

Canadians express little desire to re-introduce abortion laws in their country

Six in ten Canadian adults wish to leave the issue alone, say no need for abortion law

July 21, 2014 – As protest continues over the closure of New Brunswick’s only private abortion clinic over lack of provincial funding, survey results from Angus Reid Global (ARG) indicate Canadians have little desire to re-introduce abortion laws in this country.

The survey shows the majority of adult Canadians polled (59%) say they are “fine” with no law restricting abortion.

One-fifth (23%) say the federal government should create legislation that “imposes some restrictions” on abortion, while ten per cent would prefer to see access to abortion restricted, except in special cases.

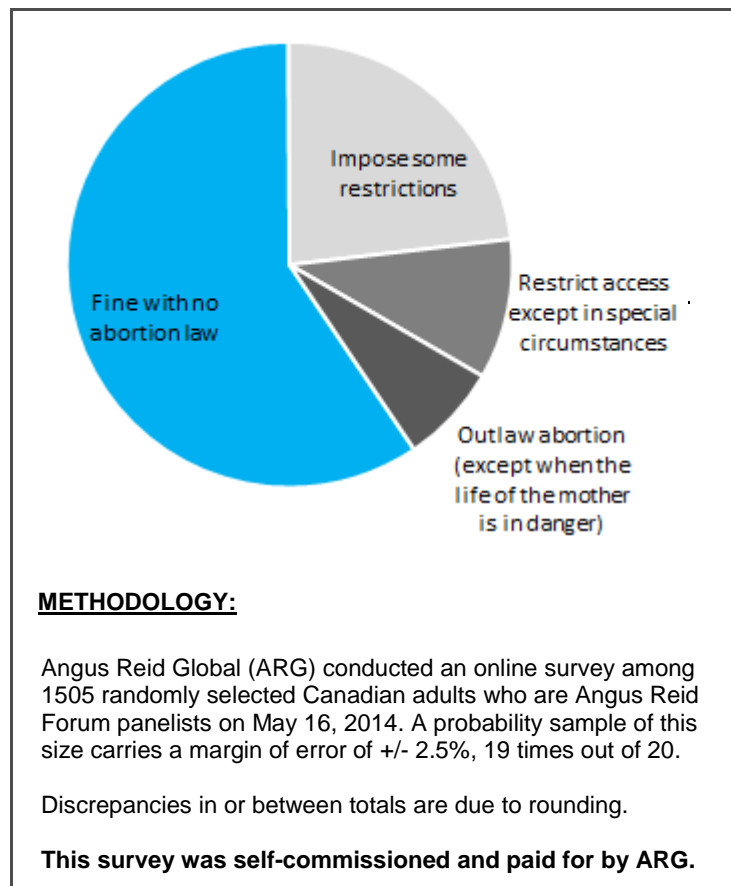
Six per cent say Canada should outlaw abortion - except when the life of the mother is in danger. There are no significant differences in opinions between men and women.

Regional Results:

Views do vary by region however. Respondents in British Columbia are most strongly in favour of maintaining the status quo of no abortion law in Canada (70%), while Quebecers are least supportive (51%). By contrast, Quebecers are most supportive of introducing abortion laws that would place some restriction on terminating a pregnancy (35%). Though it is still the minority view, Atlantic Canadians are most in favour of outlawing abortion altogether (12%).

Previous surveys:

An ARG survey conducted in [January 2013](#) – 25 years after the Supreme Court of Canada struck down this country’s abortion laws – showed two-in-five Canadian adult respondents (44%) felt “abortion should be permitted in all cases” while a quarter (23%) felt “abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions.” The same survey shows Canadians are split over whether government should fund abortions. (See tables at the end of this release.)



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A [January 2012](#) ARG survey showed 60 per cent of Canadians believed there should be laws preventing sex-selective abortions.

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Angus Reid Global is headed by Dr. Angus Reid, Canada's best known and longest practicing pollster. He's spent more than four decades asking questions about what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. He is supported by a team of practitioners conducting high quality research for corporations, governments and non-profit organizations.

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Canada has had no abortion law since the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the former abortion law was unconstitutional in 1989. Which of the following options would you prefer to see Canada take on this:							
2014	Total (1505)	Region					
		BC (208)	AB (167)	MB/SK (103)	ON (590)	PQ (336)	ATL (101)
Leave it entirely alone, we are fine with no abortion law	59%	70%	58%	60%	63%	51%	55%
Make some basic law that imposes some restrictions	23%	13%	25%	19%	20%	35%	21%
Re-introduce a set of laws that would restrict access to abortions except in some special circumstances	10%	7%	12%	13%	11%	9%	12%
Outlaw abortion altogether (except when the life of the mother is in danger)	7%	9%	5%	9%	7%	6%	12%

Canada has had no abortion law since the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the former abortion law was unconstitutional in 1989. Which of the following options would you prefer to see Canada take on this:						
2014	Total (1505)	Gender		Income		
		Men	Women	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
Leave it entirely alone, we are fine with no abortion law	59%	58%	60%	56%	59%	72%
Make some basic law that imposes some restrictions	23%	24%	23%	24%	25%	16%
Re-introduce a set of laws that would restrict access to abortions except in some special circumstances	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	6%
Outlaw abortion altogether (except when the life of the mother is in danger)	7%	7%	7%	8%	6%	6%

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What is your personal feeling about abortion?							
2013	Total (1009)	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Abortion should be permitted in all cases	44%	50%	34%	37%	42%	54%	34%
Abortion should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than now	23%	21%	21%	24%	23%	23%	29%
Abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life	18%	16%	21%	23%	19%	16%	17%
Abortion should only be permitted to save the woman's life	4%	5%	6%	5%	4%	2%	6%
Abortion should never be permitted	5%	4%	9%	4%	7%	3%	1%
Not sure	6%	4%	9%	6%	5%	4%	13%

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?							
2013	Total (1009)	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The health care system should fund abortions whenever they are requested	43%	49%	42%	40%	38%	51%	37%
The health care system should only fund abortions in the event of medical emergencies	42%	40%	44%	47%	42%	39%	47%
The health care system should not fund abortions at all	7%	7%	8%	11%	9%	4%	4%
Not sure	8%	4%	5%	2%	11%	6%	12%

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