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June 22, 2015

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Joan Durrant
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RE: Endorsement of the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth

Dear Colleagues;

It is our pleasure to provide an endorsement of the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. We feel that this statement supports our work with immigrant and refugee families as well as our mission statement: *Immigrant Services Calgary is committed to being a comprehensive settlement agency working together with immigrants and their families to make Canada home.*

As a long standing provider of services for immigrant and refugee populations in the City of Calgary and a partner in several national projects that involve immigrant families, Immigrant Services Calgary recognizes that newcomer families may face some challenges in understanding parenting norms and expectations in a new country. To support awareness and understanding of the value of positive parenting and parental guidance, Immigrant Services Calgary provides parents with information sessions and parent support groups that build on existing parental skills to further develop a positive and healthy family environment that focuses on guidance rather than punishment and rewards positive behavior of children and youth.

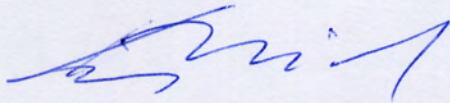
Through our Mosaic Family Resource Centre, Immigrant Services Calgary provides licensed preschool programs, family literacy programs, programs for new parents and programs for youth and their parents. The overarching goal of the Mosaic Family Resource Centre is to promote healthy families through a holistic model that provides support for all family members. Our services also include working together with Calgary Region Child and Family Services to provide support for immigrant families who are at risk of child apprehension with the goal of increasing parental skills and knowledge to ensure that families are able to remain together.

As an agency, we believe that families should not be separated because they lack understanding of the social structure of their new home; rather they should be supported in developing the understanding and skills that will ensure a full and productive life in Canada. We are an agency that believes people come first and we are committed to quality services for a diverse Canadian community.

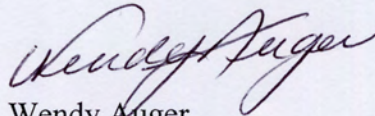
Immigrant Services Calgary is a member of the Canadian Association for Young Children, the Alberta Childcare Association and the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies.

If you require any further information, please contact either Wendy Auger, Director of the Mosaic Family Resource Centre at wendya@immigrantservicescalgary.ca; TEL- 403-538-8361, or Krystyna Biel, Chief Executive Officer at krystynab@immigrantservicescalgary.ca; TEL- 403-265-1120.

Sincerely



Krystyna Biel, M.Ed.
Chief Executive Officer



Wendy Auger
Director, Mosaic Family Resource Centre