

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three quarters approve of Supreme Court ruling on assisted death

6-in-10 would consider assisted death for themselves

TORONTO February 11th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1018 Canadian voters, three days after the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of legalizing physician assisted dying, more than three quarters approve of the ruling (78%) and as many as 6-in-10 approve “strongly” (60%). About one eighth disapprove (16%), one tenth strongly (9%), and very few have no opinion (7%). Strong approval of the SCC ruling is especially characteristic of younger voters (35 to 44 - 67%), mid (\$60K to \$80K - 71%) and higher income brackets (\$100K to \$250K - 70%), in Quebec (71%), among New Democrats (67%) and Green partisans (82%), but not so much among Conservatives (50%), among Francophones (73%) and among those with no religion (78%).

Support for assisted dying has been increasing since 2011

Forum has polled approval of legalizing assisted dying (formerly described as assisted suicide) since 2011, when support stood at two thirds (67%) until the summer of 2014, when support had increased to three quarters (74%).

6-in-10 will consider assisted dying

More than six tenths of voters would consider assisted dying for themselves if they had a grievous condition or were in intolerable pain (among the conditions mentioned by the SCC - 61%). One fifth would not consider this (21%) and a similar proportion do not know if they would (18%). Among those especially likely to say they will not consider assisted dying are the oldest (29%), mid income earners (\$40K to \$60K - 28%), in Atlantic Canada (25%) and the prairies (26%), among Conservatives (27%), and Evangelical Christians (53% - caution: small base size).

"Canadians have been clear about their support for assistance in ending their lives since we began tracking it 4 years ago. The public was clear, but elected officials were loath to act. As in many cases of Canadian social advances, it required the Supreme Court to get the ball rolling," 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 or at (416) 960-9603.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than three quarters approve of the ruling (78%) and as many as 6-in-10 approve “strongly” (60%).
- More than six tenths of voters would consider assisted dying for themselves if they had a grievous condition or were in intolerable pain (among the conditions mentioned by the SCC - 61%).
- "Canadians have been clear about their support for assistance in ending their lives since we began tracking it 4 years ago. The public was clear, but elected officials were loath to act. As in many cases of Canadian social advances, it required the Supreme Court to get the ball rolling," 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 1018 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on February 9 - 10th, 2015.

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

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

In Favour of Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide for Terminally Ill - Trending

%	In Favor	Opposed	Don't Know
February 10th, 2015 (n=1018)	78	15	7
June 13-14th, 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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Legalized Physician-Aided Dying

‘The Supreme Court just ruled in favor of legalized physician-aided dying. Do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court’s ruling?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1018	104	114	190	268	342	403	615
NET: TOP2	78	77	80	81	77	74	79	78
NET: BTM2	15	14	13	13	17	22	15	15
Approve strongly	60	58	67	65	58	52	59	61
Approve somewhat	18	19	13	16	19	22	20	16
Disapprove somewhat	7	6	6	6	6	8	6	7
Disapprove strongly	9	7	7	7	10	14	9	8
Don't know	7	9	7	6	6	4	6	8

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1018	85	261	352	71	115	134	775	243
NET: TOP2	78	82	84	78	76	71	72	76	86
NET: BTM2	15	12	11	14	18	23	19	17	10
Approve strongly	60	66	71	57	51	50	57	56	73
Approve somewhat	18	16	13	20	25	21	15	19	13
Disapprove somewhat	7	5	4	5	11	13	9	7	4
Disapprove strongly	9	7	7	9	6	10	10	9	7
Don't know	7	6	4	8	6	6	9	8	4

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1018	283	326	168	69	40	51
NET: TOP2	78	70	78	82	94	76	75
NET: BTM2	15	27	13	12	2	15	14
Approve strongly	60	50	58	67	82	63	60
Approve somewhat	18	21	19	15	13	13	15
Disapprove somewhat	7	13	7	2	0	3	3
Disapprove strongly	9	14	6	10	2	11	11
Don't know	7	3	9	6	4	9	11

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Personal Consideration of Physician-Assisted Death

‘Would you consider physician-assisted death for yourself if you had a grievous condition or were in intolerable pain?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1018	104	114	190	268	342	403	615
Would not consider physician-assisted death	21	19	20	19	21	29	22	20
Would consider physician-assisted death	61	59	63	63	66	54	62	60
Don't know	18	22	18	17	12	17	16	20

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1018	85	261	352	71	115	134	775	243
Would not consider physician-assisted death	21	25	16	22	26	22	21	23	15
Would consider physician-assisted death	61	56	69	59	49	61	59	58	71
Don't know	18	19	14	19	24	17	20	20	13

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1018	283	326	168	69	40	51
Would not consider physician-assisted death	21	27	18	22	14	21	31
Would consider physician-assisted death	61	57	63	59	69	68	56
Don't know	18	16	18	19	17	11	12

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