



Centre des services communautaires Vanier Vanier Community Service Centre

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July 8th, 2019

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

Sir,
Madam,

The Vanier Community Service Centre (Vanier CSC) is a francophone organization offering a range of services in French and English to improve the quality of life for citizen of Ottawa-Vanier and surroundings. Among its many services, the **Vanier Social Pediatric Hub** opened its doors in 2017 and is the first of its kind in Ontario. It is based on the model of integrated social medicine developed by Dr. Gilles Julien. Unlike any other, this model uses a holistic child-centered approach that embraces the Rights of the Child as set out in the United Nations Convention.

Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that “States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.”

This article is fully in line with the vision, mission and values of the **Vanier Sociale Pediatric Hub**, which aims to more effectively detect, reduce or eliminate sources of toxic stress and risk factors that affect the health and development of children and youth. Several CSC Vanier staff are also trained in the *Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting* approach, a program they offer to parents and other caregivers, so they can learn to discipline their children without the use of violence. This program developed by Joan Durrant, helps parents learn how to teach children effectively, while respecting their rights.

Sharing a common vision, it is therefore with great pride that the Vanier CSC endorses the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* developed by a national coalition of organizations facilitated by CHEO.

Sincerely,

Michel Gervais,
Executive Director
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