

SUPPORT FOR MEDICALLY-ASSISTED DYING IN CANADA

April 2024

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**DYING WITH
DIGNITY**
CANADA



Summary

Support for MAID and advance requests in Canada remains strong:

- Support among Canadians for the *Carter v Canada* decision is unchanged at 84%.
- Eight in ten (83%) Canadians support advance requests for MAID for a person that has a diagnosis of a capacity-impairing grievous and irremediable condition whose trajectory will eventually cause a loss of decisional competence.
- Seven in ten (71%) Canadians support advance requests for medical assistance in dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request even if they are not diagnosed with a grievous and irremediable medical condition.
- Four in ten (43%) Canadians say that knowing that Quebec has passed a provincial law authorizing assisted dying for those with neurocognitive disorders makes them more likely to support national legislation. This compares to just 11% who say that this causes them to be less supportive, while 47% are unimpacted.
- Three in ten (31%) Canadians say they have some experience with someone who has a degenerative neurocognitive disorder, such as Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Those who say they personally have a degenerative neurocognitive disorder are more likely to support each of these policies.

Methodology

- These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of Dying With Dignity Canada.
- A sample of **2,000 Canadians** aged 18 years and over was interviewed on the Ipsos I-Say Panel from **March 15 to 20, 2024**. Weighting was employed to ensure that the sample's composition reflects the overall population according to latest census information.
- The precision of online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the aggregate results are accurate to within **+/- 2.5 percentage points**, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had all Canadian adults been polled. Where figures do not sum to 100% it is due to rounding.
- Statistically-significant differences between demographics are denoted using letters, which indicate when the proportion next to the letter is significantly higher (at 95% confidence) than the proportion in the column denoted by the letter.
- Credibility intervals are wider among subsets of the population. More specifically, sample sizes and credibility intervals for regional data are as follows:

	Sample size	Credibility interval
BC	260	+/- 6.9%
AB	200	+/- 7.9%
SK/MB	200	+/- 7.9%
ON	580	+/- 4.6%
QC	560	+/- 4.7%
Atlantic	200	+/- 7.9%

Note: Sample sizes are based on unweighted data.

Continued strong and stable support for the *Carter v Canada* decision.

Support among Canadians for the *Carter v Canada* decision is unchanged at 84%.

Support is highest in Quebec at 90%.

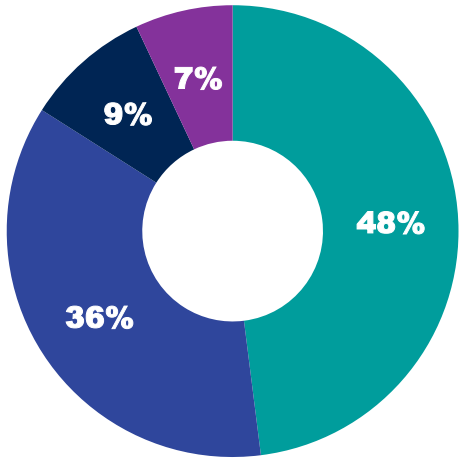
Only millennials show softer support at 79%, with all other generations more likely to support at 86%.

84%

Support

16%

Oppose



- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

Q5. The Supreme Court of Canada recognized medical assistance in dying as a constitutionally-protected right. According to the court's 2015 *Carter v Canada* decision, a person has a right to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) if they satisfy all the following criteria: they are a competent adult; they have a grievous and irremediable medical condition (illness, disease or disability); their condition causes them suffering that is intolerable to them; **and** they clearly consent to the termination of life. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court's decision?
Base: All respondents (n=2000).

Support for Carter v Canada decision

		Generation				Region					
	Total	Gen Z (18-23)	Millennial (24-39)	Gen X (40-55)	Boomer (56+)	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	Atlantic
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Base: All respondents	n=2000	227	595	579	599	260	200	200	580	560	200
Strongly support	48%	36%	38%	53%AB	58%AB	46%	46%	48%	42%	60%EFGHJ	44%
Somewhat support	36%	50%CD	41%CD	33%	28%	36%	38%	34%	40%I	30%	39%I
Somewhat oppose	9%	10%	11%D	9%	6%	9%	9%	10%	11%I	5%	11%I
Strongly oppose	7%	4%	9%CD	5%	8%	9%I	7%	9%	7%	5%	6%

NET: Support (T2B)	84%	86%	79%	86%B	86%B	82%	84%	81%	82%	90%EGHJ	83%
NET: Oppose (B2B)	16%	14%	21%CD	14%	14%	18%I	16%	19%I	18%I	10%	17%I

