

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Approval of assisted death ruling increases

# Canadians now more likely to consider assisted death for themselves

TORONTO April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1455 Canadian adults, three quarters support the Supreme Court's ruling in the Carter case which made physician-assisted dying legal in Canada, as of June, 2016 (74%). Just one sixth do not approve (15%) and as few as one tenth have no opinion (11%). These results represent an increase in approval on this complex issue since we polled two months ago (February 18 - 70% approve). Approval is especially common to younger Canadians (35 to 44 - 82%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 86%), in Quebec (83%) and Atlantic Canada (80%), among New Democrats (84%), Bloquistes (90%), Francophones (83%) and among college graduates (80%).

# Assisted death more likely to be considered now

Six-in-ten Canadian adults would consider assisted dying for themselves (61%), while just one fifth would not (21%) and a similar proportion don't know if they would (18%). This represents an increase in those saying they would consider assisted death for themselves since two months ago (February 18 - 57%). Considering assisted dying is common to mid aged Canadians (35 to 54 - 67%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 73%), in Quebec (70%) and Atlantic Canada (67%), among New Democrats (68%), Bloquistes (72%), Francophones (70%), mothers of children under 18 (69%) and the best educated (post grad - 67%). Three quarters of those who approve of the Supreme Court's ruling are likely to consider assisted death for themselves (76%).

"It is interesting to see that approval for the Supreme Court's ruling in Carter has increased the more the ruling is discussed. I expect by the time the government discloses its approach to assisted dying, approval will be even higher, and even more Canadians will be willing to consider a planned end for their own lives," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

#### **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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# TORONTO April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Three quarters support the Supreme Court's ruling in the Carter case which made physician-assisted dying legal in Canada, as of June, 2016 (74%).
- Six-in-ten Canadian adults would consider assisted dying for themselves (61%), while just one fifth would not (21%) and a similar proportion don't know if they would (18%).
- "It is interesting to see that approval for the Supreme Court's ruling in Carter has increased the more the ruling is discussed. I expect by the time the government discloses its approach to assisted dying, approval will be even higher, and even more Canadians will be willing to consider a planned end for their own lives," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.



### Methodology

The Forum Poll<sup>m</sup> was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1455 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at <a href="https://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp">www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp</a>

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

#### Assisted Dying Approval - Trending

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%	April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	February 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016				
Sample	1455	1406				
Approve	74	70				
Disapprove	15	19				
Don't know	11	11				

#### Assisted Dying for Yourself - Trending

%	April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	February 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Sample	1455	1406
Yes	61	57
No	21	26
Don't know	18	13

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#### **Physician-Assisted Death**

'The Supreme Court has ruled that physician-assisted death will be legal by June, 2016. Do you approve or disapprove of this ruling?'

[All Respondents]

## Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1455	272	207	252	334	390	812	643
Approve	74	75	82	73	73	64	73	75
Disapprove	15	13	9	17	18	21	16	14
Don't know	11	12	8	10	9	15	10	11

# Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	1455	113	345	522	128	172	175	1125	330
Approve	74	80	83	71	66	67	71	71	83
Disapprove	15	8	11	18	23	15	16	17	11
Don't know	11	11	6	11	11	17	13	12	5

### Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1455	408	638	169	78	72	43
Approve	74	63	79	84	70	90	53
Disapprove	15	24	12	9	17	10	21
Don't know	11	13	9	6	14	1	26

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## **Assisted Death for Yourself**

'Would you consider assisted death for yourself?'

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1455	272	207	252	334	390	812	643
Yes	61	54	67	67	58	58	60	61
No	21	25	17	20	19	25	25	18
Don't know	18	22	17	13	23	17	16	21

#### Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	1455	113	345	522	128	172	175	1125	330
Yes	61	67	70	58	53	49	60	58	70
No	21	16	15	26	21	25	20	23	15
Don't know	18	16	16	16	25	26	20	19	15

#### Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1455	408	638	169	78	72	43
Yes	61	52	63	68	59	77	59
No	21	29	19	14	24	10	28
Don't know	18	19	17	17	17	13	13

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