

defendMARRIAGE.ca ACTION UPDATE ON STATUS OF BILL C-38

May 13, 2005

Dear Friends of Marriage:

Events are moving at a dizzying pace in Ottawa as we continue to work to defeat Paul Martin's anti-marriage Bill C-38. The Liberals were defeated this week in a Parliamentary vote that many say should have brought down the Martin Government. After refusing to accept the outcome, Martin promised to schedule a non-confidence vote on the budget for next Thursday May 19.

What plays into the controversy surrounding the time of an official non-confidence vote is the fact that one of the seriously ill MPs, Darryl Stinson, is scheduled for major surgery this coming Wednesday May 18 (**see article below**).

The Liberal-NDP coalition needs the votes of all three independent MPs – Chuck Cadman, David Kilgour and Carolyn Parrish – even to tie the combined votes of the Conservatives and the Bloc (153-153).

This deadlock has produced a paralyzed Parliament and, at present, all standing committees are suspended – all committees, that is, except the special committee hearing Bill C-38, which is in session. There are no pro-marriage Liberals on the committee but the Conservatives are represented by four solid supporters of marriage in Rona Ambrose, Gord Brown, Rob Moore and Vic Toews.

The committee is drawing up the witness list right now and already strong family advocates like Gwen Landolt, Bishop Fred Henry and Roy Beyer have been selected to speak. We can also be grateful that pro-marriage Liberal MP Pat O'Brien did manage to negotiate with the Prime Minister for full public hearings in exchange for the Member's continued support.

If the Government falls, C-38 and the committee are history. Our focus will be then to elect a pro-marriage Parliament.

If the Government does not fall, the committee could hear testimony for three to four weeks. A third reading vote could then be expected as early as mid-June or as late as October. We must continue to put pressure on those MPs who have to date supported C-38

Despite supporting pro-marriage Liberal MPs, Defend Marriage believes that the best opportunity to defeat Bill C-38 lies in bringing down the Martin Government, which remains committed – despite backbench opposition – to

passing Bill C-38. We need to elect a House of Commons that is solidly pro-marriage and the sooner that happens the better it will be for Canada.

Pray that pro-family independent MPs see the wisdom in this strategy. If your MP is Chuck Cadman or David Kilgour, tell him to vote with the Opposition. Also, pray for the health of ailing MPs Chuck Cadman, David Chatters and Darryl Stinson, all of whom are suffering from cancer right now but need to be in the House next week.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Charles McVety
Senior Director
Defend Marriage Coalition**

P.S.: Please send this to your contact list!

(If you doubt that Tuesday's vote was a confidence motion or if you find yourself persuaded by the Liberal spin that this was merely a procedural hiccup, I recommend that you visit the website of Canada's foremost academic expert on Parliamentary rules, Andrew Heard of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. at <http://www.sfu.ca/~aheard/conventions.html> . In his judgment, "the motion passed on May 10, 2005 indicates that it should be considered a clear vote of confidence. It would be against previous precedent and principles of responsible government to simply carry on as if this was merely a procedural vote.")

>National Post column

It's down to playing the cancer card

Did the Liberals time a vote to coincide with Stinson's operation?

**John Ivison
National Post
Friday, May 13, 2005**

There was much bemusement at Stephen Harper's intemperate performance in front of the cameras on Wednesday, when the Conservative leader accused the Prime Minister of calling a non-confidence vote next week in the hope that the health of a couple of sick MPs would deteriorate in the interim.

"I must have missed the focus group which said white rage went down well with Canadians," said one Conservative.

With hindsight, though, the reasons for Harper's Mr. Furious routine may be more understandable. It emerged yesterday that Darrel Stinson, one of the Conservatives fighting cancer, has an operation scheduled for Wednesday and will miss the vote the following day. What enraged Harper was his belief that the Liberals knew about this and cynically exploited the information by calling the vote for a time when Stinson was unavailable.

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