

# **MOST (59%) UNMARRIED CO-HABITANTS BELIEVE THEIR RIGHTS ARE THE SAME AS THE THOSE OF A MARRIED COUPLE**

*Less Than One-Third Have Signed a Legal Co-Habitation  
Agreement*



**Ipsos Reid**

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## **MOST (59%) UNMARRIED CO-HABITANTS BELIEVE THEIR RIGHTS ARE THE SAME AS THE THOSE OF A MARRIED COUPLE**

### ***Less Than One-Third Have Signed a Legal Co-Habitation Agreement***

**Toronto, ON** - The majority of unmarried Canadians who have lived with a romantic partner (59%) believe they have the same rights as a married couple in the event of a separation, according to a recent survey conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of lawyers.com.

The study found that nearly half of Canadian adults (48%) have lived with a romantic partner without being married at some point in their lives. And, among these Canadians, six-in-ten (59%) believed that in the case of a separation, their relationship would qualify for the same rights as a married couple.

Further, only one-third (30%) of Canadians that have lived with an unmarried romantic partner had a co-habitation agreement with their partner. Over half of Quebecers (57%) had such an agreement, which is significantly higher than residents of other provinces (ranging from 16% in B.C. to 22% in the Prairies).

- Canadians between the age of 18 and 34 are least likely to believe that co-habitants have the same rights as a married couple in the event of a separation (47%), while two-thirds (66%) of Canadians at least 55 years old believe this.
- Canadians at least 55 years old are least likely to have lived with a romantic partner to whom they were not married (35%), while those under the age of 55 were significantly more likely (57%). Additionally, some regional differences were observed:
- Unmarried Canadians in Quebec and British Columbia are most likely to have lived with a romantic partner out of wed-lock (59% and 55%, respectively), while those in Ontario and the Prairies are least likely to have done this (42% and 41%, respectively)



**Ipsos Reid**

*These are the findings of an online survey of 1,184 Canadian adults over the age of 18. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 2.8$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what would have been, had this entire population been polled. The online survey was conducted between April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.*

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