

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

Wednesday, October 16th 2019

Dear Mr. Ensom and Dr. Durrant:

On behalf of our team at the Ottawa Couple and Family Institute, I am very happy to endorse this *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.

At the Ottawa Couple and Family Institute, our team of Psychologists, Psychotherapists and Social Workers understand the adverse lifelong consequences for children and the societal harm associated with physical punishment. We are deeply committed to actively helping couples, families, and individuals form loving resilient bonds with the people they love. Using Emotionally Focused Therapy, the cutting-edge model of therapy developed by our President Dr. Sue Johnson, we work to foster healthy and respectful communication, connection, and conflict resolution within families in ways that preserve and promote the safety, dignity, and human rights of children and adults alike.

I would like to thank the coalition for their continued education and advocacy efforts to bring this important issue to the attention of Canadians, and for the opportunity to endorse and shape more effective and humane alternatives to the physical punishment of children and youth.

Sincerely,

Alison C. Lee PhD., C. Psych.