

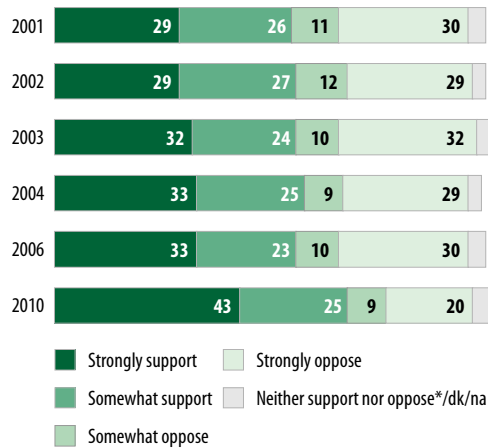
Social Issues

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. Five years ago, Parliament passed a landmark law legalizing same-sex marriage. Public opinion at the time was evenly divided, but since then has shifted decisively in favour of the change. Seven in ten Canadians now strongly (43%) or somewhat (25%) support same-sex marriage, compared with three in ten (29%) who oppose it. Since 2006, the notable shift has been from strongly oppose (down 10 points) to strongly support (up 10).

This trend is evident across almost all regions and demographic strata except Toronto residents and allophones (the latter being the most strongly opposed of all groups – 47% strongly opposed). Strengthening support for same-sex marriage is most evident in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, and among Canadians under 45 years of age.

Support for same-sex marriage

2001 - 2010



ABORTION RIGHTS. Abortion is another controversial topic that has long split Canadians. Public support for women’s abortion rights has been strengthening since 1993, and three-quarters of Canadians now strongly (51%) or somewhat (23%) agree with the statement “Every woman who wants to have an abortion should be able to have one,” compared with one in five who somewhat (8%) or strongly (14%) disagree.

Support for abortion rights is up in most groups, notably among Quebecers and Albertans, while essentially stable in Manitoba, among low-income Canadians and residents of rural regions. Strong support for such rights is most widespread among francophones (62% strongly agree with the statement), while opposition is most apparent in Saskatchewan (43% disagree).

Every woman who wants to have an abortion should be able to have one

1985 - 2010

