

PRESERVE MARRIAGE

Protect children's rights



Press release

For immediate distribution

Canadians and marriage : The rights of children must be protected.

Montréal, Wednesday, December 6, 2006 – Just hours before a vote on a motion to review Canada's current marriage law, a national survey reveals that a large majority of Canadians are asking that the rights of children be given proper consideration on any marriage legislation.

Conducted between December 1-5, 2006 by the Montréal firm MBA Research, the poll interviewed 1009 Canadians aged 18 and over (plus an over sampling of 263 additional Quebecers). The poll was meant to evaluate the importance that Canadians and Quebecers assign to children's rights, particularly when these rights are in conflict with the rights of adults to form same-sex households.

According to these results, 89% of Canadians agree « strongly » or « very strongly » with the U.N position of equality for all but also that, « as far as possible, children have the right to know and be cared for by their parents ».

73% of Canadians and 83% of Quebecers interviewed want the government to defend « strongly » or « very strongly » « the rights of children to be raised by a mother and a father, whenever possible », rights that are being jeopardized by the current definition of marriage.

While 76% of Canadians are generally supportive of forms of unions that allow same sex couples to commit to each other (civil unions and marriage), only 22% of Quebecers and 30% of Canadians favor marriage AND unrestricted adoption by same sex couples. When restrictions on adoption are introduced, limiting adoption only to cases where no married heterosexual couple is available to adopt a child, then support for same-sex marriage rises to 34% for Quebecers and 39% for Canadians.

This information, unavailable when C-38 was adopted, suggests strongly that a large majority of Canadians want children's rights to be taken into consideration in discussions about same-sex marriage.

Finally, 31% of Canadians would have a « worse » or « much worse » opinion of their MP if he/she votes to reject a review of the current marriage law in order « to review its consequences on children's rights and improve it if applicable ».

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