

Abortion

*A Canadian Public Perspective
after Three Decades*

A DART & Maru/Blue

Voice Canada Poll

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A Canadian Public Perspective after Three Decades

February 1, 2020 – It has been fifty years since having an abortion in Canada was legalized: in 1969 the government of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s father) passed a bill which included an amendment to the criminal code allowing abortions to be performed in a hospital. Since two decisions by the Supreme Court – in February, 1988 that Canada’s abortion legislation was unconstitutional and the following Tremblay v Daigle decision in 1989 – having an abortion in Canada is not limited by law.

As a result of that 1989 anniversary, these are the results of a wide-ranging national survey of Canadians about their views on abortion, undertaken for **Postmedia** and conducted by the polling group of **DART & Maru/Blue**.

The **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada Poll** survey was conducted among 1,515 randomly selected Canadian adults who are members of **Maru/Blue’s Voice Canada** Online panel on December 5-8, 2019 and is considered accurate to within +/- 2.9 percentage points. *Portions of the written findings and data may be used by anyone for publication in the public domain with appropriate attribution to the survey being conducted by **DART & Maru/Blue**. Interpretation may be subject to correction.*

How satisfied are Canadians with Canada's policies regarding the abortion issue?

Three quarters (75%) of Canadians indicate they are satisfied with Canada's policies regarding the abortion issue. This group is led by those from Québec (85%), followed by those from British Columbia (75%), Ontario (72%), Alberta (70%), Atlantic Canada (68%), and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (70%). Women (75%) and Men (74%) are virtually identical in their views, followed by the youngest (aged 18 - 34 76%) and oldest (55+ 75%) Canadians versus those who are middle-aged (35- 54 73%). Those who are middle to highest income (\$50,000+ - \$100,000 +78%) are slightly higher when compared to those who have a lower income (less than \$50,000 74 %). Those who are highest educated (University +78%) are more likely to be in this category than their lower educated counterparts (College/technical school 74% and high school or less 73%).

- **One quarter (25%) of Canadians indicate they are not satisfied about Canada's policies regarding the abortion issue** - these Canadians are most likely to hail from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (36%), followed by those from Atlantic Canada (32%), Alberta (30%), Ontario (28%), British Columbia (25%) and Québec (15%). Men (26%) and women (25%) equally hold this view along with those who are middle-aged (35- 54 27%), compared with those who are oldest (55+ 25%) and youngest (18 - 34 24%). Those who are lower income (less than \$50,000 26%) are more likely than those who are middle and upper income (\$50,000 plus - \$100,000 22 %) to hold this view, along with those who are lower educated (high school or less 27%) and middle educated (College/technical school 26%) are more likely to have this than those who are highest educated (University +22%).

When it comes to abortion in Canada, how acceptable is our current situation is?

Seven in 10 (70%) Canadians find abortion acceptable - and those who are most likely to be so hail from both British Columbia (75%) and Québec (75%), and are followed by Ontario (70%), Atlantic Canada (64%) and Manitoba (64%), and Alberta (62%). Women (71%) are more likely than men (69%) to hold this view - and from an age perspective, those who are young (18 - 34 - 77%) are more likely than middle-aged (35 - 54 - 69%), older (55+ - 65%) Canadians to do so.

- **Just one in 10 (10%) find abortion *unacceptable*** – with this view held highest in Atlantic Canada (16%) followed by those in Alberta (13%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan/Ontario (each at 10%), British Columbia (9%) and Québec (8%). Demographically, men and women hold identical views (10%) and there is no real difference across any other cohort.
- **There are another one in 10 (11%) who don't care one way or the other.** Those individuals are most likely to be located in Alberta (14%), followed by those in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (13%), Ontario/Québec (12%), Atlantic Canada (11%) and British Columbia (6%).
- **Another one in 10 (10%) indicate that they “don't know”** led by those who reside in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (12%), followed by those from Alberta (11%), British Columbia (10%), Atlantic Canada (9%), Ontario (8%) and Québec (6%). With the exception of those who have high school or less education (12%), there are no other significant variations.

Should the government reopen the issue of abortion?

- **Three quarters (71%) of Canadians believe that things should be left as they are** – highest in British Columbia (78%) followed by those in Québec (77%), Ontario (75%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (74%), Alberta (66%) and Atlantic Canada (63%). Those more than the average to believe that things should be left alone are University educated (82%) followed by those who are both young (aged 18 – 34 77%) and older (55+ 75%), college/technical school educated (76%) and women (75%).
- **Only one in 10 (10%) believe that our national government should reopen the issue of abortion.** There is no regional or demographic variation.