		Experience with Degenerative Neurocognitive Disorder					
	Total	Yes, Me Personally	Yes, family member	Yes, friend	No	NET YES	
		A	B	C	D	E	
Base: All respondents	n=2000	66	406	164	1385	615	
Strongly support	48%	65% BCD	48%	47%	47%	49%	
Somewhat support	36%	32%	39%	43%	35%	39%	
Somewhat oppose	9%	0%	7%	5%	10%	6%	
Strongly oppose	7%	2%	6%	4%	8%	5%	

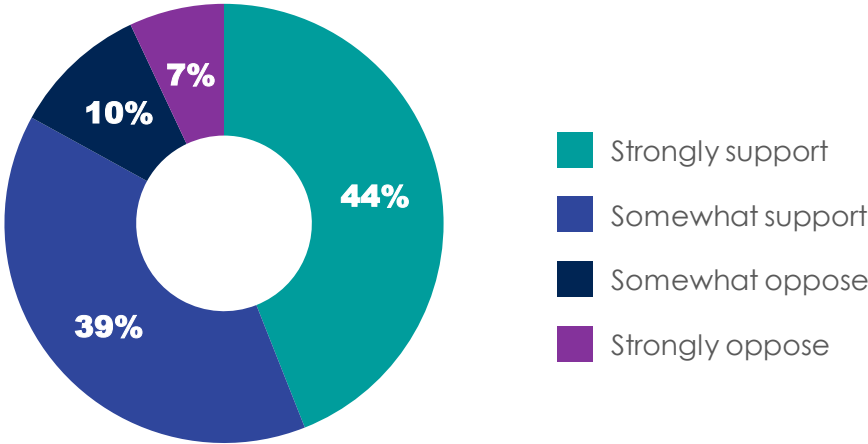
NET: Support (T2B)	84%	98% BD	86%	90% D	82%	88%
NET: Oppose (B2B)	16%	2%	14% A	10%	18% AC	12%

Support for advance requests for MAID for person with diagnosis of capacity-impairing grievous and irremediable condition eventually leading to decisional incompetence

Eight in ten (83%) Canadians support advance requests for MAID for a person that has a diagnosis of a capacity-impairing grievous and irremediable condition whose trajectory will eventually cause a loss of decisional competence.

Support is once again highest in Quebec (88%). Support is also higher among Boomers (88%) and Gen X (86%).

Those who say they personally suffer from a degenerative neurocognitive disorder are most likely (95%) to support this position.



Q7. Would you support an advance request for MAID for a person that had a diagnosis of a capacity-impairing grievous and irremediable condition whose trajectory will eventually cause a loss of decisional competence? For example, if a patient has a diagnosis of dementia and, while they are still competent, requests in a written document, that MAID be provided when they reach the circumstances outlined in their advance request
Base: All respondents (n=2000)

Support for advance requests for MAID for persons with a diagnosis of capacity-impairing grievous and irremediable condition eventually leading to decisional incompetence

	Total	Generation				Region					
		Gen Z (18-23)	Millennial (24-39)	Gen X (40-55)	Boomer (56+)	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	Atlantic
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Base: All respondents	n=2000	227	595	579	599	260	200	200	580	560	200
Strongly support	44%	27%	37%A	50%AB	51%AB	41%	45%	40%	37%	55%EFGH	46%
Somewhat support	39%	47%CD	41%	36%	36%	38%	37%	37%	44%I	33%	39%
Somewhat oppose	10%	19%BCD	12%D	8%	6%	11%	12%	15%I	10%	8%	9%
Strongly oppose	7%	6%	10%C	6%	6%	10%I	5%	8%I	9%I	4%	6%

NET: Support (T2B)	83%	75%	78%	86%AB	88%AB	79%	82%	77%	81%	88%EFGH	85%
NET: Oppose (B2B)	17%	25%CD	22%CD	14%	12%	21%I	18%	23%I	19%I	12%	15%

	Total	Experience with Degenerative Neurocognitive Disorder				NET YES
		Yes, Me Personally	Yes, family member	Yes, friend	No	
		A	B	C	D	E
Base: All respondents	n=2000	66	406	164	1385	615
Strongly support	44%	50%	43%	45%	44%	44%
Somewhat support	39%	44%	41%	37%	38%	41%
Somewhat oppose	10%	3%	10%	13% A	10%	10%
Strongly oppose	7%	2%	6%	5%	8%	5%

