



# EFC

The Evangelical Fellowship  
of Canada

**Abortion Polls in Canada: A Compilation by Topic of Opinion  
Polling in Canada from 2007-2013**

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## 1. Introduction

This document provides a compilation of data from recognized polling and survey companies on the topic of abortion for the period of 2007-2012. The data has been organized topically, with endnotes providing reference information at the end of the document.

It is hoped that this document will assist readers with drafting of articles, columns and blogs as well as preparation for interviews and debates.

Information regarding the number of surveyed participants, the year the survey was conducted as well as the wording of the question itself has been included in order to assist readers in evaluation of the data and its use as appropriate.

## 2. Debating and Weighing Abortion and Other Moral Issues

In a January 2013 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,009 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Finally, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?”<sup>1</sup>

- 59% said, “There is no point in re-opening a debate about abortion in Canada right now.”
- 30% said, “A debate about abortion is long overdue in Canada, and the discussion should be re-opened.”
- 11% said, “Not sure.”

In a February 2012 poll by Forum Research, 1,210 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Do you believe life begins at conception, when the fetus is capable of surviving on its own or only after birth?”<sup>2</sup>

- 44% said, “Life begins at conception.”
- 39% said, “Life begins when the fetus is capable of surviving on its own.”
- 13% said, “Life begins only after birth.”
- 4% said, “Don’t know.”

In a 2011 poll by Abacus Data, 1,006 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Which of the following statements, if either, comes closest to your view about the abortion debate in Canada?”<sup>3</sup>

- 52% said, “When discussing matters of life and death there is never a bad time for debate. We shouldn't be afraid to debate tough...”
- 26% said, “Some things are better left alone. Now is not the time to reopen the abortion debate.”
- 22% said, “Neither.”

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Finally, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?”<sup>4</sup>

- 55% said, “There is no point in re-opening a debate about abortion in Canada right now.”
- 30% said, “A debate about abortion is long overdue in Canada, and the discussion should be re-opened.”
- 15% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Finally, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?”<sup>5</sup>

- 59% said, “There is no point in re-opening a debate about abortion in Canada right now.”
- 28% said, “A debate about abortion is long overdue in Canada, and the discussion should be re-opened.”
- 13% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2010 survey performed for the Manning Centre, 1,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Using a scale of 1 to 7 where 1 is ‘totally disagree’ and 7 is ‘totally agree,’ tell me how you feel about each of the following statements...”<sup>6</sup>

“Abortion is morally wrong”

- 8% chose #1 (“totally disagree”)
- 3% chose #2
- 5% chose #3
- 8% chose #4
- 14% chose #5
- 17% chose #6
- 43% chose #7 (“totally agree”)

In a 2010 survey by Ipsos Reid, 1,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Do you think that our national government should reopen the issue of abortion, that we should just leave things as they are, or you really don't care one way or the other?”<sup>7</sup>

- 34% said, “Reopen the issue of abortion.”
- 46% said, “Leave things as they are.”
- 17% said, “Don't care one way or the other.”
- 3% said, “Don't know/Refused to answer.”

In a 2009 study by Angus Reid Public Opinion for Maclean's Magazine, 1,003 survey participants across Canada were asked, "Regardless of whether or not you think each of the following issues should be legal, please indicate whether you personally believe they are morally acceptable or morally wrong."<sup>8</sup>