- As for **those who “don’t care one way or the other” (8%)**, there are no significant demographic variations across the country except for two geographic anomalies in the provinces of British Columbia (3%) and Alberta (11%). Those who “don’t know” have little demographic variation across the country.

Do Canadians think politicians should at least be willing to talk about providing some regulatory framework when it comes to abortion?

The *country is split* as to whether or not they think politicians should at least be willing to talk about providing some regulatory framework when it comes to abortion.

- **Half (51%) of Canadians *don’t think* politicians should at least be willing to talk about providing some regulatory framework when it comes to abortion** – led by those from Alberta (50%), and followed by residents of British Columbia (55%), Ontario (51%), Québec (48%), Atlantic Canada (46%), and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (44%). This group has more women (54%) than men (48%), and with the exception of those who are most educated (University + 56%) there are virtually no other socioeconomic/demographic variations from the national average.

The other half (49%) *do think* that politicians should at least be willing to talk about providing some regulatory framework when it comes to abortion – these Canadians are most likely to hail from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (56%) and Atlantic Canada (54%), followed by those from Québec (52%) and Ontario (49%), British Columbia (45%) and Alberta (42%). Men (52%) are more likely than women (46%), to hold this view with virtually no other socio-economic/demographic variations from the national average except for those who are most educated (University + 44%).

Should a woman be able to get an abortion if she decides she wants one – no matter what the reason?

A majority (71%) believe that a woman should be able to get an abortion if she decides she wants one no matter what the reason. This view is most likely to be agreed to in Québec/British Columbia

(75%) followed by those located in Ontario (69%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (67%), Alberta (66%), and Atlantic Canada (65%). Demographically, women (72%) are more likely to have this view than men (69%), as well as those who are highest educated (University +77%) and those who are young (18 - 34 76%).

- One quarter (26%) agree with the view that abortion should only be legal in certain circumstances. Those Canadians are most likely to be found in Alberta (31%) followed by those in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (29%), Ontario/ Atlantic Canada (27%), Québec (22%) and British Columbia (21%). Men (27%) are more likely than women (24%) to hold this view, and those who are oldest (55+ 31%) are also likely to have this perception. If there are no other significant variations in the demographics.
- A total of just 4% (highest in Atlantic Canada at 8%) believe that abortion should be illegal in all circumstances.

Do Canadians identify as pro-life, pro-choice or do they feel they do not fit neatly into either of these categories?

- **Two thirds (62%) of Canadians identify as pro-choice** – primarily from Québec (73%), followed by those from British Columbia (69%), Ontario (58%) and equally in Alberta/Manitoba/Saskatchewan/ Atlantic Canada (54%). This group is more female (66%) than male (58%), and is equally younger (18 - 34 64%) and older (55+ 64%) compared to those who are middle-aged (58%). They are also more likely to have the highest income level (\$100,000 + 71%) compared with those who are middle (\$50,000 +-\$99,000 62%) and lower income (\$50,000 or less 60%), and they also comprised of the most educated group (University + 68% plus college/technical school 67%) compared to those who are lower educated (54%).
 - **One in ten (13%) of Canadians identify as pro-life** –mainly from Alberta (19%), Atlantic Canada (17%), and Ontario (16%), followed by those from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (13%), British Columbia (9%) and Québec (8%). This group is

more likely to be male (15%) versus female (12%), equally (14%) for those aged 18 - 54 and virtually the same (12%) for those aged 55+; those who are lower and higher education (16%) are slightly moreso compared with those who are college/technical school educated (8%).

- **One quarter (25%) of Canadians indicate that they do not fit neatly into either category** - and are primarily from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (33%), followed by those from Atlantic Canada (29%), Ontario (27%), Alberta (26%), British Columbia (22%), and Québec (19%). Men (27%) are more likely than women (23%) to classify themselves this way. Those who are middle aged (35- 54 27%) are more likely to classify themselves this way than those who are younger and older (23% and 24% respectively). Those with the lowest income (less than \$50,000 per year 28%) are more likely to put themselves in this category than those who are middle (\$50,000 - \$99,000 22%) or higher (\$100,000 +19%) income earners. Those who are lowest educated (31%) are more likely than those who are higher educated (College/technical school 24% and University +16%) to be in this group.

