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November 25, 2015

Drs. Ron Ensom and
Joan Durrant
CHEO
c/o 1858 Sharel Drive
Ottawa, ON K1H 6W4

Dear Dr. Ensom and Durrant,

The Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (The Centre) is pleased to endorse the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth developed by the national coalition of organizations facilitated by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO).

The Centre exists to improve child well-being by conducting, funding and mobilizing research for evidence-informed policy and practice. We have focused our efforts in five areas that help address the most significant challenges in our province's social system: early childhood development; middle childhood and youth well-being; family capacity building; community capacity building; and tracking long-term outcomes.

Based on extensive research evidence, we agree with the key findings of the Joint Statement, that the outcomes associated with the use of physical punishment can have a negative developmental impact on children and youth. We strongly agree that alternative and positive approaches to discipline should be developed and practiced by all adults who have a role in the well-being of Canadian children and youth.

We congratulate the coalition on the publication of this important work and are very pleased to offer the support of our organization.

Sincerely,

Robyn Blackadar
President and CEO
Alberta Centre for Child,
Family and Community Research