



## Activity: The Spanking Case

### LISTENING Part 2

So, the CFCYL said that “Section 43” is unfair and must be changed. They said you cannot treat people differently because of their age. The laws of Canada protect people from being treated differently because of their skin colour, language, culture, or religion – so people shouldn’t be treated differently because of their age, either. In 1998 they went to court to force the government to change the law.

Now, in Canada the legal process is very slow, and this was a very complicated case that took years for final judgment. In fact, the case went to three different courts and there wasn’t a final judgment by the Supreme Court of Canada, Canada’s highest court, until 2004. I’ll tell you what the final judgment was in a minute, but first I want to talk about some interesting research that the CFCYL talked about in court.

The lawyers for CFCYL talked about studies that researchers have done to measure the effects of using force on children. When parents or caregivers hit children, does this affect their development? Does it cause problems for children? The research results showed two things that are interesting. The first thing is that using a bit of force to correct children does not cause any long-term damage to children. Researchers say that children who are spanked by their parents turn out to be just as happy and just as good as children who aren’t spanked. We’re not talking here about beating children or hurting children badly, just a normal spanking by mom or dad to teach a kid a lesson. Studies show this doesn’t hurt children’s development.

But the second interesting thing the studies showed is that using this kind of force also doesn’t work very well to correct children. In other words, spanking doesn’t hurt children’s development, but it doesn’t really teach them or help them very much either. The researchers said that parents who want to correct their children, who want their children to learn good behaviour, should look for better ways because spanking isn’t the best teacher. It simply isn’t very effective. There are better ways to teach children what is right and what is wrong.

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