

# CALGARIANS SUPPORT PRIVATE HEALTHCARE CLINICS

*Nearly two-thirds (62%) of Calgarians support allowing patients to purchase non-emergency surgeries from private clinics*

*Yet, Calgarians divided over whether they personally would purchase insurance to cover these services (48% yes, 50% no)*



Ipsos Reid

**Public Release Date: September 10, 2005 - 6:00 a.m. (MDT)**

*Ipsos Reid is Canada's market intelligence leader and the country's leading provider of public opinion research. With operations in eight cities, Ipsos Reid employs more than 300 researcher professionals and support staff in Canada. The company has the biggest network of telephone call centres in Canada, as well as the largest pre-recruited household and online panels. Ipsos Reid's Canadian marketing research and public affairs practices are staffed with seasoned research consultants with extensive industry-specific backgrounds, offering the premier suite of research vehicles in Canada – including the Ipsos Trend Report, the leading source of public opinion in the country – all of which provide clients with actionable and relevant information. Ipsos Reid is an Ipsos company, a leading global survey-based market research group.*

*To learn more, visit [www.ipsos.ca](http://www.ipsos.ca)*

*For copies of other news releases, please visit:  
<http://www.ipsos-na.com/news/>*

---

© Ipsos Reid Corporation

Vancouver • Calgary • Edmonton • Winnipeg • Toronto • Ottawa • Montreal

## **CALGARIANS SUPPORT PRIVATE HEALTHCARE CLINICS**

***Nearly two-thirds (62%) of Calgarians support allowing patients to purchase non-emergency surgeries from private clinics***

***Yet, Calgarians divided over whether they personally would purchase insurance to cover these services (48% yes, 50% no)***

**Calgary, AB** - As the debate over private healthcare continues, a new Ipsos Reid/Calgary Herald poll finds that most Calgarians (62%) support the Alberta government allowing patients to purchase non-emergency surgeries from private clinics. In contrast, only 36% are opposed to this idea. Yet despite Calgarians' high level of support for allowing patients to privately purchase non-emergency surgeries, fewer say they would actually purchase insurance to cover these services (48% "yes", 50% "no").

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of the Calgary Herald between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The poll is based on a randomly selected sample of 500 adult Calgarians. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 4.4$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population of Calgary been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Calgarian population according to the 2001 Census data.*

***Nearly two-thirds (62%) of Calgarians support allowing patients to purchase non-emergency surgeries from private clinics***

A recent Supreme Court ruling found that the Quebec government cannot prevent people from paying for private insurance for health-care procedures covered under medicare given that the public system has failed to guarantee patients access to those

services in a timely way. A majority (62%) of Calgarians support the Alberta government allowing patients to purchase non-emergency surgeries from private clinics, including 34% saying “strongly support” and 28% saying “somewhat support”. In contrast, the level of opposition is almost half the level of support, with 36% of Calgarians opposed to allowing patients to privately purchase non-emergency services (25% “strongly oppose”, 10% “somewhat oppose”).

- These findings are consistent across all demographics.

## *Yet, Calgarians divided over whether they personally would purchase insurance to cover these services (48% yes, 50% no)*

Despite the high level of support for allowing patients to purchase non-emergency surgeries from private clinics, Calgarians are divided as to whether they personally would purchase private medical insurance. In all, 48% of Calgarians say they would buy private medical insurance to cover non-emergency procedures performed in private clinics, assuming they would face shorter wait times for surgery. A similar proportion (50%) indicate they would not purchase private medical insurance to cover these procedures.

- Calgarians who support allowing patients to buy non-emergency surgeries from private clinics are more likely to say they would purchase private medical insurance to cover these services (63% vs. 24% of those opposed to allowing patients to privately buy non-emergency surgeries).

-30-

*For more information on this news release, please contact:*

*Peter Weylie  
Vice-President  
Public Affairs Alberta  
Ipsos Reid  
(403) 390-7052*

*For full tabular results, please visit our website at [www.ipsos.ca](http://www.ipsos.ca).  
News releases are available at <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news/>.*