

What did the Canadian public learn from the 2004 supreme court decision on physical punishment.

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What did the Canadian Public Learn From the 2004 Supreme Court Decision on

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In 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the legal justification for physical punishment of children, but limited it to be applied by non-frustrated parents, with the hand, to children between the ages of 2 and 12. This double message – justifiable but only under limited conditions – is potentially confusing to the Canadian public. We attempted to analyze how the decision was understood as restricting the use of physical punishment or whether it was understood as giving a "green light" to physical punishment. We analyzed the first 420 responses to the decision that were posted to the website of a national newspaper in the da

release of the Court's decision. The postings were coded according to writers' awareness of and agreement with va
well as their conceptualizations of physical punishment. The findings demonstrate that the majority of writers un
parents permission to use corporal punishment. Only 11% referred to the limitations placed on its use. The finding
policy implications of the Supreme Court's decision and the public's limited understanding of it.

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