

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tues., June 7, 2005

MARTIN MAKES IMPOSSIBLE PROMISE TO PRO-MARRIAGE LIBERAL MPS

Ottawa, ON - Prime Minister Martin is apparently willing to promise anything to remain in power. His latest deception according to news reports, is to promise a group of his own MPs that he is willing to amend Bill C-38 (same-sex marriage), but his proposed amendments relate only to matters of provincial jurisdiction and therefore are "useless and of no effect" said Brian Rushfeldt, Canada Family Action Coalition, a member of the Defend Marriage Coalition.

Martin's suggested amendments as reported by CTV News are as follows:

- Stronger guarantees that Charter rights will not override religious freedoms
- Justices of the Peace who do not want to perform civil marriages of same-sex couples will not have to do so
- Churches will not be required to rent out their halls for same-sex weddings
- Religious educational institutions will still be allowed to preach that homosexuality is against God's law, without being subject to hate crime laws.

Rushfeldt added, "This latest maneuver of the Prime Minister is clearly just another tactic of deception, making promises to the 35 pro-marriage Liberal MPs in exchange for their continued support, when in fact he has no jurisdiction to deliver on any of those promises. Former Liberal MP, Pat O'Brien, who left the party yesterday over deceptions made to him by Mr. Martin, has learned this lesson; one would hope other pro-marriage MPs can see through this latest PMO smokescreen."

Gwen Landolt, of Real Women of Canada, another Coalition member, stated, "It is note worthy that Mr. Martin did not make any proposals to amend Bill C-38 on matters that fall within his own federal jurisdiction, such as proposals to protect the freedom of expression and opinion and the charitable status of religious organizations and others opposed to same-sex marriage under the Income Tax Act and the Canada Elections Act."

Landolt concludes, "Mr. Martin's proposals made to his Liberal colleagues reveal an intellectual and moral vacuity that has become a consistent pattern in his manoeuvring to remain in power. This is very disturbing and provides a clear warning that Mr. Martin is not to be trusted."

"Defend Marriage Coalition urges all MPs to continue their fight against Bill C-38," added Landolt. "The best and only solution for Canadians will be for MPs to defeat this Bill."

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Contact persons:

Brian Rushfeldt, [CFAC Executive Director](#)
Tel. (403) 295-2159

Gwendolyn Landolt, [REAL Women President](#)
Tel. (905) 731-5425 , 787-0348