

November 25, 2004

Act Now! ANTI-Equal Marriage Bill Update!

Last week we told you that Parliament may soon vote on legislation to restrict marriage to heterosexual couples. Private Members' Bill C-268, introduced by Rob Moore, (Con) for Fundy, NB, would define marriage as "the lawful union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all other persons".

Thanks to you, over 700,000 e-mails have been sent to MPs through the Canadians for Equal Marriage (CEM) website. What an impact this has had!

Even though a Parliamentary Subcommittee ruled last week that the bill was unconstitutional, and therefore not eligible for a vote, CEM learned shortly afterwards that a deal had been made in August that would have seen this ruling overturned on an appeal by Rob Moore to the Procedures Committee. But thanks to all of our efforts, we convinced MPs this deal didn't apply to C-268!

Today, in a dramatic turn of events, MPs on the Procedures Committee upheld the ruling that Bill C-268 is unconstitutional and therefore non-voteable. Today, we proved that together we can make a real difference!

But the Anti-Equal Marriage Bill is not dead yet. Rob Moore still has one week to appeal the ruling to the entire House of Commons. If he succeeds, then the bill could still become law. It's too close to call.

That's why we're asking you to keep spreading the word and contacting MPs to let them know that they should not support this unconstitutional bill.

Opponents of equal marriage are still lobbying MPs in support of this legislation. Focus on the Family is still mobilizing thousands of equal marriage opponents to email and call their MPs in support of Bill C-268. We need to make sure that theirs is not the only message that is heard.

If Parliament passes Bill C-268, it will be legal chaos, and our right to marry will be in jeopardy across the country.

Now is the time to keep up the stream of e-mails to MPs, telling them to uphold the Charter and the Canadian values it represents by voting down Bill C-268.

Please contact your MP now!

E-mail your MP from our action website: www.equal-marriage.ca. Just click on Step 1: MP Action, and go from there. You don't need to know who your MP is. All you need is your postal code and our action website will find your MP.

In addition to e-mailing, please call your MP. Their phone number is also listed on our action website. Our experience shows that MPs pay most attention to phone calls.

Please tell your Family and Friends!

We must continue to flood MP offices with emails and calls telling them to vote down Bill C-268. This Bill flies in the face of the Charter and is un-Canadian! Click on Step 4: Invite a Friend where you can send equal marriage supporters an email asking them to visit the CEM website and contact their MPs.

Thanks in advance for your continued fast action!!

Laurie Arron
Political Coordinator
Canadians for Equal Marriage