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Regina dad upset over daughter's school dress code

Rules at Regina's Davin School don't allow her to wear tank tops

CBC News Posted: Jun 01, 2015 12:30 PM CT | Last Updated: Jun 01, 2015 3:11 PM CT



A current Old Navy catalogue shows styles for young girls. A Regina dad says styles like this make shopping for classroom appropriate clothes difficult. (Old Navy website)

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At Davin School in Regina, 10-year-olds cannot wear tank tops.

Eagle Thom's daughter, who's in Grade 4, told him she can't wear half the clothes in her closet because of the school's dress code. The principal visited her class recently and told students they had to have their shoulders covered.

But Thom takes issue with that.

Social media erupts over Regina school dress code

"You go into Old Navy, you go into any clothing store, that's what you're going to find for the majority of their age for this time of year," he told CBC News.

According to Thom, girls should be able to learn and play in whatever is comfortable for them and that Davin's dress code targets the wrong side of the problem.

"Shouldn't we be policing the people who are looking at [girls] that way rather than the girls themselves?"

- Eagle Thom, parent

"Shouldn't we be policing the people who are looking at [girls] that way rather than the girls themselves," Thom asked on CBC Radio's The Morning Edition, "Rather than telling them that their body is not theirs; that they are at the whim of somebody else?"

According to Regina Public Schools, the Davin School dress code has been in place for 10 years, and the principal was likely just reminding students of it, since the weather was getting warmer.

Spokesperson Terry Lazarou told CBC that while grade four girls may

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not be sexualized by wearing tank tops at this age, it can become a problem as they get older.

"There's no issue with shoulders," Lazarou said. "I think it's an issue of not allowing revealing clothing."

Lazarou added that the dress code applies to all children, regardless of age or gender.

Are you in favour of school dress codes?

- Yes, they teach modesty and following rules
- No, they send the wrong message about body image
- Depends where you draw the line. Appropriateness is a matter of opinion.


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 **Storify**

At Davin School in Regina, students cannot wear tank tops.



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 9 HOURS AGO

Eagle Thom's daughter, who is in Grade 4, shared his daughter's experience. He then spoke to CBC Radio's the Morning Edition.



Alexis McQuigge
@alexismcquigge

@cenobyte @SLangeneggerCBC This dad is rocking this interview and the gender politics around these dress codes. He's amazing.

 @SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO


Here is how the CBC Saskatchewan social media community reacted:



cenobyte
@cenobyte


@SLangeneggerCBC LAME. We need to stop treating kids like sex objects. If a boy wore an a-frame tee shirt and shorts, would he be sent home?

 @SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Jill Wenzel
@jaydubs75

@SLangeneggerCBC inappropriate, agree. Cover up, T shirt and shorts? Those outfits are for evenings, weekends and summer!

 @SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Leslie Kampe
@Lkampe

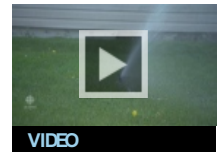
@SLangeneggerCBC @CBCSask totally appropriate, we always wore stuff like this in the late 70's early 80's..Have we forgotten about tube tops?

 @SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



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Fran Mills
@askmommafran

@SLangeneggerCBC #skcbc It looks like maybe some adults are inappropriate. A 10 yr old child & summer romper certainly aren't.

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Chantel
@goneprairie

@SLangeneggerCBC when did shoulders become inappropriate? They definitely aren't on a woman and certainly not on a young girl

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



greg riehl
@griehl

@goneprairie @SLangeneggerCBC in my office many women wear tank tops, as a male, I would never wear a tank top to work R adults rolemodels?

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Greg Bamford
@DrofmaB

@SLangeneggerCBC wow. The Regina Public School Board's spokesperson was jaw-droppingly obstinate. And completely missed the point.

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Heather Henry
@grrrb0t

@SLangeneggerCBC @CBCSask this dress code thing is getting out of hand. It's not girl's clothing that is the problem here.

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Alexis McQuigge
@alexismcquigge

@cenobyte @SLangeneggerCBC He just hit the nail on the head. Women/girls cannot be held responsible for the thoughts of others about them!

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



John Klein
@JohnKleinRegina

@SLangeneggerCBC making everyone dress alike goes with wanting everyone to think alike too. #YQRed

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Suzanne Huggins
@PSSuzanne

@stack1975 @SLangeneggerCBC @CBCSask telling girls their clothes are "provocative" enforces the male gaze, which IS damaging.

@SLangeneggerCBC · 13 HOURS AGO



Gord Bolton
@GordBolton

@SLangeneggerCBC @CBCSask People should be free to wear clothes that they find comfortable. All fashion judgement is in eye of beholder only

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Fatt Amy

I have girls and I would not think this is inappropriate with a light sweater they are children and society is making it very difficult for females to dress nicely not provocatively in a school setting she is a child wearing a short set romper.... if it's inappropriate then maybe they should take boys and men out of the schools so girls can be girls and be allowed to dress for the weather just like the boys do !

8 HOURS AGO

While many defended the girl's summer tank top, others said students and parents need to follow the rules.



Patchouli
@MJPatchouli

@SLangeneggerCBC So will stop rant now, but maybe let schools identify CLEAR rules and parents, follow them. Nothing wrong with a few rules.

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Patchouli
@MJPatchouli

@SLangeneggerCBC Someone wrote that we dressed more provocatively in 70s. Yes, and my entire life, men have ogled breasts. No matter what.

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Jeanne Martinson
@JeanneMartinson

@SLangeneggerCBC @CBCSask Lots of choice 4 Boys & girls:shorts & skirts should be no more than 2" above knees & all tops have sleeves. easy

@SLangeneggerCBC · 13 HOURS AGO



Mike Stackhouse
@stack1975

@SLangeneggerCBC @CBCSask doesn't matter what I think. Rules are rules. Follow them! Don't rebel as soon as you don't like a rule.

@SLangeneggerCBC · 14 HOURS AGO



Pamela Sampson

It's not an in appropriate outfit however school board rules are no spaghetti straps. That's in place for a reason. I have seen many high school girls come to school in low cut spaghetti straps, definitely not school wear in high school

8 HOURS AGO



Sarah Brown

I gotta agree with you here Scott. As a parent I think this is beach wear and not appropriate at all for a scholastic setting. Parents need to teach their children about proper



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