

Two in Three (65%) Support Legalization of Brothels in Canada

Majority of Men (75%), Women (55%) Support Legalization

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Toronto, ON – Reflecting on a recent decision by an Ontario court to strike down laws relating to prostitution and brothels, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News Service and Global Television reveals that two in three (65%) Canadians ‘agree’ (21% strongly/44% somewhat) that ‘prostitution in brothels should be legal in Canada’, including both a majority of men (75%) and women (55%). Just one in three (35%) ‘disagree’ (20% strongly/15% somewhat) with this proposition. While most Canadians agree, overall, it is interesting to note that the proportion of Canadians that strongly agrees (21%) equals the proportion that strongly disagrees (20%) with the legalization of brothels.

Interestingly, Canadians aged 55 and older (69%) are most likely to support the legalization of brothels, followed by those aged 35 to 54 (67%) and 18 to 34 (57%).

While the court decision applies only to Ontario, it could cause similar decision to be made in other parts of the country. The federal government has one year to introduce new legislation regulating brothels, otherwise they will be decriminalized. Residents of British Columbia (73%) are most supportive of the legalization of brothels, followed by those living in Quebec (68%), Ontario (65%), Alberta (60%), Atlantic Canada (59%), and residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (51%).

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between March 30 and April 1, 2012, on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 adults from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data

and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in Canada been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error.

For more information on this news release, please contact:

*Darrell Bricker, PhD
CEO
Ipsos Reid
Public Affairs
(416) 324-2001*

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