

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA  
(ON APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL OF ONTARIO)**

**BETWEEN:**

INTERFAITH COALITION ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
Applicant (Party Intervener)

-and-

HEDY HALPERN and COLLEEN ROGERS  
MICHAEL LESHNER and MICHAEL STARK  
ALOYSIUS PITTMAN and THOMAS ALLWORTH  
DAWN ONISHENKO and JULIE ERBLAND  
CAROLYN ROWE and CAROLYN MOFFATT  
BARBARA McDOWALL and GAIL DONNELLY and  
ALISON KEMPER and JOYCE BARNETT (the “Respondent Couples”), and

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TORONTO  
Respondents/Moving Parties  
(Respondents)

and

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ONTARIO  
Respondents (Appellants)

-and-

EGALE CANADA INC.  
Respondent (Party Intervener)

-and-

THE ASSOCIATION FO MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY IN ONTARIO  
Respondent (Party Intervener)

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**AFFIDAVIT OF TIM RYAN**

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I, Tim Ryan, of the City of Toronto, in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, MAKE  
OATH AND SAY:

1. I am a Catholic priest who has worked extensively with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community for almost thirty years.
2. I completed theological studies leading to ordination in 1962 at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ont. And St. Augustine's seminary in Toronto. After several years of ministry in Brazil, I did post-graduate studies in Theology in France and Germany, receiving my Licentiate in Theology from the Facultes Catholiques de Lyon. I completed a Doctorate in Theology at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto in 1983. Among many other ministries I have served in over forty years, for many years I was a Lecturer in Theology, mostly in the area of Social Ethics in Brazil and at the Toronto School of Theology.
3. I remain a Roman Catholic priest and am an active member in good standing of the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society.
4. As someone with many decades of experience in ministry to the gay and lesbian community, I welcomed the decisions of the Ontario Court of Appeal, British Columbia Court of Appeal and Québec Superior Court reformulating the common law definition of marriage as "the voluntary union for life of two persons with the exclusion of all others."
5. It is my opinion that freedom of religion, as guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights, requires that a definition of marriage be extended to same-sex unions.
6. I agree that freedom of religion includes the right of the churches to marry two individuals with accordance to its own beliefs and rituals.
7. I also strongly also believe (and am willing to undertake to support the position) that no church or other religious authority will be forced to conduct marriages ceremonies that are not in conformity with its beliefs and rituals.

8. I strongly support the position of the Government of Canada not to appeal the decisions of the Ontario and B.C. Courts of Appeal and instead propose a legislation that would extend marriage rights to same-sex couples. I also believe that the Reference to the Supreme Court is the most appropriate way of dealing with the issue of freedom of religion in the context of the proposed legislation on same-sex marriage.
  
9. In addition, I understand that the process of passage of the Bill will give Canadians of all political and religious denominations further opportunity to express their views with regard to the Bill.
  
10. I therefore oppose the leave to appeal to the Supreme Court by other religious groups as it is an unnecessary step duplicating the efforts of the Government to resolve the issue of freedom of religion by the way of the Bill and the Reference.
  
11. I am well aware of the Vatican's recent pronouncement against the legal recognition of same-sex marriage and the fact that the Catholic Bishops are seeking to pursue this appeal. As with various issues touching on matters of sex and sexuality many Canadian Catholics do not share the views of the hierarchy, including myself.

SWORN before me at )  
the City of Toronto, in the )  
Province of Ontario, )  
on the            <sup>th</sup> day )  
of August, 2003. )

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TIM RYAN

A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits