

EXPOSING THE BOSS

**A Study In Canadian
Journalism Ethics**

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for Ethics in Leadership

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Abstract

Journalists make decisions about the news they report every day. From time to time, they are confronted with ethical dilemmas about the nature of their work that can bring them into conflict with the leadership of the newspapers that employ them. Many journalists work under the terms of collective agreements which offer guidelines for ethical behavior in defined situations that are more influential than informal or formal Codes of Ethics because they are legal instruments. This study examines the collective agreement tools which allow journalists to take ethical stands and which offer them some protection against retribution by their employers for their actions. It argues that those instruments can help them win day-to-day battles, but, in the long run, their status as employees subjects them, for better or for worse, to their employers' ethics. It also examines whether a policy of national editorials in CanWest Global Communications Corp.'s Southam newspapers constitutes a threat to diversity of ideas, editorial opinion and the news reported in those newspapers.

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