(Morally acceptable responses listed below)	(Morally wrong responses listed below)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abortion- 66%</li> <li>• Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur- 53%</li> <li>• Cloning animals- 27%</li> <li>• Cloning humans- 11%</li> <li>• Contraception- 93%</li> <li>• The death penalty- 53%</li> <li>• Divorce- 84%</li> <li>• Doctor-assisted suicide- 65%</li> <li>• Gambling- 62%</li> <li>• Having a baby outside of marriage- 79%</li> <li>• Married men and/or women having an affair- 15%</li> <li>• Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos- 69%</li> <li>• Medical testing on animals- 44%</li> <li>• Pedophilia- 1%</li> <li>• Polygamy, when one husband has more than one wife at the same time- 12%</li> <li>• Pornography- 41%</li> <li>• Prostitution- 42%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between an unmarried man and woman- 87%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between two people of the same sex- 66%</li> <li>• Suicide- 28%</li> <li>• Using illegal drugs- 25%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abortion- 22%</li> <li>• Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur- 31%</li> <li>• Cloning animals- 55%</li> <li>• Cloning humans- 78%</li> <li>• Contraception- 3%</li> <li>• The death penalty- 34%</li> <li>• Divorce- 8%</li> <li>• Doctor-assisted suicide- 22%</li> <li>• Gambling- 27%</li> <li>• Having a baby outside of marriage- 16%</li> <li>• Married men and/or women having an affair- 75%</li> <li>• Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos- 17%</li> <li>• Medical testing on animals- 41%</li> <li>• Pedophilia- 91%</li> <li>• Polygamy, when one husband has more than one wife at the same time- 81%</li> <li>• Pornography- 48%</li> <li>• Prostitution- 45%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between an unmarried man and woman- 10%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between two people of the same sex- 26%</li> <li>• Suicide- 53%</li> <li>• Using illegal drugs- 62%</li> </ul>

In a 2007 poll by Angus Reid Strategies, 1,004 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Regardless of whether or not you think each of the following issues should be legal, please indicate whether you personally believe they are morally acceptable or morally wrong.”<sup>9</sup>

(Morally acceptable responses listed below)	(Morally wrong responses listed below)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abortion- 61%</li> <li>• Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur- 51%</li> <li>• Cloning animals- 29%</li> <li>• Cloning humans- 11%</li> <li>• Contraception- 93%</li> <li>• The death penalty- 47%</li> <li>• Divorce- 83%</li> <li>• Doctor-assisted suicide- 62%</li> <li>• Gambling- 61%</li> <li>• Having a baby outside of marriage- 77%</li> <li>• Married men and/or women having an affair- 17%</li> <li>• Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos- 64%</li> <li>• Medical testing on animals- 40%</li> <li>• Pedophilia- 1%</li> <li>• Polygamy, when one husband has more than one wife at the same time- 10%</li> <li>• Pornography- 38%</li> <li>• Prostitution- 36%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between an unmarried man and woman- 81%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between two people of the same sex- 59%</li> <li>• Suicide- 25%</li> <li>• Using illegal drugs- 20%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abortion- 27%</li> <li>• Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur- 36%</li> <li>• Cloning animals- 56%</li> <li>• Cloning humans- 78%</li> <li>• Contraception- 3%</li> <li>• The death penalty- 41%</li> <li>• Divorce- 12%</li> <li>• Doctor-assisted suicide- 25%</li> <li>• Gambling- 28%</li> <li>• Having a baby outside of marriage- 17%</li> <li>• Married men and/or women having an affair- 76%</li> <li>• Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos- 21%</li> <li>• Medical testing on animals- 47%</li> <li>• Pedophilia- 91%</li> <li>• Polygamy, when one husband has more than one wife at the same time- 84%</li> <li>• Pornography- 54%</li> <li>• Prostitution- 55%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between an unmarried man and woman- 15%</li> <li>• Sexual relations between two people of the same sex- 33%</li> <li>• Suicide- 62%</li> <li>• Using illegal drugs- 68%</li> </ul>

### 3. When Abortion Should be Illegal

In a January 2013 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,009 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Abortion is currently not regulated in Canada, meaning that a woman can legally have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, with no restrictions. Thinking about this, which one of these options would you prefer to regulate abortion in Canada?”<sup>10</sup>

- 35% said, “The status-quo: Women being able to have an abortion at any time during their pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever.”