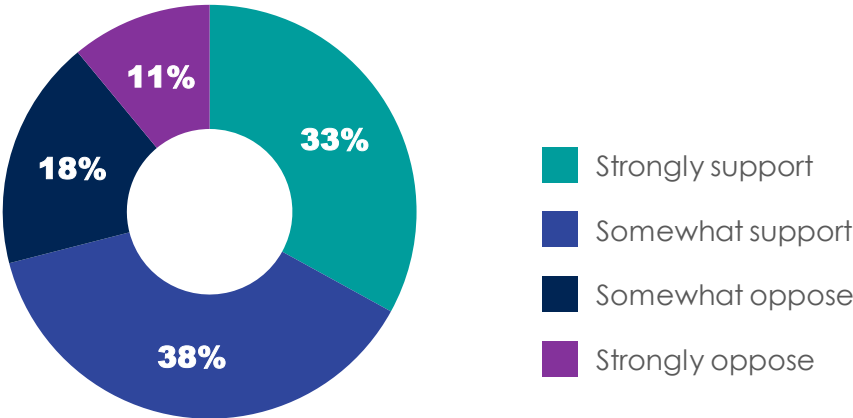
NET: Support (T2B)	83%	95% BCD	84%	82%	82%	85%
NET: Oppose (B2B)	17%	5%	16% A	18% A	18% A	15%

Seven in ten support advance requests for individuals not yet diagnosed with a grievous and irremediable condition.

Seven in ten (71%) Canadians support advance requests for medical assistance in dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request even if they are not diagnosed with a grievous and irremediable medical condition.

Support does not vary significantly by region. Gen X (75%) is slightly more supportive than other generations.

Those who say they personally suffer from a degenerative neurocognitive disorder are most likely (85%) to support this type of advance request.



Q8. Would you support an advance request for medical assistance in dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request even if they are not diagnosed with a grievous and irremediable medical condition? For example, a person with no history of cardiovascular disease may wish to write an advance request specifying that they are to receive an assisted death if they have a stroke and are unable to move or communicate.
Base = All respondents (n=2000)

Seven in ten support advance requests for individuals not yet diagnosed with a grievous and irremediable condition.

	Total	Generation				Region					
		Gen Z (18-23)	Millennial (24-39)	Gen X (40-55)	Boomer (56+)	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	Atlantic
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Base: All respondents	n=2000	227	595	579	599	260	200	200	580	560	200
Strongly support	33%	22%	28%	38%AB	39%AB	33%	33%	36%	30%	40%HJ	30%
Somewhat support	38%	43%D	43%D	37%	33%	37%	42%I	37%	42%I	30%	37%
Somewhat oppose	18%	25%BCD	16%	16%	18%	16%	17%	14%	17%	20%	26%EGH
Strongly oppose	11%	10%	14%	9%	10%	14%F	7%	13%	12%	10%	8%
NET: Support (T2B)	71%	65%	70%	75% A	72%	70%	75%	72%	72%	70%	67%
NET: Oppose (B2B)	29%	35%C	30%	25%	28%	30%	25%	28%	28%	30%	33%

	Total	Experience with Degenerative Neurocognitive Disorder				NET YES
		Yes, Me Personally	Yes, family member	Yes, friend	No	
		A	B	C	D	E
Base: All respondents	n=2000	66	406	164	1385	615
Strongly support	33%	55% BCD	34%	34%	32%	36%
Somewhat support	38%	30%	40%	42%	37%	40%
Somewhat oppose	18%	10%	16%	18%	19%	16%
Strongly oppose	11%	5%	10%	7%	12%	8%

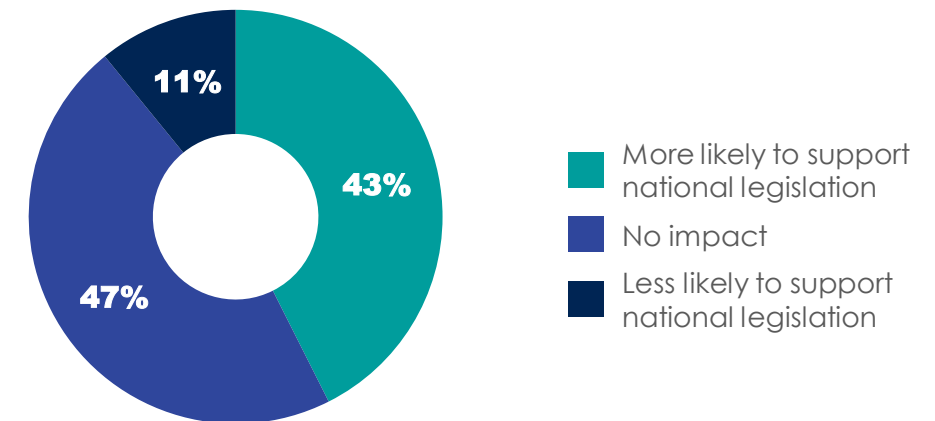
NET: Support (T2B)	71%	85% D	74%	76%	69%	76%
NET: Oppose (B2B)	29%	15%	26%	24%	31% A	24%

Impact of Quebec Legislation on Support for National Legislation

Four in ten (43%) Canadians say that knowing that Quebec has passed a provincial law authorizing assisted dying for those with neurocognitive disorders makes them more likely to support national legislation. This compares to just 11% who say that this causes them to be less supportive, while 47% are unimpacted.