When do Canadians believe life begins?

- **One third (34%) of Canadians believe that human life begins at conception** - led by those primarily from Alberta (41%), followed by residents from Atlantic Canada (39%), Ontario/Québec (34%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (30%), Atlantic Canada (39%), and British Columbia (23%). More women (30%) than men (29%) put themselves in this category as well as those who are middle-aged (35-54 36%) and older (55+ 35%) than those who are the youngest (18- 34 29%).
- **One quarter (24%) of Canadians believe that human life begins when a fetus is viable and can live outside the womb** - with those living in British Columbia/Manitoba/Saskatchewan (26%) equally on side with this view, followed by those from Ontario/Québec (25%), Atlantic Canada (22%) and Alberta (21%). Men (26%) are more likely than women (23%) to put themselves in this category compared to those who are youngest (aged 18 - 34 28%), and

middle-aged and older (35 – 55+ 23%) Canadians. Those who have the highest income (\$100,000 +29%) are more likely to believe this to be the case than those who are middle (\$50,000 – \$99,000 24%) and lower income (less than \$50,000 22%). Those who are highest educated (University +31%) are followed by those who are lower (College/technical school 24%) and those who are least educated (high school or less 20%).

- One in five (18%) of Canadians believe human life begins at birth** – and most likely to reside in British Columbia (22%), Alberta (21%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (20%), followed by those in Ontario (18%), Québec (14%) and Atlantic Canada (C's 11%). Men (22%) are more likely than women (14%) to hold this view, along with those who are the youngest of Canadians (18 – 34 21%) followed by those who were almost equally middle-aged (35 – 54 17%) and older (55+ 16%). Those who are lower and middle income (\$50,000+ – \$99,000 18%) and those who are highest income (\$100,000 + 17%) are virtually identical. Those who are least educated (high school or less 20%) are higher in this than middle educated (College/technical school 16%) and the highest educated Canadians (University +17%)
- One in ten (10%) of Canadians believe that human life begins within the first eight weeks of pregnancy** – this is virtually identical across all geographic and sociodemographic categories.
- One in ten (9%) of Canadians believe that human life begins within the first three months of pregnancy** – this is virtually identical across all geographic and sociodemographic categories.
- A fraction (5%) of Canadians believe that human life begins between three and six months of pregnancy** – this is virtually identical across all geographic and sociodemographic categories.

Would Canadians like to see laws in this country made stricter, less strict or remain as they are?

- **A majority (61%) of Canadians would like to see abortion laws in this country remain as they are** – and those who are most likely to hold **this view** reside in Québec (70%), followed by those from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (60%), British Columbia (59%), Ontario (58%), Atlantic Canada (57%), and Alberta (54%). Women (61%) and men (60%) equally support this position with virtually no other socio-economic/demographic variations from the national average.
 - **One in five (22%) Canadians would like to see abortion laws in this country made stricter** – with members of this group most likely to be found in Alberta/Atlantic Canada (27%), followed by those from Ontario (22%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (21%), and Québec (18%). Men (21%) and women (19%) share this view and the only socioeconomic demographic variations from the national average are those who earn the most (\$100,000 + 18%) and those who are the least educated (high school or less 25%).
 - **One in six (18%) Canadians would like to see abortion laws in this country made less strict** – with these residents most likely to come from from British Columbia (20%) and joined by those from Alberta/Manitoba/Saskatchewan/Ontario (19%), followed by Atlantic Canada (16%) and Québec (12%). Men (18%) and women (17%) are equal in their opinion on this view. Outside of those with slightly lower support held by those who are middle-aged (35 – 54 15%), there are virtually no other socio-economic/demographic variations from the national average.

Thinking more generally, do Canadians think abortion should generally be legal or generally illegal during each of the following stages of pregnancy?

- **A full majority (86%) of Canadians think abortion should be generally *legal* in the first three months of pregnancy** – those most likely to agree with this view are from Québec (91%), followed by those from British Columbia (89%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (87%), Ontario (84%), Alberta (82%), and Atlantic Canada (78%). Women (88%) are slightly more likely to support this view than men (84%). With the exception to younger Canadians (18 – 34 90%), those who have the highest income (\$100,000 +91%) and higher educated (College/technical school 89%/University +89%), the rest of the sociodemographic bandwidth is average with the result.
 - **A minority (14%) of Canadians hold the alternate view that such a procedure should be generally *illegal*** – with the only apparent variations from the average coming from Atlantic Canada (22%) and Alberta (18%).

