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**CANADIANS OVERWHELMINGLY BELIEVE THAT SPANKING  
SHOULD NOT BE MADE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE**

**— ONLY 16% SAY IT SHOULD BE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE FOR A PARENT TO  
SPANK THEIR CHILD; AN OVERWHELMING 83% DISAGREE —**

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This Angus Reid Group/Globe and Mail/CTV poll is based on a national telephone survey conducted between November 18<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999 among a representative cross-section of 1,515 Canadian adults. These data are statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional, age and sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to 1996 Census data.

With a national sample of 1,515, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the overall results are within  $\pm 2.5$  percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger for other sub-groupings of the survey population.

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An Angus Reid Group/ Globe and Mail / CTV poll released tonight indicates that only 16% of Canadians feel that it should be a criminal offence for a parent to spank their child. An overwhelming 83% disagree.

*These are the highlights gleaned from a national Angus Reid Group/Globe and Mail/CTV telephone survey of 1,515 Canadian adults. Interviews were conducted between November 18<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999. A sample size of 1,515 is said to have a corresponding margin of error of  $\pm 2.5$  percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.*

### **83% DISAGREE WITH MAKING SPANKING CHILDREN A CRIMINAL OFFENCE**

More than eight in ten Canadians either somewhat (36%) or strongly (47%) disagree that it should be a criminal offence for parents to spank their children. On the other hand, one in six feel this form of punishment should be considered a criminal offence (7% strongly agree, 9% somewhat agree).

- Single parents (22%) are slightly more likely to be in favour of making spanking a criminal offence than parents who are married or living common-law (14%).
- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (91%) are the most likely to disagree with the notion that spanking children should be a criminal offence, while residents of

Quebec or the Atlantic provinces are the most likely to support the idea (28% and 20% agree, respectively).

- Respondents aged 18 to 34 (22%) are more likely to agree with making it a criminal offence for parents to spank their children than 35 to 54 year olds (13%) or those 55 and older (14%).
- Respondents without a highschool diploma (24%) are the most likely of all education levels to support making spanking a criminal offence.
- Men (83%) and women (83%) equally oppose making it a criminal offence for a parent to spank a child.

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