April 19, 2018

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Re: Repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code Refresh 2017

On March 23, 2018 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached correspondence from Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit regarding Repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code Refresh 2017. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2018-28

Moved by: Mitch Twolan Seconded by: David Shearman

“THAT, the Board of Health endorse Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit’s resolution in support of the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada that justifies the use of physical punishment of children between the ages of 2 and 12, and FURTHER THAT, the Board of Health indicate it’s support by endorsing the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth.”

Carried

Sincerely,

Hazel Lynn, MD, FCFP, MHSc
Acting Medical Officer of Health
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Cc: All Ontario Boards of Health

Encl.
RESOLUTION #2017-03
Board of Health, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
December 7, 2017

Repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code Refresh 2017

WHEREAS, research indicates that physical punishment is harmful to children and youth and is ineffective as discipline; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) Child Health Program (2008) is to enable all children to attain and sustain optimal health and developmental potential and of the draft Ontario Standards for Public Health Programs and Services (2017) Healthy Growth and Development Standard is to achieve optimal maternal, newborn, child, youth, and family health; and

WHEREAS, Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada justifies the use of physical punishment of children between the ages of 2 and 12; and

WHEREAS, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) supports the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada, as repeal would provide children the same protection from physical assault as that given to adults; and

WHEREAS, over 550 organizations in Canada, including the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (in 2006) and the City of Kawartha Lakes, have endorsed the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth; and

WHEREAS, calls for the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada have been made repeatedly for almost 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which includes the repeal of Section 43, would be fully implemented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit support the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada and write to the Minister of Justice indicating the Board’s position and urging swift action on this matter;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, all local Members of Parliament, all local Members of Provincial Parliament, all Member Municipalities, all local Boards of Education, all Ontario Boards of Health, and all local children’s planning tables for support.