

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Support For Assisted Suicide Increases**

### **Approval highest among youngest, wealthiest, in BC**

TORONTO JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1433 Canadians 18 years of age and older, fully three quarters favour physician-assisted suicide for the terminally ill (74%), and this represents an increase since we asked this question last year (Oct. 2013 - 65%). Opposition now is at one eighth (16%), down from just less than a quarter (22%) last year. Support is highest among the youngest (79%), the wealthiest (80%) and in BC (80%), New Democrats are much more in favour (84%) than are Conservatives (59%), while Liberals are in the middle (76%). The best educated are more in favour (post grad - 78%), as are non-Christians (88%) and those with no religion (87%), but not evangelical Christians (27%). Mothers with children are more likely to approve (77%), as are Francophones (78%) than are others.

“This is an issue where politicians and decision makers, and, quite frankly, the medical profession, are completely out of step with the broad majority of the public. Canadians have become used to choice, and we expect to choose our manner of death. Nothing less will do,” said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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#### **TORONTO**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Fully three quarters favour physician-assisted suicide for the terminally ill (74%).
- This represents an increase since we last asked this two years ago (June 2012 - 68%).
- “This is an issue where politicians and decision makers, and, quite frankly, the medical profession, are completely out of step with the broad majority of the public. Canadians have become used to choice, and we expect to choose our manner of death. Nothing less will do,” said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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**Methodology**

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1433 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on June 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

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 [www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp)

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](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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***Favour for Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide for Terminally Ill Trending***

%	In Favour	Opposed	Don't Know
June 13-14 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 (n=1433)	74	16	10
Oct. 23rd, 2013 (n=1859)	65	22	13
June 27th, 2012 (n=1165)	68	20	12
Dec. 13th, 2011 (n=1160)	67	21	12

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**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

***Legality of Physician-assisted Suicide***

*'Are you in favour or opposed to making physician-assisted suicide legal in Canada for the terminally ill?'*

[All Respondents]

***Age / Gender / Children / Mothers***

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1433	107	127	241	385	573	648	785	253	1180	125
In favour	74	79	70	74	74	68	75	72	77	72	77
Opposed	16	12	20	16	17	20	16	17	16	17	15
Don't know	10	9	10	11	9	12	9	11	6	12	8

***Region / Language***

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1433	56	393	543	121	141	179	1076	357
In favour	74	76	76	69	71	75	82	72	78
Opposed	16	11	16	19	17	14	14	17	15
Don't know	10	13	8	12	12	12	5	11	7

***Household Income***

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1433	157	289	205	155	129	225
In favour	74	66	72	73	82	74	80
Opposed	16	24	17	19	14	19	10
Don't know	10	10	11	9	4	7	10

***Federal Vote Preference***

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1433	405	495	245	84	91	63
In favour	74	59	76	84	84	89	66
Opposed	16	31	13	10	6	8	18
Don't know	10	10	11	6	10	3	16

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## TORONTO

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### Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1433	321	439	454	219
In favour	74	72	70	76	78
Opposed	16	14	20	16	15
Don't know	10	15	10	9	7

### Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1433	1071	370	54	552	95	70	292
In favour	74	67	69	27	70	64	88	87
Opposed	16	21	21	55	18	23	7	7
Don't know	10	12	10	18	11	13	5	7

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