



PRESS RELEASE | Canada

Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from March 22 to March 24, 2026, among 1,001 adults in Canada. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in Canada. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

If your provincial legislature introduced a bill that sought to allow health care professionals the ability to have a moral or faith-based objection to providing services, would you support or oppose this bill?

Support – 38% (-1)
Oppose – 46% (-6)
Not sure – 16% (+2)

Canadians Split on Conscience Rights on Physician-Assisted Death

Just under two-in-five would support a bill to allow health care professionals to object on moral or faith-based grounds.

Vancouver, BC [April 9, 2026] – While Canadians are not particularly supportive of legislation that would permit moral or faith-based objections in all phases of health care delivery, there is a deep divide when pondering their use in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), a new Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 41% of Canadians (+5 since a similar Research Co. survey [conducted in November 2022](#)) think health care professionals should have the ability to object to providing services if they have a moral or faith-based objection to physician-assisted death, while 42% (-9) disagree.

On a regional basis, opposition to moral or faith-based objections in physician-assisted death cases is highest in Alberta (47%), followed by Atlantic Canada (45%), Quebec (44%), Ontario (41%), British Columbia (also 41%) and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (36%).

Opposition is higher among Canadians aged 55 and over (45%) than among their counterparts aged 35-to-54 (42%) and aged 18-to-34 (39%).

The survey asked about two other specific situations in which health care professionals might ask to object to providing services.

Just under half of Canadians (48%, -8) say health care professionals should not be able to object to providing services if they have a moral or faith-based objection to abortion—a proportion that rises to 51% among women.

A majority of Canadians (57%, -6) disagree with the possibility of health care practitioners refusing to provide services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2+) people because of a moral or faith-based objection.

Across Canada, 46% of respondents (-6) would oppose a bill that sought to allow health care professionals the ability to have a moral or faith-based objection to providing services. Fewer than two-in-five Canadians (38%, -1) would support a bill with these characteristics, while 16% (+2) are undecided.

Half of Canadians aged 55 and over (50%, -6) would oppose an effort from their provincial legislature to allow moral or faith-based



objections in health care delivery. The proportion drops to 46% (-2) among Canadians aged 18-to-34 and to 41% (-9) among Canadians aged 35-to-54.

In 2019, Alberta considered the implementation of [Bill 207](#) which was later abandoned. The proposed legislation sought to enable the province's health care practitioners to abstain from providing services to an individual if they considered that their conscientious beliefs would be infringed upon.

Support for this type of legislation is highest in Saskatchewan and Manitoba (45%), followed by Ontario (43%), British Columbia (41%), Alberta (38%), Quebec (30%) and Atlantic Canada (29%).

"More than half of Conservative Party voters in the 2025 federal election (53%) would permit moral or faith-based objections in health care delivery," says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. "The proportion drops to 36% among Liberal Party voters and to 34% among New Democratic Party (NDP) voters."

There are also some significant differences among specific ethnicities. More than half of Canadians of East Asian descent (52%) support this type of bill. Fewer respondents whose heritage is Indigenous (44%) European (35%) or South Asian (32%) concur.

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About Research Co.

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.

We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

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Media contact:

Mario Canseco, President, Research Co.
[c] 778.929.0490
[e] mario.canseco@researchco.ca

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mario.canseco@researchco.ca



[mario_canseco](https://twitter.com/mario_canseco)



778.929.0490



Mario Canseco