



Canadians Embracing Life

Canadian Youth Oppose Late Abortions: Poll

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For Immediate Release

Ottawa, ON – A majority of young Canadians say abortions should not be legal after 12 weeks gestation according to an Environics poll conducted last month. Almost 80% of 18-29 year-olds polled opposed legal third trimester abortions and 55% opposed second trimester abortions. Among women, two-thirds opposed third trimester abortions and 49% opposed second trimester abortions. At present there are no legal restrictions in Canada at any stage of pregnancy.

The questions were commissioned by LifeCanada, the national educational pro-life organization, as part of Environics' National Omnibus Survey which polled 2,021 Canadians between Jan. 24 and Feb. 5, 2013.

Among all Canadians, 65% thought third trimester abortions should be illegal and 46% thought second trimester abortions should be illegal. 71% of all Canadians thought abortions should be legal in the first trimester.

Participants were also given information about fetal development and then asked at what stage the law should protect human life. Sixty percent said there should be legal protection before birth; 23% said from conception on; 13% thought after two months gestation; 14% after three months'; and 10% from six months' on. In total, 50% thought the law should protect human life at the end of the first trimester.

"It's not surprising that Canadians would support legal protection for infants in the womb when they hear how developed they are within the first weeks of gestation," said Lisa Smith, president of LifeCanada. "We know that Canadians are poorly informed in this area. Most still think abortion is illegal in Canada after the first three months of pregnancy."

Ms. Smith also noted that the recent furor over late abortions was a good wake up call for Canadians. "People were horrified to hear about babies here in Canada surviving late term abortions and then dying," she said. "We don't know how and why they died because the information isn't usually reported but thanks to a persistent blogger we finally got a few statistics and that really shocked people."

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LifeCanada's 2011 poll found that 92% of Canadians thought sex selection abortions should be illegal. There is currently a motion asking the House of Commons to condemn the practice.

"It's encouraging to see that young people want legal restrictions on late abortions," said Smith. "These youth were raised in an abortion-on-demand culture and they know the damage it has wreaked among their families. It's also interesting that women are more supportive of restrictions than men. Like the youth, women know the pain of abortion. It's time for our politicians to listen to those voices and act."

The margin of error for a sample of 2,021 is plus or minus 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

For more information, contact Lisa Smith, President, 780-542-7546.

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LifeCanada/VieCanada is a national, not-for-profit organization working to ensure respect and dignity for all Canadians. Polling data available online at www.lifecanada.org and www.abortionincanada.ca.