- 9% said, “Women being able to have an abortion at any time during their pregnancy, but only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 18% said, “Women being able to have an abortion only during the first three months of their pregnancy, with no other restrictions.”
- 11% said, “Women being able to have an abortion during the first three months of their pregnancy, and only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 16% said, “Women being able to have an abortion during the first three months with no restrictions and then during the last six months but only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 5% said, “Women being forbidden from having an abortion under any circumstances.”
- 6% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2013 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,009 survey participants across Canada were asked, “What is your personal feeling about abortion?”<sup>11</sup>

- 44% said, “Abortion should be permitted in all cases.”
- 23% said, “Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now.”
- 18% said, “Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman’s life.”
- 4% said, “Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman’s life.”
- 5% said, “Abortion should never be permitted.”
- 6% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2013 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,009 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?”<sup>12</sup>

- 47% said, “Abortion should be legal under any circumstances.”
- 41% said, “Abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances.”
- 7% said, “Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances.”
- 5% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2012 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,001 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Thinking about abortion, which one of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?”<sup>13</sup>

- 51% said, “There should be laws which outline when a woman can have an abortion in Canada.”
- 37% said, “There should be no laws on this matter—a woman should have the unrestricted right to have an abortion at any time up to the moment of birth.”
- 12% said, “Not sure.”

In an October 2012 poll by Forum Research, 1,735 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Should abortion be legal in all circumstances, should it be legal in some circumstances or should it be illegal in all circumstances?”<sup>14</sup>

- 60% said, “Legal in all circumstances.”
- 30% said, “Legal in some circumstances.”
- 8% said, “Illegal in all circumstances.”
- 2% said, “Don’t know.”

In a February 2012 poll by Forum Research, 1,210 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Should abortion be legal in some circumstances or should it be illegal in all circumstances?”<sup>15</sup>

- 51% said, “Legal in all circumstances.”
- 37% said, “Legal in some circumstances.”
- 10% said, “Illegal in all circumstances.”
- 2% said, “I don’t know.”

In a 2012 poll by Ipsos Reid, 1,101 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Do you support or oppose the introduction of a law in Canada that places limits on when a woman can have an abortion during her pregnancy, such as during the last trimester?”<sup>16</sup>

- 60% said, “Support.”
- 40% said, “Oppose.”

In a 2012 poll by Ipsos Reid, 1,101 survey participants across Canada were asked, "In your opinion, abortion..."<sup>17</sup>

- 45% said, "Should be permitted in certain circumstances."
- 6% said, "Should not be permitted under any circumstances."
- 49% said, "Should be permitted whenever a woman decides she wants one."

In a 2011 poll by Abacus Data, 1,006 survey participants across Canada were asked, "Which of the following statements, if any, best represents your view on abortion?"<sup>18</sup>

- 52% said, "I support the right of women to make choices about their own bodies."
- 17% said, "I support legal abortion, but only in extreme circumstances."
- 18% said, "I am personally opposed to abortion, but recognize the right of individuals to make their own choices."
- 8% said, "I am personally opposed to abortion and feel that it should be illegal in Canada."
- 1% said, "None of these."
- 4% said, "Unsure."

In a 2011 poll by Abacus Data, 1,006 survey participants across Canada were asked, "When do you believe human life should be legally protected?"<sup>19</sup>

- 27% said, "From conception."
- 21% said, "After 3 months of pregnancy."
- 11% said, "After 6 months of pregnancy."
- 22% said, "From birth."
- 19% said, "Not sure."

In a 2011 poll by Environics, 2,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, "In your opinion, at what point in human development should the law protect human life? Should it be..."<sup>20</sup>

- 28% said, "At conception."
- 17% said, "From 2 months on."
- 17% said, "From 3 months on."
- 10% said, "From 6 months on."
- 20% said, "At birth."
- 9% said, "Do not know/No answer."

In a 2011 poll by Environics, 2,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, "Thinking generally, do you think abortion should generally be legal or generally illegal during each of the following stages of pregnancy...first three months...second three months...last three months?"<sup>21</sup>

First three months:

- 68% said, "Legal."
- 26% said, "Illegal."
- 6% said, "Do not know/No answer."

Second three months:

- 33% said, "Legal."
- 58% said, "Illegal."
- 9% said, "Do not know/No answer."

