

To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Please register my opposition to the Marriage Equity Bill

- having ministered in Vancouver Canada for 4 years (of my 22 years ministry) and observed first hand the outworking of the total disregard for long held and valued standards of marriage there, I am convinced the benefits of such a bill are paltry compared to the far reaching and deeply impacting negative influence on our nations families, children and communities.
- my present position specialising as a full time Wedding Minister - with my particular experience, range of research and personal one on one work with couples, leaves me convinced (Christian or not) that the need to promote healthy, strong, committed, marriages is paramount. Such a bill will work directly against this, undermining the much needed high value and priority of a faithful marriage relationship.
- "anecdotally" - as the Canadian Anglican Church moved toward same sex blessings in churches what was shocking to me most was all the couples seeking such blessings had no intention to remain "faithful" to their partners - exclusively for life. This was no surprise to me, the pursuit of the gay lifestyle in fact by definition mitigates against it, what shocked me was the churches blind eye to this hypocrisy. Such a bill will be doing the same thing.

Again - because what is perceived as "gain" by such a bill so serves against the greater good, and because its ultimate impact will be the further devaluing of marriage, please do not give it your support.

yours sincerely

The Revd. Richard James