

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Strong majority favour assisted dying ruling

More than half would consider for themselves

TORONTO February 18th, 2016 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1406 Canadian voters, as many as 7-in-10 approve of the Supreme Court ruling making assisted dying legal (70%), while fewer than one fifth do not approve (19%). One tenth have no opinion (11%). Approval of assisted dying is common to the youngest (75%), males (72%) rather than females (68%), among the wealthiest (82%), in Quebec (80%) but not so much in Alberta ((59%) and among New Democrats (82%). Disapproval is characteristic of the oldest (25%), females (22%), in Alberta (26%) and among Conservatives (30%). This level of approval is similar to that noted in previous polls before the Supreme Court ruled on assisted dying.

One half see assisted dying restricted to those with debilitating illness

When asked in what circumstances assisted dying should be allowed, close to 3-in-10 say in the case of terminal illness or imminent death only (28%), while a further one tenth would extend that to intolerable pain that can't be relieved (10%). A further percentage would include loss of cognitive function, like Alzheimer's or dementia (5%), and a smaller group would also include a chronic or debilitating illness (3%), for a total of close to one half who would consider these the minimum conditions for assisted death (46%). Meanwhile, close to 3-in-10 suggest that assisted death be available for anyone who wants it (28%), while one tenth will not take a position because of their opposition to the whole notion of assistance in dying (12%). One seventh don't share an opinion (14%).

More than half would consider assisted dying for themselves

Close to 6-in-10 Canadian adults will consider assisted dying for themselves (57%), while just one quarter would not (26%). Close to one fifth (14%) don't have an answer (13%) or prefer not to offer an opinion (4%). Considering assisted death is common to the mid aged (45 to 54 - 61%), the wealthiest (65%), in Quebec (67%) and among the least educated (62%). Those who would not consider assisted death for themselves are most likely to be the youngest (29%), the least wealthy (a proxy for youth - 35%), in the prairies (33%), among Conservative voters (35%) and among those with some college or university (33%).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- As many as 7-in-10 approve of the Supreme Court ruling making assisted dying legal (70%).
- When asked in what circumstances assisted dying should be allowed, close to 3-in-10 say in the case of terminal illness or imminent death only (28%).
- Close to 6-in-10 Canadian adults will consider assisted dying for themselves (57%), while just one quarter would not (26%).

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“This is one of the rare issues we poll that doesn’t necessarily split along regional or ideological lines. While those in the west and Conservatives are slightly less likely to favour the idea of assisted dying, the larger differences split along age lines. Assisted dying is almost universally popular, and has been since we started polling the issue several years ago,” 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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- “This is one of the rare issues we poll that doesn’t necessarily split along regional or ideological lines. While those in the west and Conservatives are slightly less likely to favour the idea of assisted dying, the larger differences split along age lines. Assisted dying is almost universally popular, and has been since we started polling the issue several years ago,” 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 1406 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted between February 16th and 17th, 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 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

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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?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1406	240	199	266	336	365	761	645
Approve	70	75	68	70	71	62	72	68
Disapprove	19	14	20	21	17	25	17	22
Don't know	11	11	11	10	11	13	12	11

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1406	90	351	495	99	193	178	1076	330
Approve	70	73	80	67	61	59	68	66	81
Disapprove	19	15	14	22	24	26	17	21	12
Don't know	11	11	6	11	15	15	15	12	7

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1406	435	599	156	90	46	33
Approve	70	56	75	82	72	90	48
Disapprove	19	30	15	10	15	7	45
Don't know	11	13	10	8	13	2	8

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Minimum Condition for Assisted Death

‘What minimum condition should be met for assisted death to be allowed?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1406	240	199	266	336	365	761	645
Terminal illness or imminent death only	28	24	27	35	29	26	26	30
Intolerable pain that can't be relieved	10	11	8	7	10	14	13	7
Loss of cognitive function, Alzheimer's or dementia	5	4	5	4	6	5	6	4
Chronic or debilitating illness	3	1	3	4	4	6	3	4
Any reason the patient chooses	28	32	32	23	27	22	29	26
Do not agree with assisted death at all	12	9	12	15	10	17	11	14
Don't know	14	19	13	12	14	10	14	15

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1406	90	351	495	99	193	178	1076	330
Terminal illness or imminent death only	28	36	42	23	19	22	22	24	42
Intolerable pain that can't be relieved	10	6	11	10	6	7	13	10	11
Loss of cognitive function, Alzheimer's or dementia	5	6	5	4	6	4	7	4	7
Chronic or debilitating illness	3	4	4	2	8	4	3	3	4
Any reason the patient chooses	28	23	18	32	33	28	32	31	16
Do not agree with assisted death at all	12	8	8	15	19	16	8	14	7
Don't know	14	18	13	13	9	19	16	15	13

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1406	435	599	156	90	46	33
Terminal illness or imminent death only	28	27	33	17	19	50	13
Intolerable pain that can't be relieved	10	8	11	11	12	9	5
Loss of cognitive function, Alzheimer's or dementia	5	5	4	3	5	1	14
Chronic or debilitating illness	3	3	3	3	4	7	6
Any reason the patient chooses	28	26	26	36	28	23	32
Do not agree with assisted death at all	12	20	9	8	9	0	23
Don't know	14	10	13	22	22	10	6

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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	1406	240	199	266	336	365	761	645
Yes	57	53	56	61	60	56	59	55
No	26	29	26	24	24	28	25	28
Don't know	13	13	16	11	14	13	13	14
Prefer not to answer	4	5	3	5	2	2	3	4

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1406	90	351	495	99	193	178	1076	330
Yes	57	50	67	54	50	51	56	53	68
No	26	28	19	29	33	30	25	28	21
Don't know	13	13	10	14	16	14	14	14	9
Prefer not to answer	4	9	3	3	1	5	4	4	2

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1406	435	599	156	90	46	33
Yes	57	52	60	55	62	74	44
No	26	35	23	23	22	20	38
Don't know	13	11	13	16	10	6	9
Prefer not to answer	4	2	3	7	5	0	9

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