- **Six in ten (57%) Canadians believe that abortion should be generally *legal* in the second three months of pregnancy** – and those most likely to take this position are from British Columbia/Québec (61%), followed by those from Alberta/Ontario (57%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (47%) and Atlantic Canada (45%). Men (61%) more than women (53%), and younger (18 – 34 66%) Canadians are more likely to hold these views than those who are middle-aged (35 – 54 57%) and oldest (55+ 50%). Those who have the highest income (\$100,000 +63%) are more likely to share this view than those with lower incomes (\$50,000-\$90,000 50%/under \$50,000 54 %). Those who are highest educated (University + 66%/college technical school 59%) are more likely to take this position than those our lower educated (high school or less 49%).

- **Four in 10 (43%) Canadians take the opposite view and believe this procedure should be generally *illegal*** and are most likely to come from from Atlantic Canada (55%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (53%), followed by those from Ontario/ Alberta (43%) and British Columbia/Québec (39%). Women (47%) are more likely to hold this view than men (39%) along with older Canadians (55+ 50%) followed by those who are middle-aged (35 – 54 43%) and the youngest group (18 – 34 34%). Those who are lowest income (less than \$50,000 a year 46%) are more likely to hold this perspective than middle income Canadians (\$50,000 – \$99,00 42 %) and those who are highest earning (\$100,000 + 37%). Those who are least educated (high school or less 51%) our followed by those who are more educated (College/technical school 41%/University + 34%).
- **Seven in ten (70%) Canadians think that abortion should be generally *illegal* in the last three months of pregnancy** – with those most likely to hold this view from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (82%), followed by those from Atlantic Canada (80%), Alberta (74%), Ontario (60%), Québec (67%), and British Columbia (66%). Women (74%) are more likely than men (66%) to hold this view, as well as those who are oldest (55+ 75%), followed by those middle-aged (35 – 54 70%) and youngest (18 – 34 64%) Canadians. Those who have a lower income (\$50,000 – \$99,000 72 %/\$50,000 or less 71%) are more likely to hold this view than those who have the highest income (\$100,000 + 64%). Those who are lowest educated (high school or less 74%) embrace this view more than those who are are more educated (college/technical school 70%/University +63%).
 - **Alternatively, a minority (30%) of Canadians believe this procedure should be generally *legal*** and more likely to reside in British Columbia (34%), followed by those from Québec (33%) and Ontario (32%), Alberta (26%) and lastly Manitoba/Saskatchewan (18%). Men (34%) are more likely to hold this view than women (26%). Younger Canadians (18 – 34 36%) are followed by those who are middle-aged (35 – 54 30%) and oldest (55+ 25%). Lower income Canadians (\$50,000 – \$99,000 72 %)/\$50,000 or less 71%) are more likely to hold this view than higher income earners (\$100,000 + 64%) – and similarly, those with less education (high school or less

70%/college technical school 70%) are more likely to hold this view than the highest educated Canadians (63%).

And Canadians believe abortions should be legal in the following cases...

- **Nine in ten (91%) Canadians believe that abortion should be legal when the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest** – with the highest support for such led by those residing Québec (95%), followed by those from British Columbia (92%), Ontario (91%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (90%), Alberta (88%), and Atlantic Canada (87%). There are virtually no other variations from the national average or any of the other sociodemographic categories.
 - **A mere one in ten (9%)** group of Canadians hold this perspective with virtually no differences across any sociodemographic categories.

- **A vast majority (84%) oppose legalizing abortion if the family does not want the baby to be a certain sex** – with disapproval highest in Alberta (86%) and Atlantic Canada (85%), followed by those living in Ontario (84%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (83%), then British Columbia (82%) and Québec (82%). Women (84%) and men (83%) hold this view equally, while those who are oldest (92%) are more likely to take this position than those who are middle-aged (80%) and youngest (77%). There is no variation in terms of income from the national average, but there is a slight variation with those who are middle educated (college/technical school 87%) and lowest educated (high school or less 85%) compared with those who are most educated (University + 78%).
 - **A minority supports such a view (16%)** – and are led by those from Québec (18%)/British Columbia (18%)/Manitoba/Saskatchewan (17%), followed by those from Ontario (60%), Atlantic Canada (15%) and Alberta (14%). Men (17%) and women (16%) hold identical views, while younger (23%) and middle-aged (20%) Canadians hold similar views compared to those who are older (8%). There is no variation among income groupings, however higher educated Canadians (University + 22%) are more

likely to believe this should be legal than those who are middle (13%) and lowest (15%) educated.

- **Three quarters (76%) of Canadians believe an abortion should be legal when there is evidence that the baby may be mentally impaired** – a view held highest in the province of Québec (82%), followed by those who reside in British Columbia (77%), Ontario (75%) and Atlantic Canada (75%), Alberta (73%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (65%). Younger (80%) and older (77%) Canadians are more likely to hold this view than those who are middle-aged (72%). Higher (81%) and middle (78%) income earners are more likely to take this view than lower income earners (73%). Similarly, middle (80%) and higher (77%) educated Canadians hold this view more strongly than those who are least educated (72%).

 - **One in four (24%) Canadians oppose this type of legalization** – with those in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (35%) leading the way, followed by those in Alberta (27%), equally from Ontario (25%) and Atlantic Canada (25%), then British Columbia (23%) and Québec (18%). Men and women (24%) hold identical views, while middle-aged Canadians (aged 35- 54 28%) are more likely to take this position than those who are older (23%) and younger (20%). Lower income Canadians (\$50,000 + 27%) hold this perspective more than those who are middle (22%) and highest earning (19%), and those who are least educated (28%) are also more opposed to this legalization than those who are highest (23%) and middle (college/tech school 20%) educated.
- **Three quarters (75%) of Canadians believe abortion should be legal when there is evidence that the baby may be physically impaired** – with this most likely supported by those from Québec (84%), followed by those almost equally from Atlantic Canada (75%)/Ontario (74%)/and British Columbia (73%), and then by those from Alberta (66%), and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (62%). Women (75%) and men (74%) equally sure this view and, with the exception of those who are the highest income earners (\$100,000 + 80%), there are virtually no other categorical variations from the national average.

- **One quarter (25%) of Canadians take the opposing view** – foremost from those living in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (38%) followed by those from Alberta (34%), British Columbia (27%), Ontario (26%), Atlantic Canada (25%), and Québec (percent). Women and Men hold this view identically (24%), and with the exception of those who are middle aged and lowest educated (20%), there are virtually no other variations from the national average per category.
- **Six in ten (57%) believe abortion should be legal if the woman or family cannot afford to raise the child** – with this view held most strongly by those in Québec (61%), followed by those from Ontario (57%), Atlantic Canada (56%) and British Columbia (56%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (54%), and Alberta (51%). Women (57%) and men (56%) have no difference in their viewpoint, while younger (69%) and middle-aged (57%) Canadians are more likely to side with each other than those who are older (48%). Higher income earners (61%) are slightly different in their views as lower (57%) and middle (56%) income earners, while higher educated Canadians (64%) and middle educated (59%) Canadians are more likely to take this position than the least educated group (50%).
 - **A minority (43%) oppose this type of procedure being legal** – a view most likely held by those from Alberta (49%), followed by those from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (46%), Atlantic Canada (44%) and British Columbia (44%), Ontario (43%) and Québec (39%). Men (44%) and women (43%) share this view, while older (42%) and middle-aged (43%) Canadians are more likely to take this position than younger (31%) Canadians. Those who have middle (44%) and lower (43%) incomes are more strongly associated with this view than those who are high income earners (39%), and those who are the least (50%) educated are more likely to have this perspective compared with middle (41%) and highest educated (36%) Canadians.

Canadians favour or oppose a law...

- **Almost unanimously (93%), Canadians favour a law requiring doctors to inform patients about certain possible risks of abortion before performing the procedure** – with virtually no differences from the national average across any geographic, socio-economic, and demographic categories.
 - **A mere fraction (7%) of Canadians take the opposing view** – with virtually no differences from the national average across any geographic, socio-economic, and demographic categories.
- **A vast majority (78%) favour a law requiring doctors to inform patients about alternatives to abortion before performing the procedure** – with this view supported most from those living in Atlantic Canada (82%) and Alberta (81%), followed by those from Ontario (79%) and Québec (78%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (74%), and British Columbia (72%). Men (81%) are more likely to favour this type of law than women (75%), along with those who are older (55+ 83%/35 – 54 79%) versus those who are youngest (18 – 34 70%). With the exception of those who have higher income (\$100,000 + 75%) and those highest educated (68%), there are virtually no other variations from the national average per income and education categories.
 - **One in five (22%) of Canadians oppose such a law** – led by those from British Columbia (28%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (26%), followed almost equally by those from Québec (22%), Ontario (21%), Alberta (19%), and Atlantic Canada (18%). Women (25%) are more likely to oppose this law than men (19%), and younger Canadians (30%) are also in greater opposition than their middle-aged (21%) and older (17%) counterparts. With the exception of those who are highest income earners (25%) and highest educated (32%), there are virtually no other categorical variations.