Third three months:

- 16% said, "Legal."
- 77% said, "Illegal."
- 7% said, "Do not know/No answer."

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, "Abortion is currently not regulated in Canada, meaning that a woman can legally have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, with no restrictions. Thinking about this, which one of these options would you prefer to regulate abortion in Canada?"<sup>22</sup>

- 27% said, "The status-quo: Women being able to have an abortion at any time during their pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever."
- 22% said, "Women being able to have an abortion during the first three months with no restrictions and the during the last six months but only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects."
- 15% said, "Women being able to have an abortion only during the first three months of their pregnancy, with no other restrictions."
- 12% said, "Women being able to have an abortion during the first three months of their pregnancy, and only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects."
- 10% said, "Not sure."
- 8% said, "Women being able to have an abortion at any time during their pregnancy, but only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects."
- 6% said, "Women being forbidden from having an abortion under any circumstances."

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, "Do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"<sup>23</sup>

- 48% said, "Legal under any circumstances."
- 42% said, "Legal only under certain circumstances."
- 6% said, "Illegal in all circumstances."
- 5% said, "Not sure."

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, "What is your personal feeling about abortion?"<sup>24</sup>

- 41% said, "Abortion should be permitted in all cases."
- 23% said, "Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now."
- 18% said, "Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life."
- 9% said, "Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman's life."
- 8% said, "Not sure."

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, "What is your personal feeling about abortion?"<sup>25</sup>

- 40% said, "Abortion should be permitted in all cases."
- 31% said, "Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now."
- 16% said, "Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life."
- 5% said, "Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman's life."
- 9% said, "Not sure."

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, "Abortion is currently not regulated in Canada, meaning that a woman can legally have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, with no restrictions. Thinking about this, which one of these options would you prefer to regulate abortion in Canada?"<sup>26</sup>

- 30% said, "The status-quo: Women being able to have an abortion at any time during their pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever."

- 6% said, “Women being able to have an abortion at any time during their pregnancy, but only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 15% said, “Women being able to have an abortion only during the first three months of their pregnancy, with no other restrictions.”
- 13% said, “Women being able to have an abortion during the first three months of their pregnancy, and only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 24% said, “Women being able to have an abortion during the first three months with no restrictions and then during the last six months but only if their life is in danger, if they have been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 5% said, “Women being forbidden from having an abortion under any circumstances.”
- 9% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?”<sup>27</sup>

- 48% said, “Legal under any circumstances.”
- 43% said, “Legal only under certain circumstances.”
- 4% said, “Illegal in all circumstances.”
- 5% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2010 survey by Ipsos Reid, 1,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In your opinion, do you think that abortion...?”<sup>28</sup>

- 43% said, “SHOULD be permitted whenever a woman decides she wants one.”
- 31% said, “SHOULD be permitted in certain circumstances.”
- 21% said, “Should NOT be permitted under any circumstances, except when the life of the mother is in danger.”
- 4% said, “Don’t know/Refused to answer.”

In a 2009 poll by Environics, 2,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In your opinion, at what point in human development should the law protect human life? Should it be...?”<sup>29</sup>

- 30% said, “From conception on.”
- 17% said, “After three months of pregnancy.”
- 8% said, “After six months of pregnancy.”

- 34% said, "From the point of birth."
- 11% said, "Do not know/No answer"

In a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies, 1,003 survey participants across Canada were asked, "Do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"<sup>30</sup>

- 49% said, "Abortion should be legal under any circumstances."
- 42% said, "Abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances."
- 5% said, "Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances."
- 3% said, "Not sure."

In a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies, 1,003 survey participants across Canada were asked, "What is your personal feeling about abortion?"<sup>31</sup>

- 46% said, "Abortion should be permitted in all cases."
- 22% said, "Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life."
- 19% said, "Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now."
- 7% said, "Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman's life."
- 6% said, "Not sure."

