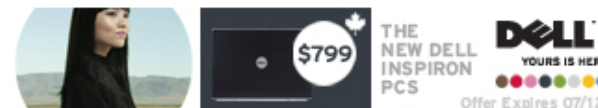


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Quote Unquote

December 10, 2004

'Several centuries ago, it would have been understood that marriage be available only to opposite-sex couples. The recognition of same-sex marriage in several Canadian jurisdictions as well as two European countries belies the assertion that the same is true today.' Supreme Court of Canada

'The reference judgment is a clear green light in favour of immediate legislation.' Martha McCarthy, lawyer representing Ontario and Quebec litigants

'Marriage has been hijacked today and I'm very sad.' Charles McVety, president of Toronto's Canada Christian College

'They're only appointed by the Liberals, so who cares?' Gwendolyn Landolt of socially conservative lobby group REAL Women, ripping into 'activist' Supreme Court judges

'This is the concern, the bogeyman, that has been trotted out by our opponents.' Douglas Elliot, lawyer for Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto on the court saying government can't compel religious officials to marry same-sex couples

'The important issue here is that it's being returned to the place where important public policy decisions ought to be made -- and that's the Parliament of Canada.' Joseph Ben-Ami of B'nai Brith

'Some people are really afraid of change. I think the important thing is realizing that marriage has evolved throughout history, and this is another natural change.' Gianluca Ragazzini, married to Dan Miller. The Ottawa couple married in June, 2003

'It is one that I've struggled with, but fundamentally it comes down to equality rights. I do not believe you can have two classes of citizens.' Prime Minister Paul Martin

'Parliament has the right to decide the marriage issue. There is nothing in this judgment that suggests otherwise. The court was asked repeatedly by the government, by intervenors, by all kinds of people, to make that ruling. The court did not make that ruling. The court had a chance to uphold the previous lower-court rulings and instead preferred to remain silent.' Conservative Leader Stephen Harper, saying the court's opinion reflects his party's position that the issue must be settled in Parliament and not in the courts

'We are concerned about this. Traditional marriage needs all the encouragement and support it can get.' Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, calling Catholics to lobby members of Parliament against changing the definition of marriage

'It's really great to be in a country that thinks our relationship is worth the same as everyone else's.' Amy Swensen, 26, of Calgary, who has set an Oct. 15 wedding date with her partner, Sandra Tiano, 33

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