



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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17 May 2007

Pamela Mountenay Cain
Chair, Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Community and Outreach Development
401 Smyth Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8L1

Dear Ms. Mountenay Cain,

I am pleased to offer my endorsement of the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth, joining the over 250 organizations and experts who have already spoken out in support of the campaign against physical punishment.

As you well know, the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights is only the most recent voice in Canada to call for the repeal of section 43, the section of the *Criminal Code* that permits parents and other caregivers to use physical punishment to discipline children in their care. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has said clearly that section 43 contravenes the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which Canada is a signatory. This provision breaches the fundamental human rights of children ignoring what Canadian research tells us about the detrimental developmental impact of physical punishment on children.

I commend the Coalition and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario for its continuing work to bring the issue of physical punishment to the attention of all Canadians. I look forward to working with Coalition partners in British Columbia to raise awareness and public support for this important effort.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond

cc Don Avison, President, The University Presidents' Council of BC
Tom Christensen, Minister of Children and Family Development
Wally Oppal, Attorney General

