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Groups to rally against same-sex marriage

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TORONTO - People opposed to the federal government's decision to legalize same-sex marriage will hold rallies across Canada Sunday urging their members of Parliament to vote against the legislation.

- INDEPTH: [Same sex rights](#)

In June, Ottawa said it would not appeal lower court rulings recognizing gay unions. An earlier ruling by Ontario's highest court ordered the legal definition of marriage changed to include gay couples.

- FROM JUNE 17, 2003: [Ottawa to recognize same-sex marriages](#)

The federal government submitted draft legislation to the Supreme Court of Canada for review before it's put to a free vote in Parliament.

According to the draft bill, "marriage for civil purposes is the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others."

The cross-country "marriage prayer rally" is being organized by several religious and family organizations. Most will take place outside the constituency offices of MPs.

The groups argue the definition of marriage cannot be altered by the Charter of Rights, the government or a court of law because it "pre-exists the state."

Meanwhile, a poll released Sunday by SES Research Canada suggests 47 per cent of Canadians support same-sex marriage, while 44 per cent are opposed. The highest support comes from B.C. and Quebec, with the lowest in Alberta.

The 10-day poll surveyed 1,000 Canadians, with a margin of error at plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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