

CONSTITUENCY REFERENDUM #5:

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Vote on Bill C-38



SCOTT REID, MP LANARK-FRONTENAC-LENNOX & ADDINGTON
CONSTITUENCY OFFICES

CARLETON PLACE
6 Lake Avenue West
Carleton Place, ON, K7C 1L2
Tel (613) 257-8130
Fax (613) 257-4371

NAPANEE
4 Market Square
Napanee, ON, K7R 1J3
Tel (613) 354-1948
Fax (613) 354-0924

PARLIAMENT HILL

440-C Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6
Tel (613) 947-2277
Fax (613) 947-2278



1-866-277-1577

WWW.SCOTTREID.CA

MP@SCOTTREID.CA

Dear Constituent,

The "Civil Marriage Act" (Bill C-38) would bring a **legislated end to the traditional definition of marriage** as "the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others." Bill C-38 would **redefine marriage as "the union of two persons."** This bill, if passed, would therefore authorize same-sex marriages.

This is the fifth Constituency Referendum that I have held, and the first as the MP for Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox & Addington. **I am asking you to instruct me how to vote on Bill C-38** when it makes its final appearance in the House of Commons at "Third Reading."

Polls show that a majority of Canadians would like to see this issue dealt with by a national referendum. Since this is not possible, **I am acting on the promise that I made on election day, 2004, when I pledged to ask constituents to advise me how to vote on critical issues---particularly on issues of moral conscience.**

I voted against Bill C-38 at "Second Reading", as my conscience dictated. Now it is your turn to instruct me how to vote at Third Reading. This Referendum is your opportunity to **vote as dictated by your own conscience and beliefs**---whether you agree with me or not. I will abide by the decision of the voters of this riding.

Only ballots received prior to the Third Reading vote can be taken into account, so please mail yours as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

CONSTITUENCY REFERENDUM #5: *Vote on Bill C-38*

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Prominent Canadians Speak out FOR and AGAINST Bill C-38

Bill C-38 and Freedom of Religion

For Bill C-38:

"There are wide and varying opinions about sexual orientation and same-sex marriage within the Christian community. These theological debates should not impede the legal necessity of recognizing that the marriage rites of various religious communities are equal before the law. The law with regard to who receives the sacrament and religious rite of marriage has the power to prohibit marriage only between persons for whom sexual relations are regarded as illegal."

—Rev. Daniel Bogert-O'Brien (Minister, First United Church, Ottawa) *Ottawa Citizen*, Feb. 6, 2005

"Canada's definition of marriage stems from an 1866 case in which a British judge wrote that 'marriage, as understood in Christendom, may for this purpose be defined as the voluntary union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.' As the Supreme Court of Canada points out, the British judge was speaking to a 'society of shared social values where marriage and religion were thought to be inseparable.' No one today speaks seriously of Christendom."

—Editorial, *Globe & Mail*, Feb. 3, 2005

Against Bill C-38:

"Bill C-38 does not actually contain any protections for religious rights. The Supreme Court of Canada stated clearly that enacting legislation to protect the right of Churches to celebrate marriage according to their doctrine is a provincial, not a federal jurisdiction."

—Rev. Richard Smith (President, Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops) *Letter to Pat O'Brien, MP*, March 15, 2005.

"[Bill C-38 is likely to erode] religious liberty on questions relating to marriage. First it will be churches forced to rent out their halls and basements for a same-sex couple's wedding reception. Then it will be religious charities forced to recognize employees in same-sex relationships as legally married. Then it will be religious schools not being allowed to fire a teacher in a same-sex marriage. Then it will be a hierarchal or synodal church not being allowed to discipline an errant priest or minister who performs a civilly legal but canonically illicit same-sex marriage. All of this can happen short of the worst-case scenario specifically exempted in the federal government's proposed law."

—Father Raymond De Souza, writing in the journal *First Things*, 2004.

Bill C-38 and the Family

For Bill C-38:

"When provincial civil law began to recognize what are called common-law marriages of couples who live together but aren't legally married, the term 'marriage' lost all of its traditional meaning. There is, in reality, no traditional institution left to be protected, and it's time the state acknowledged this and got out of the business."

—Anthony Westell, *Globe and Mail*, Feb. 18, 2005

Against Bill C-38

"Not long ago I was seated at dinner beside an Ontario family law judge. I asked what his position was on adoption equity for gays. Would he, once gay marriage was entrenched, and in keeping with our government's current equity legislation in the workplace, feel obliged to fast-track gays' access to available children to make up for 'past injustices' and their 'disability' on the procreative front? And what about a single mother willing to give up her child for adoption, provided the baby went to a heterosexual couple? Whose rights would be privileged, hers or those of gay adoptive applicants?"

"... Eventually the judge opined that a gay married couple's rights should trump a biological mother's right to have her child raised in a normative family. And on further reflection, he decided, he would also be partial to equity adoption policies for gays."

—Barbara Kay, *National Post*, Feb. 2, 2005

Bill C-38 and Equality Rights

For Bill C-38:

"Four years ago I stood in the House and voted to support the traditional definition of marriage. Many of us did. My misgivings about extending the right of civil marriage to same sex couples were a function of my faith and my perspective on the world around us, but much has changed since that day. We have heard from courts across the country, including the Supreme Court. We have come to the realization that instituting civil unions, adopting a separate but equal approach would violate the equality provisions of the Charter."

