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