ensemble)
Centre des services communautaires de Vanier	Kootenay Region Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada	Voices for Children
CHEO: Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario	Macaulay Child Development Centre	Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
Child Abuse Prevention Council of London and Middlesex	Manitoba Child Care Association	Winnipeg Children's Hospital Child Protection Centre
Child and Youth Advocate, Province of NFLD and Labrador	Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services	YMCA of Greater Toronto
Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa		Yorktown Family Services



Lettre ouverte aux sénateurs

Votez pour les droits et la protection des enfants!

Votez pour l'abolition des punitions corporelles envers les enfants!

Cette année – le 20 novembre 2007 – vous pouvez faire de la Journée nationale de l'enfant, un événement historique pour les droits et la protection des enfants du Canada en votant pour le projet de loi S-209 qui prévoit l'abrogation de l'article 43 du *Code criminel*.

L'article 43 permet aux parents et aux enseignants d'infliger des châtiments corporels aux enfants pour les corriger. Cette disposition est dans le *Code criminel* depuis 1892 et reflète l'esprit du 19^e siècle. De nos jours, l'article 43 apparaît nuisible, discriminatoire et supporte mal le poids de ses 115 années. Cette disposition, en effet, bafoue les droits des enfants et contribue à la violence faite aux enfants. L'arrêt de 2004 de la Cour suprême au sujet de l'article 43 continue de placer les enfants dans des situations où ils risquent d'être blessés physiquement et psychologiquement.

Nous, les organismes énumérés ci-dessous, convenons avec le Comité des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies que l'autorisation de recourir à des châtiments corporels pour corriger un enfant menace son bien-être et viole son droit à l'intégrité physique.

Nous exhortons les sénateurs à protéger les enfants, nos citoyens les plus vulnérables, en adoptant le projet de loi S-209 MAINTENANT.

Pour plus de renseignements au sujet de l'article 43 du *Code criminel* et de la *Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant*, visitez www.repeal43.org

Pour plus d'informations sur des travaux de recherche sur les châtiments corporels, consultez la *Déclaration conjointe sur les punitions corporelles données aux enfants et aux adolescents* www.cheo.on.ca

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