



December 21, 2016

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H8

Dear Madame Minister,

Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the anniversary of which was celebrated in the House of Commons November 25 2016, which 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) to any person who has the care of the children."*

Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada, established in 1892, allows teachers, parents or a person standing in place of a parent to use force as a means to correct behaviour, so long as force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances. Though limitations were imposed in 2004, the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) believes that Section 43 no longer represents the values of our society which now supports positive and non-violent ways to discipline children.

In addition, Calls to Action as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, include repealing of Section 43. As the national school board association, we are committed to following through with the recommendations provided in this report in order to bring us closer to reconciliation with our history and culture.

If we value our children as citizens and expect them to develop into caring and productive members of society, then our laws need to provide them with the same rights of security as adults and any form of discipline involving violence is not acceptable.

As such, the CSBA would add our organization to the long list of individuals and national organizations calling, and the over 40 countries who have abolished the practice as long ago as 1970, for the repeal of Section 43 of the Canadian Criminal Code.

Thank you,

Floyd Martens  
President  
Canadian School Boards Association