In a 2008 poll by Environics, 2,023 survey participants across Canada were asked, "In your opinion, at what point in human development should the law protect human life? Should it be...?"<sup>32</sup>

- 28% said, "From conception on."
- 20% said, "After three months of pregnancy."
- 9% said, "After six months of pregnancy."
- 33% said, "From the point of birth."
- 10% said, "Do not know/No answer."

In a 2007 poll by Environics, 2,047 survey participants across Canada were asked, "In your opinion, at what point in human development should the law protect human life? Should it be...?"<sup>33</sup>

- 30% said, "From conception on."
- 21% said, "After three months of pregnancy."
- 11% said, "After six months of pregnancy."

- 33% said, “From the point of birth.”
- 5% said, “Do not know/No answer”

#### 4. Awareness of Abortion Laws

In a January 2013 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,009 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Speaking about abortion in Canada, which of the following do you think is true?”<sup>34</sup>

- 23% said, “A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever.”
- 7% said, “A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, but only if her life is in danger, if she has been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 45% said, “A woman can have an abortion only during the first three months of her pregnancy, with no other restrictions.”
- 13% said, “A woman can only have an abortion during the first three months of her pregnancy, and only if her life is in danger, if she has been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 12% said, “Not sure.”

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Speaking about abortion in Canada, which of the following do you think is true?”<sup>35</sup>

- 41% said, “A woman can have an abortion only during the first three months of her pregnancy, with no other restrictions.”
- 21% said, “A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever.”
- 15% said, “A woman can only have an abortion during the first three months of her pregnancy, and only if her life is in danger, if she has been the victim or rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 13% said, “Not sure.”
- 10% said, “A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, but only if her life is in danger, if she has been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Speaking about abortion in Canada, which of the following do you think is true?”<sup>36</sup>

- 43% said, “A woman can have an abortion only during the first three months of her pregnancy, with no other restrictions.”
- 20% said, “A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever.”

- 14% said, “A woman can only have an abortion during the first three months of her pregnancy, and only if her life is in danger, if she has been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”
- 12% said, “Not sure.”
- 10% said, “A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, but only if her life is in danger, if she has been the victim of rape, or if the fetus has serious defects.”

According to a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies and Signal Hill, 1,004 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Now we’d like to ask you some questions about abortion. As far as you know, when can an abortion be performed in Canada?”<sup>37</sup>

- 61% said, “Only in the first three months of gestation.”
- 11% said, “Only in the first six months of gestation.”
- 8% said, “Any time up to nine months of gestation.”
- 19% said, “Not sure.”

According to a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies and Signal Hill, 1,004 survey participants across Canada were asked, “As far as you know, under what circumstances can an abortion be performed in Canada?”<sup>38</sup>

- 8% said, “Only if the woman’s health is in danger.”
- 1% said, “Only if the foetus has defects.”
- 4% said, “Only if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.”
- 75% said, “For any reason on demand.”
- 13% said, “Not sure.”

## 5. Requiring Parental Consent for Minors

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In your view, should women under the age of 18 require the consent of their parents or legal guardians in order to have an abortion?”<sup>39</sup>

- 55% said, “Yes.”
- 32% said, “No.”
- 12% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In your view, should women under the age of 18 require the consent of their parents or legal guardians in order to have an abortion?”<sup>40</sup>

- 53% said, “Yes.”
- 34% said, “No.”
- 14% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies, 1,003 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In your view, should women under the age of 18 require the consent of their parents or legal guardians in order to have an abortion?”<sup>41</sup>

- 53% said, “Yes.”
- 36% said, “No.”
- 12% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2007 poll by Environics, 2,047 survey participants across Canada were asked, “At present in Canada it is legal for minors under the age of 18 to have an abortion without the consent of their parents. Do you support or oppose a law that requires minors under the age of 18 to have their parents’ consent in order to have an abortion?”<sup>42</sup>

- 54% said, “Yes, support.”
- 43% said, “No, oppose.”
- 3% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

