

CALGARYSUN.COM**PUT YOUR MORTGAGE UP FOR BID**[Subscribe](#) [Classifieds](#) [Contests](#) [Homes](#)

Sept. 7, 2003

Sunday, September 7, 2003

[search calgarysun.com](#) **INDEX****HOME****CAREERS****CLASSIFIEDS****COMMENT****CONTESTS****HOMES****LIFESTYLE****NEWS****OUTDOORS**

✦ Backswing

✦ The Edge

✦ Mike Drew

✦ RV living

PHOTOS**SHOWBIZ**

✦ Bars & clubs

✦ CDs & music

✦ Event guide

✦ Movie guide

✦ Dine out

SPORTS

✦ Flames

✦ Hitmen/CHL

✦ Stampeders/CFL

FAVOURITES

Bret Hart

Comics

Crossword

Horoscopes

Lotteries

Max Haines

TV listings

SERVICES

Advertising

Place a classified

Subscribe online

Employment

Letter to the editor

Contact the Sun

About the Sun

RELATED LINKS[Canoe.ca](#)

MPs will pay price at polls

Sun poll reveals Albertans most opposed to legalizing same-sex weddings

By BILL RODGERS, OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA -- Sixty percent of Canadians who oppose same-sex marriage say they would vote against their MP in the next election if he or she favours the controversial legislation, according to an SES/Sun Media poll.

The national survey of a thousand Canadians, conducted between Aug. 24 and Sept. 2, shows the opposite is true for supporters of same-sex marriage.

Of Canadians who support it, 63% say they would not take it out on their MP if he or she had an opposite view.

Across the country, 45% of respondents said there would be a political price to pay on election day, while 55% said the same-sex marriage issue wouldn't affect their vote.

Overall, the poll shows Canadians are evenly split on the federal government's plan to legalize same-sex marriage.

About 47% say such unions should be allowed, but 44% say marriage should be between a man and a woman only -- 9% were unsure.

Alberta was the least likely to support it, at 28%, while a whopping 63% say marriage should be left alone.

Canadians in Quebec and B.C. were the most

CLICK HERE TO
RECEIVE YOUR
FREE VACATION
BROCHURES BY MAIL



QUIT
ESSENTIALS
New Start to a New Year



RV Living



SUN
CONTESTS



likely to support changing the definition of marriage -- finding 53% support in both provinces.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Atlantic provinces more closely reflected the national split.

Nik Nanos, president and CEO of SES Canada Research Inc., said the poll results mean little wiggle room for politicians.

"People are going to have to stand up and clarify their position either way and be prepared to take it on the chin," said Nanos.

Alliance House leader John Reynolds warns it will be an issue in the next election.

"I wouldn't doubt" that there will be MPs who lose their seats over the issue, Reynolds said.

It's a feeling echoed by Toronto-area Grit MP Dan McTeague, who believes more than 30 MPs could go down to defeat on same-sex marriage.

"For a significant majority in a number of ridings like mine, the numbers are very telling," McTeague said.

"We have the makings of the perfect political storm."

Saint John Tory MP Elsie Wayne said she has received thousands of letters, e-mails and phone calls on the issue and most oppose change to marriage.

She said opposition is not just in rural areas.

"The silent majority in the largest cities are not in favour of this," said Wayne.

The poll also shows 33% of Canadians do not trust the opinion of the courts, church or religious leaders -- or their MPs on the issue.

Meanwhile, 31% say they would trust the Supreme Court, and 23% would listen to their church. Only 7% said they would trust their MP's opinion on the hot-button issue.

Sixty percent of Canadians under 30 support same-sex marriage. Only 32% of those over the age of 60 supported the idea.

OTA
IAL
DOWN



The SES/Sun Media poll also shows those who regularly attend religious services are least likely to support same-sex marriage at just 24%.

The survey is considered accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Previous story: [Alberta lacks 'I dos' to nuptials question](#)

Next story: [Summer ends on historic 30C high](#)

Want to reprint this article? To request copyright clearance and reprint / republish / photocopy permission or web posting permission for a Sun Media newspaper article or photograph, please [click here](#)



CNEWS Headlines

CANADA | [Canada shares terror fear](#)
WORLD | [NYC tries to put 9/11 behind two years later](#)

TECH NEWS | [Review: Segway Human Transporter transports user to world of celebrity](#)

CANADA | [Blackout fears top agenda at annual meeting of eastern premiers and governors](#)

WORLD | [Afghan troops prepare for new](#)