



LifeCanada - VieCanada

376 Churchill Avenue, Suite 310

Ottawa ON K1Z 5C3

www.lifecanada.org

1-866-780-LIFE

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONNECTING EDUCATIONAL PRO-LIFE GROUPS ACROSS CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 25, 2004

TWO-THIRDS OF CANADIANS SUPPORT LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN

A Focus Canada poll, conducted by Environics Research in September and October 2004, shows that 68% of Canadians polled said the law should protect human life before birth.

One-third, 33%, of the 2,027 Canadians polled said legal protection should begin at conception. Almost one-quarter, 24%, said it should begin after three months of pregnancy and 11% said after six months of pregnancy. Only 28% of those polled agreed that legal protection should begin at birth, the current situation in Canadian law. Women were more likely to favor protection before birth than men were, 71% versus 65%.

The poll, commissioned by LifeCanada, a national educational pro-life group, also asked about informed consent, consent for minors seeking abortions and tax funding of abortion.

Respondents were asked if they support or oppose laws requiring physicians to tell women about stages of fetal development, including an ultrasound scan, and possible complications and side effects following an abortion. Almost three-quarters, 73% of those polled, supported such laws, including seven in ten in all regions except British Columbia (67%).

Only 26% of those polled say that "abortions should always be paid using the tax-funded health care system." Currently in Canada, taxpayers pay the full cost of all hospital abortions and in BC, Alberta, Ontario and Newfoundland abortions at private clinics are publicly funded as well. Most other provinces pay at least part of the costs of abortions at private clinics. "Over half, 54%, of those polled said abortions should be paid for by taxpayers "only in medical emergencies such as a threat to the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest." An additional 18% thought paying for abortions should be a private responsibility.

Over half, 55%, said that parental consent should be required before minors under the age of 18 could have an abortion. 42% opposed parental consent.

"We've been told repeatedly that Canadians support abortion on demand paid for by taxpayers," said LifeCanada President Joanne Byfield. "This poll once again shows us that the majority supports human rights for all human beings, including those at the very earliest stages of life."

She pointed out that this is the third year in a row that LifeCanada has polled Canadians on life issues. Detailed poll results are available at: www.lifecanada.org

"Support for legal protection before birth, informed consent and for deinsuring abortion has increased each year," she said. "It's time for our federal and provincial governments to respond to the wishes of Canadians."

-30-

The poll results are considered accurate + or - 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

For more information, contact Joanne Byfield, President of LifeCanada at 780-939-5940 or Carroll Rees, Executive Director of LifeCanada at 613-722-1552.

Canadians Embracing Life!
