

Provincial & Regional Partners:

ACT Autism Community Training Society
Adoptive Families Association of BC
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies & Service Agencies
Alternate Shelter Society
Association for Community Education BC
ACT – Autism Community Training Society
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society
BC Assoc. for Child Development & Rehabilitation
BC Association for Community Living
BC Association for Play Therapy
BC Association of Child Care Employers
BC Association of Family Resource Programs
BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach Programs
BC Association of Social Workers
BC Council for Families • BC Crime Prevention Association
BC Early Years Alliance • BC Farm Women's Network
BC Federation of Foster Parents Association
BC Government & Service Employees' Union
BC Institute Against Family Violence
BC Pediatric Society • BC Recreation and Parks Association
BC School Trustees Association • BC Teachers' Federation
BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses
Boys & Girls Clubs of BC
Canadian Association for Young Children
Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division
Canadian Red Cross • Capilano Student Union
Cerebral Palsy Association of BC
Child & Family Counseling Association
Child & Youth Care Association of BC
Child Care Advocacy Forum
Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Council of Parent Participation Preschools BC
Deaf Children's Society of BC
Dietitians of Canada, BC Region
Early Childhood Educators of BC
East Kootenay Childhood Coalition
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Federated Anti-Poverty Groups
Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks
Federation of Child & Family Services of BC
Fulcrum Project • Infant Development Program of BC
International Dyslexia Association, BC Branch
Justice Institute of BC
Labour Environmental Alliance Society
Learning Disabilities Association of BC
Literacy BC • McCreary Centre Society
MOSAIC • Nisika Community Services
National Council of Jewish Women
Pacific Association of First Nations Women
Pacific Community Resources Society
Pacific Legal Education Association /PARCA
Parent Support Services Society of BC
Penticton & District Community Resources Society
Public Health Association of BC
Self Help Resource Association of BC
Social Planning & Research Council BC
Society for Children & Youth of BC
Society for Public Education of BC
Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
United Way of the Lower Mainland
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
Westcoast Family Resources Society
Working Group on Poverty
YWCA of Greater Vancouver

Community Coalition Partners: 100 Mile House, Abbotsford, Armstrong, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Delta, Duncan, Fraser North, Golden, Grand Forks, Houston, Kamloops, Kelowna, Langley, Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows, Port Alberni, Prince George, Salmon Arm, Smithers, Squamish, Surrey, Terrace, Vancouver, Vancouver Aboriginal Council, Vernon, Victoria, Williams Lake

December 03, 2008

Dear BC Members of Parliament,

Physical punishment causes harm to children

First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition is requesting that all BC Members of Parliament read the attached open letter signed by many national and provincial agencies requesting the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code.

Section 43 is an out-dated provision in the Code which allows parents to hit children for the purpose of "correction".

Canadians recently celebrated November 20, National Child Day, which is a day to celebrate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Canada in 1991. However, Canada is currently in violation of this Convention because it has not repealed this section of the Criminal Code.

In 2009, Canada will again report to the UN on the implementation of the Convention and the progress made on ensuring children's rights. We call upon all BC MP's to urge the Government to repeal Section 43, as a priority, in order to respect a child's right to be protected from harm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Sheila Davidson
Chair, First Call Early Childhood Development Round Table

cc Hon. T. Christenson, MCFD.