- **Two thirds (65%) of Canadians favour a law requiring women seeking abortions to wait twenty-four hours before having the procedure done** – this group is most likely to be from Atlantic Canada (73%), followed by those from Québec (68%), Ontario (66%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (65%), Alberta (63%) and British Columbia (57%). Men (69%) are more likely than women (62%) to hold this view. Those who are older (55+ 73%) are more likely to hold this perspective than their younger counterparts (35 – 54 64%/18 – 34 58%). Those who are lower and middle income Canadians (less than \$50,000 68%/ \$50,000 – \$99,000 67%) are more likely than those who are higher income residents to have this view (\$100,000 + 59%), and those with lower education (high school or less 72%) are most likely to share this view than their middle (College/technical school 66%) and upper (University + 55%) educated counterparts.

 - **A minority (35%) of Canadians oppose such a law** with their highest supporters residing in British Columbia (43%), followed by those from Alberta (37%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (35%) and Ontario (34%), and by those in Québec (32%) and Atlantic Canada (27%). Women (38%) are more likely to support this position than men (31%), as well as younger Canadians (18 – 34 42%) versus those who are middle-aged (35 – 54 36%) and older (55+ 27%). Lower and middle income Canadians (less than \$50,000 32%/ \$50,000-\$99,000 33%) hold the same views, however those who are the highest income group (\$100,000 + 41%) differ.

- **A majority (63%) oppose a law allowing pharmacists and health providers to opt out of providing medicine or surgical procedures that result in abortion** – with the most opposition coming from British Columbia (77%), followed but those who reside in Québec (66%), Ontario (61%), and both Alberta (60%) and Atlantic Canada (60%), with lowest support from those in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (54%). Women (66%) are more likely than men (60%) to hold this view, as well as younger (18 – 34 66%) and middle-aged (35 – 54 64%) Canadians compared with their older counterparts (55+ 60%). Those who are the highest income earners (\$100,000 + 68%) are more opposed to this type of law than middle and lower income Canadians (62%),

whereas higher educated Canadians (College/technical school/University + 65%) oppose this law more than those who are least educated (high school or less 61%).

- **Just four in ten (37%) Canadians favour this kind of a law** – with those most likely favouring such a law from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (46%), followed by those from both Atlantic Canada (40%) and Alberta (40%), then Ontario (39%), Québec (34%), and British Columbia (23%). More men (40%) take this position than women (34%), and older Canadians (55+ 40%) hold this view more strongly than those who are middle-aged (35– 54 36%) and those who are youngest (18 – 34 34%). Lower and middle income Canadians are more likely to share this view (38%) than those who are the highest income earners (32%), and lower educated Canadians (39%) take this position more strongly than those who are either middle (35%) or highest educated (35%).
- **A majority (57%) of Canadians favour a law that would make it illegal to perform a specific abortion procedure sometimes called “partial birth” abortion conducted very late in the pregnancy except in cases necessary to save the life of the mother** – with those most likely to support such a measure residing in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (75%), followed by those from Atlantic Canada and Alberta (64%), Ontario (62%), and British Columbia (54%) and Québec (39%). Men (60%) are more likely to take this position than women (53%), and older Canadians (55+ 64%)/35 – 54 58%) are more likely to share this view than younger Canadians (18 – 34 45%). Lower income Canadians (59%) hold this view more strongly than those earning higher income (\$50,000 – \$99,000 48%/\$100,000 + 49%), and lower educated Canadians (high school or less 57%) embrace this position more strongly than those who have middle (College/technical school 49%) or higher (University + 37%) education.
 - **Alternatively, a minority (43%) oppose such a law** – and are most likely to reside in Québec (61%), followed by those from British Columbia (46%), Ontario (38%), equally from Alberta (36%), and Atlantic Canada (36%), and least from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (25%). Women (47%) are more likely than men (40%) to hold this view, with the greatest variation among all the demographic groupings coming from younger Canadians (55%) who least support this type of law followed by middle-

aged (35 – 54 42%) and older Canadians (55+ 36%). Middle and upper income Canadians (46%) share this view equally compared to the lowest earning Canadians (41%), while the highest educated Canadians (53%) believe this should be the case more strongly than those who are middle (42%) and lower (38%) educated.

