

THE MANITOBA  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION



LA COMMISSION DES  
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE  
DU MANITOBA

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## **Manitoba Human Rights Commission Supports the Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry**

Manitoba Human Rights Commission Chairperson Janet Baldwin and Commissioner Elliot Leven will appear today before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights to speak on the issue of marriage and the legal recognition of same-sex unions.

They will urge the Committee to recommend that the Government of Canada legislate to remove the opposite-sex requirement for parties to a marriage, thereby permitting same-sex couples to legally marry.

Ms Baldwin and Mr. Leven will address the options under consideration by the Standing Committee, including one that would limit marriage to opposite-sex couples but establish a system of civil union or domestic partnership for "other conjugal relationships." The Commission's position is that the creation of such an alternate scheme is not sufficient to eliminate the discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Commission also rejects the option of leaving marriage exclusively to individuals and their religious institutions, as this would exclude many opposite-sex as well as same-sex couples from marrying.

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission representatives are scheduled to address the Committee today at 10:30 a.m. at the Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Museum in Steinbach, Manitoba.

For more information, please contact

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