June 14, 2018

Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould  
Minister of Justice  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilson-Raybould;

**RE: Repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code**

The Board of Health of the Perth District Health Unit considered the attached resolution from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit at its regular meeting on March 21, 2018. The following motion was passed:

*That the Board support the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit letter re Repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code.*

This is not the first time the Board of Health considered the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada. In September 2005, the Board of Health for the Perth District Health Unit first adopted a resolution to support the repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada and affirmed its position on potential harm and ineffectiveness of the physical punishment of children by endorsing the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. The Perth District Health Unit works in collaboration with other local community agencies to further our goal of ensuring optimal preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth and parental and family health. Our work includes comprehensive public health interventions related to preparation for parenting and positive parenting. The repeal of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada which would afford children the same protection from physical assault as adults is a long overdue policy change that supports this community work.

Sincerely,

Teresa Barresi  
Chair, Board of Health

/ct

Encl.

c. The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
   John Nater MP  
   Randy Pettapiece, MPP  
   Kids First Steering Committee  
   Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
   All Ontario Public Health Units
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.