



# LUNCH & LEARN

Thursday,  
Apr 30, 2026  
12 - 1 p.m.  
MS Teams



## Spare the Child

*Presented by  
Ailsa M. Watkinson*

*Presentation will be recorded*

**An urgent examination of Canada's legal, cultural, and historical acceptance of corporal punishment and the children it continues to fail**

In *Spare the Child: Ending Childhood Corporal Punishment*, author Ailsa Watkinson exposes a troubling truth: since 1892, Section 43 of the Canadian Criminal code has granted legal defense for parents and caregivers who use corporal punishment on children for the purpose of “correction.” Remarkably, children remain the only group in Canada explicitly left unprotected from physical punishment under the law.

Grounded in evidence-based research, the book reveals the long-term psychological harms of corporal punishment, urging parents and policymakers to defend children’s fundamental right to dignity, safety, and protection.

Ailsa M. Watkinson is Professor Emerita of Social Work, University of Regina, and a human rights advocate. She is the mother of three sons and grandmother to two grandchildren. She lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

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