

The Georgia Straight

What's with Stephen Harper's timing? Why reopen the same-sex-marriage debate now?

Publish Date: 8-Jun-2006



Mary-Woo Sims

National co-chair for Canadians for Equal Marriage

"Isn't the timing creepy? Harper's announcement was on the heels of the American president's announcement of the constitutional amendment [banning same-sex marriage]. It's institutional discrimination."



Michael Geoghegan

Political consultant, MGC Ltd.

"Harper does not want this as an election issue. By doing it early, it's less likely the government will fall on the issue. This fall, same-sex marriage will get introduced and will go nowhere because not enough MPs will vote for it. He can appease his conservative voters and it will get defeated."



Hedy Fry

Liberal MP, Vancouver Centre

"Because they can. Because they're the government. Harper made a promise to the right-wing people and he's going to want to say that he kept his promise. But it won't pass."



Cal Garingan

Writer-director, *Why Thee Wed* (2005)

"It seems like it's never going to be over! I thought it was a done deal until this weekend. It goes back to homophobia. In this country, we've settled that we're not racist or misogynist, but we haven't settled that we're not going to be homophobic."