



## Family Services à la famille Ottawa

### POSITION ON SUPPORT FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGE

Family Services à la famille Ottawa will act, through its counseling education and advocacy, to support same-sex couples' right to marry.

Operationally, Family Services à la famille Ottawa will continue to initiate and/or offer the following actions and services:

- Add its support to Canadians for Equal Marriage in support of Bill C-38
- Continue to work with couples and families, regardless of sexual orientation, in all services in the agency
- As part of the spectrum of family life education services, continue to develop and offer services specifically for GLBT families, for example, the Rainbow Families Coalition.

Family Services à la famille Ottawa's newly re-dedicated mission is to "support families in all their forms".

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides that equal rights must be guaranteed to all persons living in Canada.

The courts have said that access to civil marriage for same-sex couples is a matter of equality, and denial of that access is discrimination. They have also ruled that permitting equal marriage does not infringe anyone's freedom of religion, but rather enhances it by permitting religions that wish to marry same-sex couples to do so.<sup>1</sup>

Family Services à la famille Ottawa believes that marriage is a choice for couples to affirm their commitment of caring that is available to all heterosexual couples in Canada, and should be equally available to same sex couples.

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<sup>1</sup>Canadians for Equal Marriage, 2005