



**News Release:** Manitoba Human Rights Commission  
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Manitoba Human Rights Commission Applauds  
Historic Decision On Same-Sex Marriage

**Winnipeg** - The Manitoba Human Rights Commission applauds today's decision by Mr. Justice Yard of the Court of Queen's Bench, which ordered that the definition of marriage in Manitoba include same-sex couples and that marriage licenses be immediately available to same-sex couples.

"It is exciting news that same-sex couples in Manitoba can now choose to legally marry in their home province," said Janet Baldwin, Chairperson. "These past few years have been truly historic in the recognition of the equality rights of gays and lesbians."

She said that the Commission has long-worked to advance equality rights for same-sex couples in areas such as spousal benefits, adoption and property rights. "We emphasized that the right to equal marriage was the heart of the matter," said Ms Baldwin. "We now look forward to more positive change nationally and globally with respect to equality rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons."

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission is intervening in support of same-sex marriage in the upcoming reference to the Supreme Court of Canada. The federal and Ontario human rights commissions are also intervening in support of equal marriage.

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