



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

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



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
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