Those in Quebec (55%) and Boomers (46%) are most likely to say this fact impacts their support for national legislation.

Those who say they personally have a **degenerative neurocognitive disorder** are most inclined (75%) to say that knowledge of this Quebec law makes them more likely to support national legislation.



Q1NEW. In June 2023, the Province of Quebec became the first jurisdiction in Canada to formally pass a provincial law authorizing assisted dying for those with degenerative neurocognitive disorders, including Alzheimer's and various other dementias. Does knowing this make you more likely, less likely, or about as likely to support the federal government passing a similar law on a national level
Base = All respondents (n=2000)

Impact of Quebec Legislation on Support for National Legislation

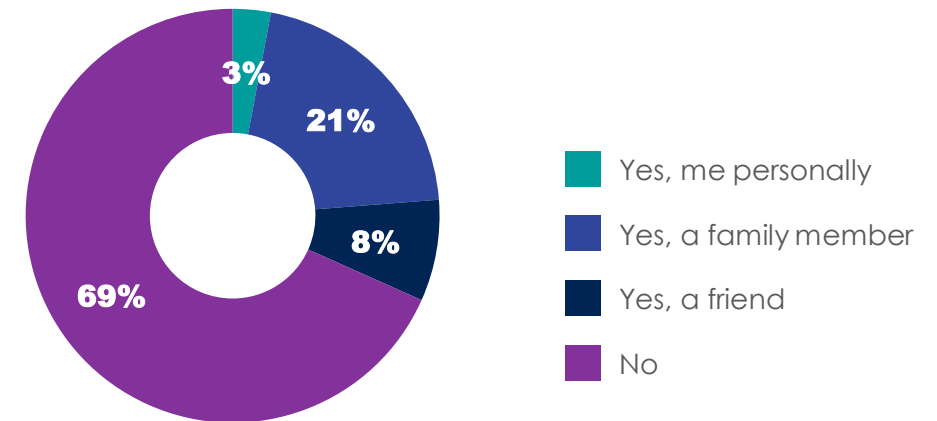
	Total	Generation				Region					
		Gen Z (18-23)	Millennial (24-39)	Gen X (40-55)	Boomer (56+)	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	Atlantic
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Base: All respondents	n=2000	227	595	579	599	260	200	200	580	560	200
More likely to support national legislation	43%	45%	38%	42%	46%B	37%	40%	36%	38%	55%EFGH	45%
No impact	47%	44%	47%	49%	45%	49%I	50%I	54%I	49%I	39%	44%
Less likely to support national legislation	11%	11%	15%CD	9%	9%	14%I	10%	10%	13%I	6%	10%

	Total	Experience with Degenerative Neurocognitive Disorder				NET YES
		Yes, Personally	Yes, family member	Yes, friend	No	
		A	B	C	D	E
Base: All respondents	n=2000	66	406	164	1385	615
More likely to support national legislation	43%	74% BCD	47% D	49% D	39%	50%
No impact	47%	22%	45% A	44% A	49% A	42%
Less likely to support national legislation	11%	4%	9%	7%	12%	8%

Experience with Degenerative Neurocognitive Disorder

Three in ten (31%) Canadians say they have some experience with someone who has a degenerative neurocognitive disorder, such as Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

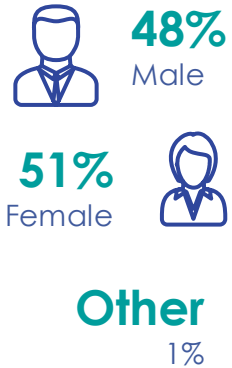
3% say it impacts them personally, 8% say a friend is impacted, and 21% say someone in their family has this type of disorder.



