

Bill #2

The Marriage Arrangement Act

WHEREAS: "The percentage of marriages in a given year that will end in divorce before their 30th wedding anniversary has increased slightly from 36.1 per cent in 1998 to 37.9 per cent in 2004"¹ and

WHEREAS: "Marriage is still a vitally important part of the experience of families in the fabric of our country and most young people do aspire to marriage,"² and

WHEREAS: "Human mate choice in Western society seems to be based on a preference for long-term partners who are similar to one's perception of self across a number of evolutionary relevant categories of traits,"³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 As of 01 January 2012, the Government of Canada shall establish the Compatibility Overview for Union Planning and Life Establishment [**COUPLE**] to regulate all marriage licenses in Canada.
 - (1) Foreign marriage licenses obtained by Canadian citizens shall no longer be recognized in Canada.
- 2 **COUPLE** shall repeal all common law unions and revoke extended benefits previously granted under the common law system, including but not limited to:
 - (1) financial support;
 - (2) property rights;
 - (3) adoption rights;
 - (4) tax benefits; and
 - (5) inheritance rights.
- 3 Only partners with **COUPLE** authorized marriages shall be permitted to have custody of children.
 - (1) Custody rights granted prior to the establishment of **COUPLE** shall be recognized indefinitely.
 - (2) The custody of children born outside **COUPLE** authorized unions shall be considered on a case by case basis.
- 4 All non-married Canadian citizens 16 years of age and over must register as a member of **COUPLE**, and submit a Verification Of Wants (**VOW**) application.

¹ Canadian Divorce Statistics." *Institute of Marriage and Family Canada*. N.p., 15 Nov. 2010. Web. 22 Sept. 2011. <<http://imfcanada.org/default.aspx?go=article&aid=1182&tid=8>>.

²Scientists: Opposites don't attract - CNN." *Featured Articles from CNN*. N.p., 1 July 2003. Web. 22 Sept. 2011. <http://articles.cnn.com/2003-07-01/tech/potentials.attract_1_scientists-social-status-human-mate-choice?_s=PM:TECH>.

³ Vanier Institute of the Family. "4 in 10 first marriages end in divorce: report." *CBC News Canada*. CBC News, 4 Oct. 2010. Web. 20 Sept. 2011. <www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2010/10/04/vanier-study004.html>.

- (1) The **VOW** application is an extensive survey which shall acquire information on the individual's:
 - (a) age;
 - (b) gender;
 - (c) sexual orientation;
 - (d) sexual fidelity;
 - (e) ethnicity;
 - (f) culture;
 - (g) religion/morals/values;
 - (h) wealth/status;
 - (i) career/education;
 - (j) criminal record history;
 - (k) medical history;
 - (l) current location;
 - (m) physical appearance;
 - (n) personal interests; and
 - (o) family commitment.
 - (2) The **VOW** will create an online personality profile for each individual.
 - (a) Individual profile information must be updated at minimum of once per year.
 - (b) Exposure of fraudulent information shall result in:
 - (i) a fine of \$1000;
 - (ii) a one year suspension of the individual's **VOW** profile; or
 - (iii) a revocation of the marriage license if its authorization was based upon the fraudulent information.
- 5 **COUPLE** shall determine a suitable number of personal matches based upon **VOW** profiles.
- (1) It is at the individual discretion of each person to meet and interact with his or her matches.
 - (2) Only individuals matched by **COUPLE** shall be eligible for a marriage license.
 - (a) **COUPLE** shall have no affiliation with marriage ceremonies.
 - (3) Online profiles will be suspended for the duration of marriages.
- 6 **COUPLE** shall provide mandatory marriage counseling and support for the duration of the marriage.
- (1) The frequency of the visits shall be at the discretion of the marriage counselor.