

Bill 5

Plural Marriage Act

WHEREAS “The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of the person, including the right to practice one’s religion without persecution”; and¹

WHEREAS “The current law pertaining to polygamy, which is a religious freedom in the LDS church, is currently illegal according to the criminal code of Canada (section 293) and bigamy (polyamory), which by definition means “the crime of marrying a person while one is still legally married to someone else” is also illegal under section 290”; and²

WHEREAS “When a law declares a practice illegal, it usually leads to seditious or subversive activity in which case the activity becomes unsafe and even dangerous in context”; and³

WHEREAS “The state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation.”⁴

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

- 1 As of January 1, 2017, the Government of Canada shall decriminalize and legalize the practice of polygamy, polyandry and polyamory.
 - (1) All Canadian citizens who are living in Canada or abroad, who are in a polygamous, polyandrous and/or polyamorous relationship who wish to marry, shall have the right to obtain an official marriage license.
 - (a) Citizens must be 18 and over and give full consent to marriage(s).
 - (b) Individuals are only married to the person/persons they marry in the relationship; therefore, they do not have a legal and fiscal responsibility to others.
 - (2) Any Canadian citizen living or deceased who has faced persecution due to polygamy, polyandry, and/or polyamory will be officially pardoned by the Government of Canada.

- 2 As of January 1, 2017, the Government of Canada shall establish the Council On Managing Pluralist Affairs in Societal Situations for Impending and Ongoing Needs [**COMPASSION**] to manage marriages, divorces and other needs of plural couples in accordance with Vital Statistics Canada.
 - (1) [**COMPASSION**] shall consist of members who are advocates, lawyers, and civil servants that will work in accordance with Vital Statistics Canada.

¹ Government of Canada. (1982). *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Part I of the *Constitution Act*. Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982*. Retrieved from: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-15.html>

² Government of Canada. (1985). *Criminal Code of Canada R.S.C. 1985, C-46*. Retrieved from: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/>

³ Global News Canada. (2012). *Inside Bountiful: Polygamy investigation*. Retrieved from: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UixdcBdOjNM>

⁴ Parli. The Dictionary of Canadian Politics (2016). *Quote from then Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau, 1967*. Retrieved from: <http://www.parli.ca/state-place-bedrooms-nation/>

- (a) [COMPASSION] shall provide counselling services free of charge to couples wishing to receive guidance and assistance.
- (b) [COMPASSION] shall determine and regulate all tax benefits for members of a plural marriage.
 - i. [COMPASSION] shall assist plural marriage couples in filing taxes, granted that it might be very difficult to do so on one's own.
 - ii. [COMPASSION] shall charge a fee of \$75.00 per person to assist families in filing taxes.
- (c) [COMPASSION] shall assist Vital Statistics Canada to coordinate birth certificates of plural couples' children.
 - i. A maximum of two legal guardians shall be listed on the child's birth certificate.

3 [COMPASSION] shall operate in accordance with Vital Statistics Canada to regulate how marriage licences are registered to polygamous/polyandrous/polyamorous couples for documentation and statistical purposes.

- (1) Each marriage within a polygamous or polyandrous group shall be carefully crafted with the understanding that:
 - (a) Polyandry is where one (1) individual who identifies as a woman is married to (2 or more) individuals who identify as men, that are not married to each other.
 - (b) Polygamy is where one (1) individual who identifies as a man is married to (2 or more) individuals who identify as women, that are not married to each other.
- (2) Each marriage within a polyamorous group shall be liberally structured with no restrictions related to gender identities.
 - (a) A polyamorous relationship shall consist of 3 or more individuals.

4 Polygamous and polyandrous divorces shall abide by the same legal, financial, custodial and property-related laws encompassed in monogamous divorce.

- (1) Polyamorous divorces where only two (2) parties are separating are subject to these same regulations
- (2) [COMPASSION] shall arbitrate polyamorous divorces in which more than two parties are separating.
- (3) [COMPASSION] shall be involved with divorce proceedings and will assist polygamous/polyamorous/polyandrous couples on a case by case basis.