



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

Service de
santé publique

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July 4, 2005

Via Electronic Mail

The Honourable Irwin Cotler
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

Re: Physical Punishment of Children and Youth

The Sudbury & District Board of Health passed the following motion #53-05 at its June 16, 2005 Board of Health meeting:

WHEREAS public health has a goal to increase the percentage of children and youth who meet physical, cognitive, communicative and psychosocial development milestones; and

WHEREAS studies indicate the utilization of physical punishment is still widely used and may have serious consequences for children; and

WHEREAS Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada justifies the use of physical punishment of children between the ages of 2 and 12; and

WHEREAS public health has a role in conjunction with other community agencies to advocate for policy change that affects the health and well-being of children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sudbury & District Board of Health support the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada, as repeal would provide children the same protection from physical assault as that given to adults; and

FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health directs the Medical Officer of Health to write to the Federal Minister of Justice seeking the Federal Government's support for the repeal of Section 43 the Criminal Code of Canada; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Ontario Boards of Health, local Members of Parliament, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aIPHa) and the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA).

*An Accredited Teaching Health Unit
Centre agréé d'enseignement en santé*

Letter to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
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The Sudbury & District Board of Health is hopeful that the Federal Government will repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada to ensure the safety of Canadian children and youth.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours in public health,

Original signed by

P. Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Director

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c.: Honourable Raymond Bonin, MP
Honourable Diane Marleau, MP
Honourable Brent St. Denis, MP
Gordon Fleming, Manager, Public Health Issues, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Elizabeth Leach, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Ontario Boards of Health