- **Canadians are split – half (49%) believe there should be a law requiring women under 18 to get parental consent for an abortion** and are most likely to reside in Atlantic Canada (60%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (59%), followed by those from Alberta (53%), Ontario (49%), British Columbia (45%), and Québec (43%). Men (54%) are more likely to hold this view than women (44%), and middle-aged (35– 54 53%/55+ 53%) are equally more likely to hold this view than younger Canadians (38%). There is no difference from the national average among income groups, however those educated with high school or less (57%) are more likely to take this position than those with college/technical school (49%) and University + (37%) education.

The other half (51%) to oppose this type of law are most likely to reside in Québec (57%), followed by those from British Columbia (55%), Ontario (51%), Alberta (47%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (41%), and Atlantic Canada (40%). Women (56%) are more likely to hold this view than men (46%), along with younger Canadians (18– 34 62%), compared to middle and older aged Canadians (47% equally). There is no difference from the national average for income groupings, however those who are highest educated (University + 63%) are more likely to have this perspective than those who are middle educated (College/technical school 51%) and lower educated (high school or less 43%) Canadians.

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Methodology

*These are some of the topline findings of a **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada** conducted as part of a regular sounding of Canadians on various issues and matters that affect their lives as citizens, consumers, and voters. The research is created and analyzed under the direction of veteran pollster John Wright, who is a Partner of **DART C-Suite Communicators**. Data was collected by Canada's national survey sample research provider **Maru/Blue** using their **Voice Canada** Omni Online curated panel.*

The survey was conducted among 1,515 randomly selected Canadian adults who are members of **Maru/Blue's** Online panel on December 5 - 8, 2019. Respondents could opt in for either official language. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, and region to match the population, according to Census data. This is to ensure the sample is representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Reporting of results from Prince Edward Island, Nunavut and both the Yukon and Northwest Territories is excluded because of extremely small sample sizes. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. Voter intent is weighted by past vote and demographics. The precision of this **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada Poll** is measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 2.9 %age points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population and individual provinces.

Visit <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/> for the written release and detailed tables.

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About **DART** & **Maru/Blue**

DART C-Suite Communicators is a team of high-level insight specialists and seasoned communicators who partner with the C-Suite, Executive leadership, or the Board to advance and protect crucial interests, brands, assets, and reputations requiring vital intelligence and pivotal communication strategies. Differentiated by our C-Suite peer-level bench strength, **DART C-Suite Communicators** consultants are smart, strategic thinkers who bring experienced fresh-eyes to tough communications assignments knowing the right questions to ask, the internal and external audiences to heed, and the tools and tempo to deliver actionable solutions and accountability. Together, the **DART C-Suite Communicators** team discreetly and seamlessly fills the gaps in existing resources by either doing the work needed or by providing advice and counsel. We are C-Suite confidants who bring integrity, honesty, ideation, and trustworthy sound-boarding to every assignment.

DART C-Suite Communicators is independent and not tied to any political organization. It is a partnership founded by *veteran pollster John Wright* and *communications specialist Victoria Ollers*.

DART C-Suite Communicators public releases of polling results, including detailed tables (weighted/unweighted), questions used and analysis, are provided freely at <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/>
DART C-Suite Communicators abides by the MRIA polling disclosure requirements.

Maru/Blue is a premium quality data services firm that provides reliable global data connections for brands, agencies, and market research. We create value for our clients by connecting them with expertly profiled known respondents. The result? Reliable, reproducible insights. We deliver instant access to the general population, specific markets, and your or your competitor's customers. **Maru/Blue** began disrupting the market community industry in 2000. Our market communities' broke new ground, adding depth and richness to clients' understanding of what motivates their customers and shapes their markets. Now, as part of the **Maru Group**, we continue to provide reliable global data connections for agencies, brands, and market research firms. **Maru Springboard America**, and **Maru Voice Canada**, established more than a decade ago, are a testament to our commitment and depth of engagement. More recently we developed the **Maru Voice Business Canada** and **Springboard America Business Forum**, both an excellent source for business to business research.

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