

Write to the Federal Government:

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Name

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

1. Your Member of Parliament (MP)
2. The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada
3. The Honourable Martin Cauchon
Minister of Justice

To find your MP, please visit this website:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/house/PostalCode.asp?Source=SM>

Letters by Unitarians

"...Today, with the failure of long-term, committed heterosexual marriage on the increase, it is obvious that the obsolete virtue of being straight does not a good marriage make. At the core of successful marriage is unconditional love, a love that will survive the heartaches and disappointments that any such intimate relationship must endure..."

-(Rev) Cheryl Jack
Ashburn, Ontario

"...Unitarians are called to celebrate same-sex marriages on the same terms as heterosexual marriages... When two people declare themselves a family and take on responsibility for each other, they strengthen all society.. For Unitarians, the choice is clear. Justice requires this of us..."

-Linda Thomson
Co-chair, First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.

The CUC Officially States Its Support of Same-Sex Marriage in Canada

For many Canadians, marriage is a profoundly meaningful way to demonstrate love and commitment. The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) supports same-sex couples that chose to marry.

Since the mid-1970s Unitarian churches in Canada have performed commitment ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples. These couples deserve the same legal rights, obligations and status as their heterosexual counterparts. Among its other principles, the CUC specifically affirms and promotes "the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

The CUC therefore supports the Quebec & Ontario court rulings that same-sex couples may marry, and condemns the British Columbia ruling against equality for same-sex couples.

Furthermore, the CUC calls on the government of Canada to put an end to the discrimination against same-sex couples immediately by withdrawing its appeal of the Quebec & Ontario courts' decisions, and to direct the Provinces to issue marriage certificates to same-sex couples who apply for them.

Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed

President

Canadian Unitarian Council

Canadian Unitarian Council

Gender & Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group

Vision Statement

That all Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations concretely reach out to and support communities who may be experiencing oppression based on their gender and/or sexual identities.

Mission Statement

The Group seeks to uphold Unitarian Universalist Principles in order to assist and support the safe and equitable representation and inclusion of sexual and gender minorities and their supporters in Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations by offering education, representation, political action, and historical preservation.

Contact

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Gender & Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group
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<http://www.cuc.ca/queer/index.htm - x>

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To order more brochures, contact

<mailto:samesex@cuc.ca>



Canadian Unitarian Council

Gender & Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group



Supporting Same-Sex Marriage in Canada

Discrimination Against Same-Sex Couples

Can't Same-Sex Couples Get Married?

Federal and provincial laws in Canada give some legal recognition to same-sex couples, but they still can't obtain a recognized civil marriage. The federal government currently denies same-sex couples the right to marry, and is spending your tax dollars to oppose court action that challenges their exclusion.

Why marriage? Aren't civil unions or registered domestic partnerships enough?
Although the rights and responsibilities associated with marriage can be extended through civil unions or registered partnerships, this does not justify discriminating against same-sex couples by denying them the full range of choices available to heterosexuals. So long as the federal government restricts marriage to heterosexuals only, it sends a message that same-sex couples are somehow inferior to their heterosexual counterparts.

Isn't marriage about having children?

It is true that many opposite-sex couples choose to marry at least in part for the benefit of their children. However, many married couples cannot or choose not to have children and they are not prevented from marrying.

I don't want to marry. Why should I support same-sex marriage?

Equal marriage isn't about telling couples how to conduct their relationships! It's about giving same-sex couples the same choice that opposite-sex couples have always had: the right to choose to marry, if we wish. Whether or not you would want to marry, we all have an interest in ending discrimination and being able to make our own relationship choices.

Please Help Fight For Equality

Action Checklist

- ❑ Copy & circulate the enclosed petition.
- ❑ Return petitions to
Egale Canada
205-176 Gloucester
Ottawa, ON K2P 0A6.
- ❑ Send letters to politicians and newspapers. Tell them that same-sex couples deserve equal marriage rights (sample letter enclosed).
- ❑ Participate at parliamentary hearings in your community (TBA).
- ❑ Give financially to the legal funds of the litigants who are fighting for equality in court.
- ❑ Visualize equality
- ❑ Continue lobbying for equality for gender and sexual minorities in Canada.

Resources for this brochure:

- Egale Canada
- The Unitarian Universalist Association's Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender

Please Help Fight For Equality

Send Donations

Québec

Michael Hendricks and René LeBoeuf have incurred a tremendous personal debt load to pay for their legal costs, including taking out a mortgage on their home.

- ❑ Michael Hendricks and René LeBoeuf
764, Gifford
Montréal, Québec H2J 1N7

British Columbia

- ❑ B.C. Partners (3 couples)
c/o Smith & Hughes Barristers & Solicitors
102 - 4088 Cambie Street
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2X8
- ❑ Egale BC (5 couples)
EGALE Canada
205-176 Gloucester
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0A6
<http://www.queermarriage.com/>

<http://www.egale.ca/>

Ontario

- ❑ Free 2 Marry Trust (8 couples)
c/o Watson Jordan Barristers & Solicitors
310-550 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1V2
<http://www.free2marry.com/>
- ❑ Metropolitan Community Church (2 couples)
Equal Marriage Pride
c/o Bruce E. Walker Law Office
65 Wellesley Street East
Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1G7
<http://www.samesexmarriage.ca/>

Unitarians as Allies

Here is the record. Meeting in our annual General Assemblies, Unitarian Universalists have:

1970s Called for an end to discrimination against homosexual and bisexual people in the denomination and in society, especially with regard to legal regulations against private consensual sexual behavior. Established an Office of Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Concerns.

1980s Called for the UUA to assist in the settlement of openly gay ministers. Recognized and encouraged ministers to perform Same-Gender Services of Union. Called for the UUA to support the recession of "sodomy" laws and to urge UUs not to do business with companies that discriminate.

1990s Added "Transgender" to office title to reflect work being done. Called for the UUA to support the legalization of "Same-Sex Marriage." Called for the UUA to support Nondiscriminatory Corporate and Other Business Policies.

2000 Attend the Millennium March on Washington. Completed the information pack: "Challenging the Religious "Right". 25% of all UUA Congregations had become Welcoming Congregations. The Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) became the 1st Welcoming Organization

And Most Recently... The UUC formed the BGLT Monitoring group that became the Gender & Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group. We are working to end police harassment in communities by supporting victims such as the organizers of Toronto's annual Pussy Palace event. We sit on the Coalition in Support of Marc Hall who won the right to bring his boyfriend to a Catholic High School dance; the fight continues, as the Catholic Church doesn't want has set a precedent.

We support and promote the Welcoming Congregation program here in Canada.

...And we're fighting for the right to marry.