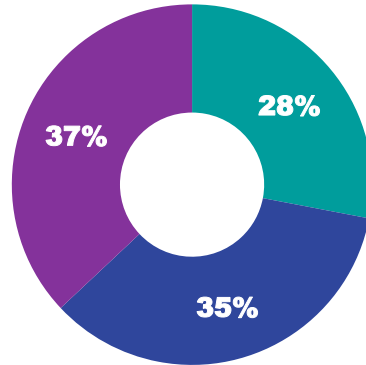
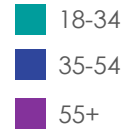
Q2NEW. Do you or someone close to you, such as a spouse, partner or parent, have a degenerative neurocognitive disorder, such as Alzheimer's or dementia?
Base = All respondents (n=2000)

Sample Demographics

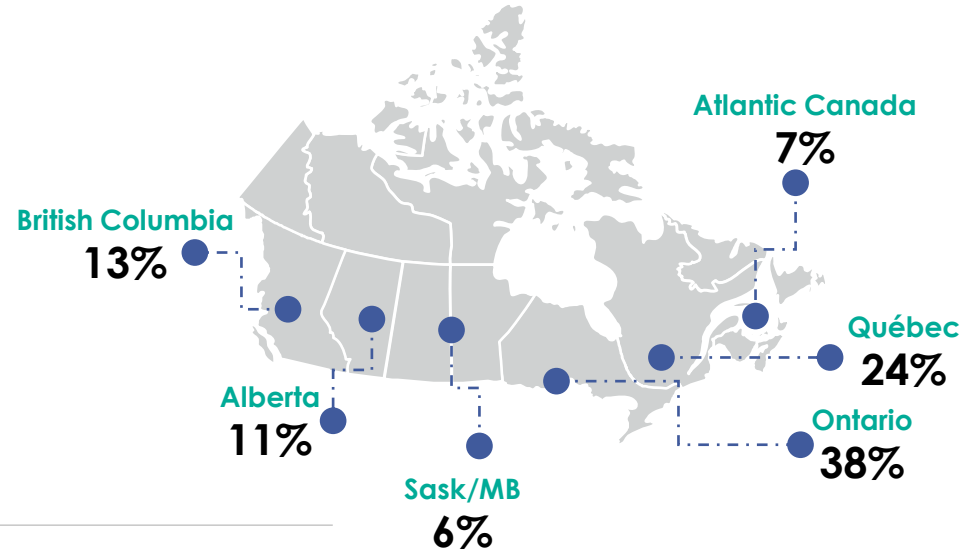
Gender



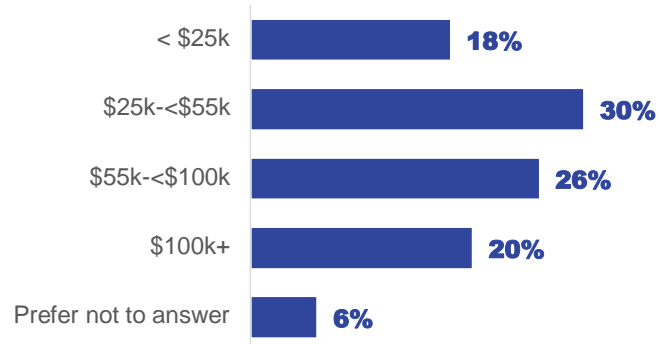
Age



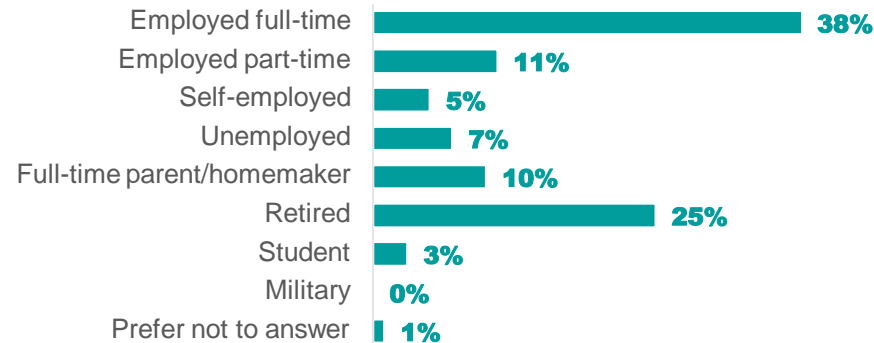
Region



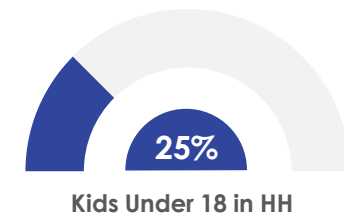
Income



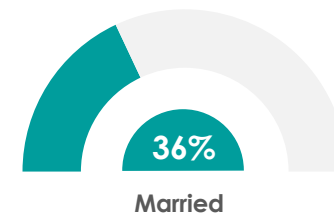
Employment Status



Household Composition



Marital Status



Education



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