## **6. Ensuring Informed Consent**

In a 2008 poll by Environics, 2,023 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Some states in the U.S. have ‘informed consent’ laws concerning abortion. These laws require that, before a woman has an abortion procedure, her physician must provide her with certain information such as details on the stages of foetal development including an ultrasound scan, the possible complications and side effects following an abortion, and alternatives to abortion. Do you support or oppose similar laws in Canada for women considering abortion?”<sup>43</sup>

- 65% said, “Yes, support.”
- 30% said, “No, oppose.”
- 5% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

In a 2007 poll by Environics, 2,047 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Some states in the U.S. have ‘informed consent’ laws concerning abortion. These laws require that, before a woman has an abortion procedure, her physician must provide her with certain information such as details on the stages of foetal development including an ultrasound scan, the possible complications and side effects following an abortion, and alternatives to abortion. Do you support or oppose similar laws in Canada for women considering abortion?”<sup>44</sup>

- 67% said, “Yes, support.”
- 29% said, “No, oppose.”
- 5% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

## **7. Access to Information about Abortion or Alternatives**

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, “From what you have seen, read or heard, would you say that pregnant women in Canada have access to enough information about alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, counseling for pregnant women, etc.?”<sup>45</sup>

- 50% said, “They DO have enough access to information about alternatives.”
- 31% said, “They DO NOT have enough access to information about alternatives.”
- 19% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Thinking about your own province, would you support or oppose your provincial health authority demanding that all health care workers offer information about alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, counseling for pregnant women, etc., to all women as soon as they notify them of their pregnancy?”<sup>46</sup>

- 79% said, “Support.”
- 13% said, “Oppose.”
- 8% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “From what you have seen, read or heard, would you say that pregnant women in Canada have access to enough information about alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, counseling for pregnant women, etc.?”<sup>47</sup>

- 44% said, “They DO have enough access to information about alternatives.”
- 31% said, “They DO NOT have enough access to information about alternatives.”
- 26% said, “Not sure.”

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Thinking about your own province, would you support or oppose your provincial health authority demanding that all health care workers offer information about alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, counseling for pregnant women, etc., to all women as soon as they notify them of their pregnancy?”<sup>48</sup>

- 79% said, “Support.”
- 14% said, “Oppose.”
- 7% said, “Not sure.”

## 8. Abortion as an Election Issue

In a 2010 survey by Ipsos Reid, 1,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Now, imagine for a moment that abortion becomes a major issue in the next federal election. Would you be more likely to support a party that...?”<sup>49</sup>

- 34% said, “Wants a new abortion law.”
- 50% said, “Wants to leave things as they are.”
- 11% said, “Abortion won’t have an impact on my vote.”
- 5% said, “Don’t know/Refused to answer.”

## 9. Self-Defining as Pro-Life or Pro-Choice

In a 2010 poll by Ekos Politics, 2,162 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Thinking about your general views on abortion, would you say you are more pro-life or pro-choice?” (Please use a 7-point scale where 1 means strongly pro-life, 7 means strongly pro-choice, and the midpoint 4 means neither.)<sup>50</sup>

- 27% said, “Pro-life.” (1-3)
- 10% said, “Neither.” (4)
- 52% said, “Pro-choice.” (5-7)
- 11% said, “Do not know/No response”

## 10. Abortion Funding, Domestic and International

In a January 2013 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,009 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and are funded by the health care system. Thinking about this, which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?”<sup>51</sup>

- 43% said, “The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested.”

- 42% said, “The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies.”
- 7% said, “The health care system should not fund abortions at all.”
- 8% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2011 poll by Abacus Data, 1,014 survey participants from Ontario were asked, “Before today, were you aware that publicly subsidized abortions in Ontario cost taxpayers at least \$30 million per year?”<sup>52</sup>

- 91% said, “No.”
- 9% said, “Yes.”

In a 2011 poll by Abacus Data, 1,014 survey participants from Ontario were asked, “Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?”<sup>53</sup>

- 40% said, “I think abortions should be available to those who choose to have one, but the province should only pay for them in case of emergencies.”
- 30% said, “I think abortions should be available to those who choose to have one and the cost should be covered by the province.”
- 11% said, “I think abortions should be available to those who choose to have one, but I don't think the province should pay for them.”
- 10% said, “I don't agree with abortions being conducted in Ontario at all.”
- 8% said, “None of these come closest to my view.”

