

December 7, 2015

Ron Ensom  
Ensom & Associates  
1858 Sharel Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1H 6W4

**RE: Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth**

Dear Mr. Ron Ensom,

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Strongest Families Institute, I am writing this letter as a confirmation of our organization's endorsement of the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth.

We know from years of research that environmental influences such as parenting quality (low warmth, rejection); parenting style (aggressive, punitive, physical discipline); and marital conflict can negatively impact a child. The Strongest Families Institute's positive parenting program 'Parenting the Active Child' for children 3-12 years of age is focused on strengthening family relationships through implementation of skills that increase parental warmth and positive engagement with their children. The Joint Statement is akin with our philosophy that positive parenting quality and style can positively impact a child's development, academic progress, social relationships and emotional well-being.

We support the recommendations outlined within the Joint Statement, especially the need to increase public awareness messages broadly to Canadians. There is a need to inform parents and caregivers of the negative and profound effects that physical punishment can have on the lifespan of the affected individual.

Please feel free to contact me at any time (902-442-9521) or [ppottie@strongestfamilies.com](mailto:ppottie@strongestfamilies.com))

Sincerely,



Dr. Patricia Lingley-Pottie  
President & CEO,