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Ilinniaqtuliqiyikkut  
Department of Education  
Ministère de l'Éducation

Ron Ensom  
Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth  
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July 10, 2008

Dear Mr. Ensom,

On behalf of Nunavut's Department of Education, I'd like to extend our support for the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*.

This document offers very compelling and decisive support about the need to develop positive, non-physical alternatives to disciplining our children and youth. The Department of Education in Nunavut agrees whole-heartedly that physical punishment plays no useful role in the upbringing and development of children. We are especially interested in pursuing and assisting a public awareness campaign to inform all Canadians of this critically important issue.

This endorsement represents Nunavut's hope that this statement will provide the basis for much needed change. It is our firm belief that physical punishment is not constructive, valuable or effective. Nunavut's education system is founded on proactive fostering of children's awareness and responsibility for their behaviour and creating positive school environments using codes of conduct based on principles of respect and collective expectations about what respect "looks like" and "sounds like" in schools. We use strategies such as TRIBES, Restitution and Effective Behaviour Support in our system.

It is our privilege to join the many municipal, national and international organizations and individuals in the endorsement of this important document. Many thanks for your dedication and passion to end physical punishment.

Sincerely,

Kathy Okpik  
Deputy Minister

Cc: Honourable Ed Picco, Minister of Education  
Pheobe Hainnu, Deputy Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth  
Alex Campbell, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services  
Peter Geikie, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Education

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