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## Vigil against same-sex marriage has poor turnout

By PETER CHENEY  
With a report from CP  
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A national prayer vigil against same-sex marriage that was supposed to bring out a million people across Canada yesterday drew only a handful of participants.

Organizers of the Millions for Marriage rally hoped that huge crowds would gather outside the constituency offices of every federal MP to demonstrate their opposition to federal plans to legalize same-sex marriage. But the actual turnout was a different story.

In Montreal, for example, journalists outnumbered protesters in front of Justice Minister Martin Cauchon's office. And only four people turned up for the rally at the office of Liberal leadership candidate Paul Martin.

In downtown Toronto, about a dozen people clustered on the sidewalk outside the office of Tony Ianno, Liberal member for Trinity-Spadina.

Among them was Adassa Campbell, a 61-year-old hospital admitting clerk, who said it was "against the will of God" for people of the same sex to be married.

"I'm completely opposed," she said. "It's totally wrong. God created man and woman to multiply and replenish the Earth. God created a woman for Adam from his rib. He didn't make him a gay partner."

Ms. Campbell's friend Fran Agugua, a 52-year-old postal clerk, echoed her sentiments: "If two men are married, they can't procreate. You've got to get an egg somewhere. And neither one of them have it."

The theme was repeated in Ottawa, where Jackie Borque declared that same-sex

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marriage is "completely opposed to God, his principles and why he formed man and woman.

"He did not form Adam and Steve, but Adam and Eve," Ms. Borque said.

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Many of yesterday's demonstrations were planned for about 30 swing ridings, where members won their seats by just a few votes in the last election. Demonstrators hoped to convince MPs that supporting federal plans to legalize same-sex marriage would lead to defeat in an election that is expected next spring.

A public-opinion survey by SES-Research suggests that 60 per cent of Canadians who oppose gay marriage intend to vote against politicians who support the legislation. The poll indicates that 47 per cent of Canadians support the proposed law, while 44 per cent are opposed.

Support was strongest in Quebec and British Columbia, and weakest in Alberta. The move toward legalizing same-sex marriages began when courts in Ontario and British Columbia ruled that the law's failure to acknowledge such unions violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Rather than launch an appeal it was unlikely to win, the Liberal government said it would amend the law and submit it to the Supreme Court for advance review before a free vote in Parliament.

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