In a 2011 poll by Abacus Data, 1,006 survey participants across Canada were asked, “How should legal abortions be funded?”<sup>54</sup>

- 45% said, “Public healthcare system.”
- 22% said, “Public healthcare in extreme cases.”
- 20% said, “Paid for by the patient.”
- 7% said, “Abortions should not be performed at all.”

In a 2011 poll by Environics, 2,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In Canada, all hospital abortions and most abortions at private clinics are paid for through the taxpayer funded health care system. When it comes to the funding of abortions, which of the following three opinions is closest to your own...?”<sup>55</sup>

- 30% said, “Abortions should always be paid using the tax-funded health care system.”

- 54% said, "Abortions should be financed using tax dollars but only in medical emergencies, such as a threat to the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest."
- 13% said, "Paying for abortions should be the individual's responsibility."
- 3% said, "Do not know/No answer."

In a July 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,022 survey participants across Canada were asked, "In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and are funded by the health care system. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?"<sup>56</sup>

- 44% said, "The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested."
- 39% said, "The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies."
- 10% said, "The health care system should not fund abortions at all."
- 7% said, "Not sure."

In a January 2010 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, "In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and are funded by the health care system. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?"<sup>57</sup>

- 43% said, "The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested."
- 41% said, "The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies."
- 7% said, "The health care system should not fund abortions at all."
- 9% said, "Not sure."

In a 2010 poll by Harris Decima, 1,008 survey participants across Canada were asked, "In providing funds for women's health in the developing world, should the Canadian government include funding for..."<sup>58</sup>

Contraception:

- 74% said, "Yes."
- 21% said, "No."

Abortion:

- 46% said, "Yes."
- 48% said, "No."

In a 2010 poll by Harris Decima, just over 1,000 Canadians across Canada were asked, “Do you strongly support, support, oppose or strongly oppose a policy that would see Canada NOT fund agencies that provide abortion procedures in the developing world?”<sup>59</sup>

- 29% said, “Strongly oppose.”
- 29% said, “Oppose.”
- 21% said, “Support.”
- 9% said, “Strongly support.”

In a 2009 poll by Environics, 2,002 survey participants across Canada were asked, “When it comes to the funding of abortions, which of the following three opinions is closest to your own?”<sup>60</sup>

- 26% said, “Abortions should always be paid using the tax-funded health care system.”
- 49% said, “Abortions should be financed using tax dollars but only in medical emergencies, such as a threat to the mother’s life or in cases of rape or incest.”
- 18% said, “Paying for abortions should be a private responsibility, either out-of-pocket or using Blue Cross or other private health care plans.”
- 7% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

In a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies, 1,003 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In Canada, abortions are provided on request to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and are funded by the health care system. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?”<sup>61</sup>

- 43% said, “The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested.”
- 44% said, “The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies.”
- 4% said, “The health care system should not fund abortions at all.”
- 8% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2008 poll by Environics, 2,023 survey participants across Canada were asked, “When it comes to the funding of abortions, which of the following three opinions is closest to your own?”<sup>62</sup>

- 30% said, “Abortions should always be paid using the tax-funded health care system.”
- 49% said, “Abortions should be financed using tax dollars but only in medical emergencies, such as a threat to the mother’s life or in cases of rape or incest.”

