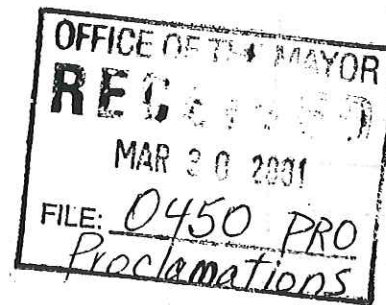




UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



*Copy to
Clerks*

March 31, 2001

Mayor Pat Fiacco and City Council
FAX 306-777-6824

Dear Mayor Fiacco and Councillors:

I write to express my dismay for the decision of City Council to declare Heterosexual Family Pride Day. The City's endorsement of dedicated days has always been reserved to prominent causes that promote social well-being, and those that focus on those who have been marginalised within our society by discriminatory practices such as racism, sexism and homophobia. Heterosexual families are not subject to such discrimination. Heterosexual families are the norm in our society, and political culture and public policy address the social, economic and political interests of heterosexual families as a matter of normative assumption. To promote this form of familial organisation as though it needed recognition, as though it were unrecognised, unsupported, and in danger of oppression, is misleading and politically unwise. On this logic, the fact of recognition of National Aboriginal Day (June 21) would require an 'equal' recognition of a National Coloniser (or National White Folks) Day; the recognition of International Women's Day (March 8) would require an International Men's Day. This logic creates a false equality between patently unequal social formations, in order to promote the privileged 'equally' with the subordinated. In declaring Heterosexual Family Pride Day, City Council in fact plays into the hands of those heterosexuals (and potentially, of racists and sexists) who clamour for 'equal' treatment, which in fact amounts to diluting the social message of anti-sexist, heterosexual and racist designated days. It's unnecessary, it's dangerous, and it's wrong.

Finally, the language used in the City Proclamation is exclusionary, and promotes the alleged virtues of the heterosexual biblically ordained family in such a way as to imply that these virtues are not held by other family forms, or by other religious faiths, or by single persons. In doing this the City of Regina in fact perpetuates negative stereotyping of non-nuclear heterosexual families, and celebrates an idealised notion of the heterosexual family that is illusory for many.

Sincerely,

28(1) Personal