—Paul Martin, speaking in the House of Commons, Feb. 16, 2005

Against Bill C-38:

"Politicians advocating state-sanctioned homosexual unions consistently argue that this will do no harm but I've yet to hear one try to explain the social or civil benefits of the exercise. Homosexual couples already have spousal pension, medical and compassionate leave entitlements and can even adopt children."

—Lee Morrison (Member of Parliament, 1993-2000), Feb. 21, 2005

See these websites for further information on Bill C-38:

Advocacy Sites (FOR Bill C-38)

www.equalmarriage.ca or www.samesexmarriage.ca
<http://www.egale.ca/>

Advocacy Sites (AGAINST Bill C-38)

<http://familyaction.org>
www.theinterim.com
http://www.lifesite.net/features/marriage_defence/

General Information:

http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/general/same_sex/important-links.html

Other sites of interest:

www.usconstitution.net/jeffwall.html

www.genome.gov

A copy of Bill C-38 is available at:

http://www.parl.gc.ca/38/1/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-38/C-38_1/C-38_cover-E.html

VOTING RULES

- 1) One vote may be cast, per REGISTERED VOTER in each household.
- 2) Ballots will be reviewed against the Final Voter's List for the 2004 election. If more votes are cast than the number of voters residing at that address, all of the votes will be disregarded. (However, there is no requirement that all voters residing at an address participate, in order for the ballot to be counted).
- 3) In order to prevent multiple voting, please give your name(s) and address below. By law, your information **cannot** be divulged to anyone. For further security, the ballots will be destroyed following the vote in the House of Commons.
- 4) The results of the referendum will be made public prior to the vote in the House of Commons.

BALLOT

Should Scott Reid, MP vote FOR the *Civil Marriage Act* (Bill C-38)?

VOTER #1	<input type="radio"/>	YES	VOTER #2	<input type="radio"/>	YES	VOTER #3	<input type="radio"/>	YES	VOTER #4	<input type="radio"/>	YES
	<input type="radio"/>	NO		<input type="radio"/>	NO		<input type="radio"/>	NO		<input type="radio"/>	NO

ADDRESS (Include Postal Code):

NAMES OF PARTICIPATING VOTERS:

COMMENTS:



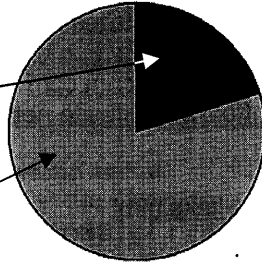
Results of Referenda # 1 - 4

REFERENDUM #1 (August 15, 2001)

"WHAT SHOULD SCOTT REID DO WITH THE \$21,000 ANNUAL MP PAY RAISE?"

17% - "OPT OUT and give the money back to the government."

83% - "OPT IN and give the money to charity."



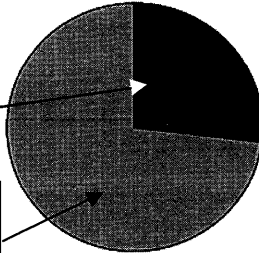
ACTION TAKEN: Each year since 2001, Scott Reid has donated \$21,000 for CPR training and to buy defibrillators.

REFERENDUM #3 (November 27, 2001)

"HOW SHOULD SCOTT REID VOTE ON THE ANTI-TERRORISM ACT (BILL C-36)?"

27% - "Vote FOR Bill C-36 Even if it doesn't have a Sunset Clause."

73% - "Vote AGAINST Bill C-36 Unless it has a Sunset Clause."



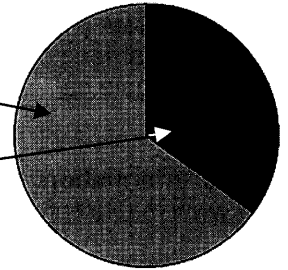
ACTION TAKEN: On November 28, 2001, Scott Reid voted AGAINST the *Anti-Terrorism Act* at 3rd Reading

REFERENDUM #2 (October 17, 2001)

"HOW SHOULD SCOTT REID VOTE ON BILL C-5, THE SPECIES AT RISK ACT?"

65% - "YES" Vote for the Bill

35% - "NO" Vote against the Bill



ACTION TAKEN: On June 11, 2002, Scott Reid voted IN FAVOUR of the Species at Risk Act at 3rd Reading.

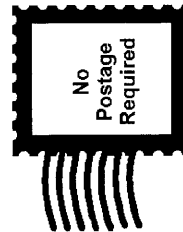
REFERENDUM #4 (October 30, 2002)

"DO YOU APPROVE OF THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION'S PRELIMINARY DECISION TO

- a) ... 'Respect the boundaries' of Lanark County?
YES—84% NO—16%
- b) ... include Smiths Falls in the same district?
YES—79% NO—21%

ACTION TAKEN: On November 4, 2002, Scott Reid presented the findings to the Electoral Boundaries Commission. When the Commission removed Mississippi Mills from the riding, Scott Reid petitioned to overturn this decision. He continues to work to re-unite Lanark County.

CUT HERE



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ Prov: ON
 Postal Code: _____

Scott Reid, MP
 440-C Centre Block
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Note on C-38!

PLEASE PRINT NAME HERE