- 17% said, “Paying for abortions should be a private responsibility, either out-of-pocket or using Blue Cross or other private health care plans.”
- 4% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

In a 2007 poll by Environics, 2,047 survey participants across Canada were asked, “When it comes to the funding of abortions, which of the following three opinions is closest to your own?”<sup>63</sup>

- 32% said, “Abortions should always be paid using the tax-funded health care system.”
- 47% said, “Abortions should be financed using tax dollars but only in medical emergencies, such as a threat to the mother’s life or in cases of rape or incest.”
- 17% said, “Paying for abortions should be a private responsibility, either out-of-pocket or using Blue Cross or other private health care plans.”
- 3% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

## 11. Collection of Abortion Statistics

In a 2011 poll by Abacus Data, 1,014 survey participants from Ontario were asked, “Ontario releases only limited information regarding the total number of abortions carried out in the province and how much they cost taxpayers. Do you support or oppose the provincial government requiring clinics and hospitals to disclose all statistics regarding abortion?”<sup>64</sup>

- 30% said, “Neither support nor oppose.”
- 26% said, “Strongly support.”
- 22% said, “Somewhat support.”
- 13% said, “Strongly oppose.”
- 10% said, “Somewhat oppose.”

## 12. Sex-Selection and Gendercide

In a 2012 poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 1,001 survey participants across Canada were asked, “One issue that has raised debate recently concerns the use of abortion as a means of gender selection. In some cultures and groups, female fetuses are aborted because of a preference for males. Thinking about this, which one of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?”<sup>65</sup>

- 60% said, “There should be laws which outline whether a woman can have an abortion based solely on the gender of the fetus.”
- 29% said, “There should be no laws on this matter—a woman should have the unrestricted right to have an abortion in any circumstance.”
- 11% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2011 poll by Environics, 2,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Males far outnumber females in a number of countries, such as China and India. This is partly the result of what are called “sex selection” abortions in which families choose to abort girl babies because boys are more highly valued. The lack of women can lead to a number of social problems. India and China have banned such abortions. Do you think sex-selected abortions should or should not be legal in Canada?”<sup>66</sup>

- 5% said, “Should be legal.”
- 92% said, “Should not be legal.”
- 3% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

### 13. Opinion on Lack of Abortion Legislation

In a 2010 survey by Ipsos Reid, 1,000 survey participants across Canada were asked, “As you may know, abortion in Canada is not limited by law. We haven't had a national abortion law since our Supreme Court decided on a case in 1988. For you personally, is NOT having a national abortion law acceptable, unacceptable, or you really don't care one way or the other?”<sup>67</sup>

- 27% said, “Acceptable.”
- 36% said, “Unacceptable.”
- 34% said, “Don't care one way or the other.”
- 3% said, “Don't know/Refused to answer.”

### 14. Unborn Victims of Crime

In a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies, 1,023 survey participants across Canada were asked, “As you may know, the House of Commons is debating a bill called the *Unborn Victims of Crime Act*, which would make it a separate crime if a fetus dies when its mother is attacked. From what you have seen, read, or heard, do you support or oppose passing this bill?”<sup>68</sup>

- 44% said, “Strongly support.”
- 26% said, “Moderately support.”
- 12% said, “Strongly oppose.”
- 11% said, “Not sure.”
- 7% said, “Moderately oppose.”

In a 2008 poll by Angus Reid Strategies, 1,023 survey participants across Canada were asked, “Some people say that the *Unborn Victims of Crime Act* is only intended to punish offenders who knowingly harm a fetus in an attack. Others say it is actually an attempt to recriminalize abortion in Canada. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?”<sup>69</sup>

- 53% said, “The *Unborn Victims of Crime Act* is only intended to punish offenders who knowingly harm a fetus in an attack.”
- 24% said, “The *Unborn Victims of Crime Act* is actually an attempt to recriminalize abortion in Canada.”
- 23% said, “Not sure.”

In a 2007 poll by Environics, 2,047 survey participants across Canada were asked, “In the past two years there have been three cases in Canada where pregnant women have been murdered. Currently in Canada, the *Criminal Code* does not recognize a foetus as a human being, so someone who injures or kills an unborn child during an attack on the mother cannot be charged with two crimes. Would you support or oppose legislation making it a separate crime to injure or kill a foetus during an attack on the mother?”<sup>70</sup>

- 72% said, “Yes, support.”
- 22% said, “No, oppose.”
- 3% said, “Depends.”
- 3% said, “Do not know/No answer.”

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