

# Canadians Among Most Progressive in Endorsing a Women's Right to Choose

*Six in Ten (57%) Canadians believe Abortion Should be Permitted  
Whenever a Woman Decides She Wants One, Up from 36% in 1998*

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## **Canadians Among Most Progressive in Endorsing a Women's Right to Choose**

***Six in Ten (57%) Canadians believe Abortion Should be Permitted  
Whenever a Woman Decides She Wants One, Up from 36% in 1998***

**Toronto, ON** – Six in ten (57%) Canadians say that abortion should be permitted whenever a woman decides she wants, putting Canadians among the most progressive countries when it comes to public opinion on the controversial topic. The global average among the 23 countries tested is 45% believing abortion should be allowed whenever a woman wants it.

In the minority of Canadians, 21% believe abortion should be permitted in certain circumstances, such as if a woman has been raped (29% globally), 8% believe it should not be permitted under any circumstances except when the life of the mother is in danger (12% globally), and 3% say it should never be permitted no matter the circumstance (5% globally). One in ten (10%) Canadians is unsure of their position on the subject (also 10% globally).

The belief of 57% of Canadians that abortion should be permitted whenever a woman decides she wants one is up significantly (9 points) from last year when the same question was asked. In 2010, 43% of Canadians felt this way, in 2000 it was 41% and in 1998 it was 36%, suggesting a steady shift of public opinion in the last two decades.

In Canada, men (57%) and women (58%) are equally as likely to take this position, with those aged 18 to 34 (63%) being most likely. Regionally, residents of the Prairies (72%) are most likely to side with this position, followed by those in BC (66%), Quebec (64%), Atlantic Canada (55%), Ontario (51%) and Alberta (47%).

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When it comes to public opinion on this topic, the most progressive are resident of Sweden (84%), followed by France (69%), Great Britain (62%), Hungary (62%) and Turkey (60%). Least progressive are Peru (11%), Brazil (16%) and Mexico (25%).

For a full country breakdown, please see below.

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between Jan 22 and Feb 5, 2016. For this survey, a sample of 1,002 Canadians from Ipsos' 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. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. 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:**

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*For full tabular results, please visit our website at [www.ipsos-na.com](http://www.ipsos-na.com).*

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**Table: % who say Abortion should be permitted whenever a woman decides she wants one**

