

April 6, 2022

Mr. Ron Ensom and Dr. Joan Durrant
National Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth
c/o 1858 Sharel Drive Ottawa, ON
K1H 6W4

Dear Mr. Ensom and Dr. Durrant:

The Vanier Institute of the Family is pleased to endorse the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth developed by the national coalition of organizations and facilitated by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

The Vanier Institute of the Family advances evidence and knowledge of Canadian families in all their diversities. It was established with the goal of improving the wellbeing of Canadian families, and to study their social physical, mental and moral characteristics. As societies change and develop, we recognize the need to incorporate new scientific and cultural learnings to best support family life, experiences, expectations and understanding.

Based on the research underlying the Joint Statement, we agree that physical punishment of children and youth can damage family relationships and has negative repercussions for family wellbeing. Alternative, positive approaches to discipline are essential and should be incorporated by all families. We support the findings and fully endorse the recommendations of the report.

We thank you for your ongoing efforts to bring awareness and education on the issue of physical punishment of children and youth.

Sincerely,



Margo Hilbrecht, Ph.D.
Executive Director