**Framing the Debate on Corporal Punishment with Public Opinion Polling**

**August 2003.  Canadians were told that Section 43 provides a defense for reasonable physical punishing of children.  And that the courts had found the**

**reasonable criteria were met in cases of “hard spankings, slaps to the head and face, and hitting of the buttocks and legs with belts and sticks.”**

For Removing Section 43 defense for teachers

69% of Canadians agreed (55% strongly, 14% somewhat)

76% of younger adults (age 18 - 34) agreed (64% strongly, 12% somewhat)

75% of women agreed (63% strongly, 12% somewhat)

For Removing Section 43 defense for Parents

51% of Canadians agreed (30% strongly, 21% somewhat)

58% of younger adults agreed (32% strongly, 26% somewhat)

59% of women agreed (36% strongly, 23% somewhat)

60%  agreed if a clause was added to prevent prosecutions for mild spankings

**January 2004.  Canadians were asked whether “spanking” is a reasonable method of child discipline.**

71% yes in Western Canada

62% yes in Ontario

47% yes in Quebec

7% favored criminalizing parental spanking (20% weren’t sure)

5% favored criminalization and child removal for parental spanking (20% weren’t sure)