

August 6, 2008

PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network) is delighted to endorse the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* developed by the national coalition of organizations facilitated by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO).

PREVNet is a Networks of Centres of Excellence - New Initiative (NCE-NI) representing more than 50 researchers from 26 Canadian universities and 43 NGO partners that work with children, youth, industry, and federal, provincial and territorial governments. PREVNet's mission is to stop bullying in Canada and to promote safe and healthy relationships for all children and youth.

As a Canadian knowledge leader in this field, we agree with the key findings of the Joint Statement, that the outcomes associated with the use of physical punishment can have a negative developmental impact on children and youth. We strongly agree that alternative and positive approaches to discipline should be developed and practiced by all adults who have a role in the well being of Canadian children and youth.

PREVNet has regularly applied these same values (further supported by our own research) in collaborating with our NGO partners to develop programs and strategies to prevent bullying and promote safe and healthy relationship.

We congratulate the coalition on the publication of this important work and are very pleased to offer the support of our organization.

Sincerely,



Dr. Wendy Craig



Dr. Debra Pepler

Scientific Co-Directors, PREVNet