



The Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2

December 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the anniversary of which was celebrated in the House of Commons November 25, 2016 which states:

"Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) to any person who has the care of the children."

Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada, established in 1892, allows *teachers, parents or a person standing in place of a parent to use force as a means to correct behaviour, so long as force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances*. Though limitations were imposed in 2004, the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) believes that Section 43 no longer represents the values of our society which now supports positive and non-violent ways to discipline children.

In addition, Calls to Action as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, include repealing of Section 43. As the national school board association, we are committed to following through with the recommendations provided in this report in order to bring us closer to reconciliation with our history and culture.

If we value our children as citizens and expect them to develop into caring and productive members of society, then our laws need to provide them with the same rights of security as adults and any form of discipline involving violence is not acceptable.

As such, the CSBA would add our organization to the long list of individuals and national organizations calling and the over 40 countries who have abolished the practice as long ago as 1970, for the repeal of Section 43 of the Canadian Criminal Code.

Thank you,

Floyd Martens
President
Canadian School Boards Association

cc: Gloria Jackson, Chair, Aboriginal Education Committee, GloriaJackson@sd.bc.ca
Jonina Campbell, Chair, School District no.41 (New Westminster)