



LORNA S TAKE... ON CANADA S MORAL ISSUE

By Lorna Dueck, host of "Listen Up"

May I suggest a summer prayer project for all who read these pages? Pray for marriage and what Canada chooses to do with it. Most of us can hardly believe we are at a point in our country where the courts have mandated that marriage must be redefined to include gay couples.

It is important that we take action by writing to our Prime Minister and Justice Minister, and by personally visiting our Members of Parliament. We should petition and be as vocal as we can in letters to the editor and on open-line programs. And while it's hard to admit the possibility that it may be too late, I'd be unwise to encourage you to ignore what political leaders and the courts are saying about this. Otherwise, it could mean that, in the not too distant future, pastors will be challenged in court if they refuse to marry gay couples.

"It's time to start thinking about Plan B," warned MP John McKay (Scarborough East), vice chair of the Justice Committee, assigned by parliament to recommend the legal future on marriage. The "Plan B" he was referring to is the plan to have churches detach from their role in civic marriages. Any religious affirmation of marriage would be separate, optional rites of blessing that would be protected by religious freedom guarantees in the Charter of Rights.

The reality of having to go through two ceremonies to gain both legal recognition and the act of invoking God's blessing on our unions is a staggering setback for our freedom in this country, but a minor inconvenience when considering the enormous setback this is in our moral landscape.

As a nation, we are about to open the pandora's box of rebellion against God's ideal for marriage. Now is the moment Canada needs prayer for its future. ✞