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November 17, 2014

Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children of Children and Youth
Attention: Ron Ensom

Re: Endorsement of *the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC), I am pleased to offer our endorsement of *the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*. As a leader in advocacy for victims and survivors of serious crime in Canada, we would like to add our name to the list of more than 500 organizations who have endorsed the work of the Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth.

We agree that the evidence is clear and compelling — physical punishment of children and youth plays no useful role in their upbringing and poses only risks to their development. The conclusion is equally compelling — parents should be strongly encouraged to develop alternative and positive approaches to discipline. We believe that children are particularly vulnerable and deserve protection from violence in all forms. In our advocacy and support work, we have observed the direct negative effects on adults who lived through abusive experiences as children. We are concerned that witnessing or experiencing abuse as a child leaves one at a greater risk of either being victimized, or victimizing another as an adult.

The CRCVC would like to commend the Coalition and offer our continued support to CHEO with respect to research and awareness raising efforts in this area.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director