



**Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations**  
*The Voice of the Parent in Education*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The QFHSA Supports  
Bill S-251: An Act to Repeal  
Section 43 of the Criminal Code  
(Truth and Reconciliation Commission of  
Canada's call to action number 6)**

**MONTREAL, QUEBEC, Friday, May 19, 2023 — The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA) supports the Honourable Senator Kutcher's Bill S-251 to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.**

Since its inception, the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** has advocated for the rights of the child, including calling for an end to corporal punishment in schools, promoting the importance of child welfare, and soliciting more support for addressing and stopping family violence. The Supreme Court of Canada's decision in 2004 to finally outlaw the corporal punishment of children in all schools was a tremendous win. Unfortunately, Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* still allows for the reasonable use of force on a child by parents and guardians for reasons of discipline.

Children should be free from violence, and from fear thereof, in **all** areas of their lives.

Violent punishment has been shown to have negative effects on both the child and society, delaying cognitive development, stifling academic achievement, and increasing the likelihood of dropping out of school. It violates children's rights as afforded by the United Nations' *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, denying respect for their human dignity and physical integrity, as well as their rights to health, development, education, and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Children are the most vulnerable members of society, and it is our duty to protect them from assault and facilitate their emotional and academic growth.

It is therefore with great enthusiasm and gratitude that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** endorses the Honourable Senator Kutcher's public Bill S-251, repealing Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, and encourages others to do the same.

*43 Every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances.*

The repeal of Section 43 is our responsibility not only in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's call to action number 6, but as a developed, progressive, and compassionate society.

Letters of support can be sent to Senator Kutcher at the address below (no postage necessary).

Senator Stan Kutcher  
RE: End Corporal Punishment  
Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A4

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**About Us:** *The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA) is an independent, incorporated, not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well-being of children and youth. Since 1944, the QFHSA has been promoting the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acting as a voice for parents. For more information on the QFHSA, please visit [qfhsa.org](http://qfhsa.org), follow us on [Facebook.com/qfhsa](https://www.facebook.com/qfhsa) and [Twitter @QFHSA](https://twitter.com/QFHSA).*

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Carol Meindl at 514-481-5619 or email [carolmeindl@qfhsa.org](mailto:carolmeindl@qfhsa.org).

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### Our Funding Partners:

The logo for the Government of Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag to the right.

The logo for the Quebec Ministry of Education and Higher Learning, featuring the text "Éducation et Enseignement supérieur" above the word "Québec" and a blue square containing four white fleur-de-lis symbols.