

## ARI – Assisted Suicide

1. First, how much thought have you given to the issue of physician assisted suicide?

A great deal of thought

A fair amount

Some thought

Not much

No thought at all

2. As you may know, the Supreme Court of Canada is currently deciding whether or not to allow physicians to prescribe drugs to patients which they could take to commit suicide. Overall which of the following two arguments do you feel the Court should give greatest weight to in reaching its decision:

The desire of people to end their lives at the place and timing of their choice, with drugs prescribed by physicians,

or

The risk that vulnerable populations in Canada such as the elderly, the sick and those requiring care will feel pressured to take suicide drugs.

3. Suppose the Canadian government decided to change the criminal code and allow physicians to assist with the suicide of their patients by prescribing legal drugs. Should such assisted suicide be permitted in the following types of cases:

Strongly agree

Moderately agree

Moderately disagree

Strongly disagree

When a person with multiple conditions like arthritis and diabetes feels overwhelmed and wants to die

When a person has no hope for the future and finds no meaning in their lives

When a person is in a great deal of pain

When a person wants to control the exact time of their death to make things easier for their family

When a person's care is perceived as a burden to their family

When a person can't get access to medical care to treat their pain and suffering

When an inmate serving a life sentence in jail wishes to end his/ her life

When a person has a disease like Alzheimer's and fears a loss of self-awareness and/or bathroom functions

When a person wants to stop spending their money in order to leave their family with a larger inheritance

When the cost of a patient's care is very expensive to the health care system

When a person has a terminal disease with a prognosis of, say, six months maximum and would rather end it sooner

4. Some people see changing laws to permit legalized assisted suicide as a sign of social progress; others see this as a sign of social weakness. Which of these two positions is closest to your own?

- Sign of social progress
- Sign of social weakness

5. Everything considered do you approve or disapprove of proposals to change the criminal code of Canada to allow physicians to assist with the suicide of their patients by prescribing lethal drugs?

- Strongly Approve
- Moderately Approve
- Moderately Disapprove
- Strongly Disapprove
- Don't know/ no opinion

6. Which of the following best describes your overall view of the morality of physician assisted suicide? Would you say it is:

- Morally wrong under any circumstances
- Usually wrong except in very special cases
- Morally acceptable in some circumstances
- Acceptable whenever someone freely chooses this option

7. Suppose the Supreme Court rules to legalize physician assisted suicide and this becomes part of medical practice in Canada. In your opinion, in the longer term do you think this will ultimately:

- Do more harm than good
- Do more good than harm

8. Finally we would like to ask you a personal question which you should feel free to skip if you wish. During the last five years has anyone close to you, a friend or family member, received professional end of life care in a palliative care ward, hospice or at home?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

9. Overall did you feel that your friends and/or family received end of life care that gave them comfort and dignity?

- Always
- Most of the time
- No, not for the most part
- Not at all

10. And, to assist with our statistical analysis:

Which one of the following best describes your religious identity?

- Atheist
- Agnostic
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Spiritual
- No religious identity
- Other (specify:)

11. With what church do you most closely identify?

- Roman Catholic/Catholic
- United Church of Canada
- Anglican/Episcopal
- Presbyterian
- Lutheran
- Baptist
- Orthodox (Eastern, Russian, Greek)
- African Methodist
- Assemblies of God
- Bible Church
- Brethren
- Christian & Missionary Alliance
- Christian Reformed
- Christian Science
- Church of Christ
- Church of God
- Church of the Nazarene
- Congregational
- Disciples of Christ
- Holiness
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Latter-day Saints
- Mennonite
- Methodist
- Pentecostal
- Quaker/Friends
- Reformed Church of America/Dutch Reformed

Seventh-day Adventist  
Unitarian  
Non-denominational Christian  
Other Christian

12. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week  
Once a week  
Once or twice a month  
A few times a year  
Seldom  
Never

13. Do you believe there is life after death?

Yes  
No  
Uncertain

14. And, in sum, what do you think happens to people after they die?

They simply stop existing  
They go to heaven or another good place  
They go somewhere else  
They get reincarnated  
You really don't know/can't say