

— City of —
PICKERING

CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY #2

Suggested length: 5 minutes

Officiant:

We are gathered here today to witness and to celebrate the marriage of **Celebrant 1** and **Celebrant 2**, and to be with them as they pledge themselves to each other. If any person can show just cause why they may not be lawfully joined together, they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2**, nothing is easier than saying words. Nothing is more difficult than living those words day after day. What you promise today must be renewed and re-decided tomorrow and then again each day that stretches out before you. At the end of this ceremony, legally you will be **life partners**, but still you must decide every day that you want to be married.

All who know you, know that you are deeply in love. But beyond the warmth and glow, the excitement and romance, what is love really? Real love is caring about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as about your own. Real love is not possessive or jealous; it is liberating; it sets you free to become your best self.

Real love is not total absorption in each other; it is looking outward in the same direction...together. Love makes burdens lighter, because you divide them. It makes joys more intense, because you share them. It makes you stronger, so that you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

Officiant: Celebrant 1, please repeat after me:

I do solemnly declare / that I do not know / of any lawful impediment / why I **Celebrant 1** / may not be joined / in matrimony to **Celebrant 2**.

Officiant: Celebrant 2, please repeat after me:

I do solemnly declare / that I do not know / of any lawful impediment / why I **Celebrant 2** / may not be joined / in matrimony to **Celebrant 1**.

Officiant:

Do all that have gathered here today, give them your blessing this day and promise to support and honour them in their marriage?

Everyone: Yes, we do

The Vows

Officiant: Celebrant 1, please repeat after me:

I call upon these persons / here present to witness / that I, **Celebrant 1**, do take you **Celebrant 2**, / to be my lawful wedded **life partner**. / To have and to hold, / from this day forward, / for better and for worse, / for richer or for poorer; / in sickness and in health; / in joy and in sorrow; / to love and to cherish / and to be faithful to you alone.

Officiant: Celebrant 2, please repeat after me:

I call upon these persons / here present to witness / that I, **Celebrant 2**, do take you **Celebrant 1**, / to be my lawful wedded **life partner**. / To have and to hold, / from this day forward, / for better and for worse, / for richer or for poorer; / in sickness and in health; / in joy and in sorrow; / to love and to cherish / and to be faithful to you alone.

The Rings

Officiant: Please present the rings

As a permanent reminder of the vows which you have made and entered into on this day, you will now give and receive rings as a solemn vow to be known by all.

Officiant: Celebrant 1, please repeat after me:

Celebrant 2, I give you this ring / that you may wear it as a symbol / of the vows we have made this day.

Officiant: Celebrant 2, please repeat after me:

Celebrant 1, I give you this ring / that you may wear it as a symbol / of the vows we have made this day.

The Declaration

Officiant:

Celebrant 1 and **Celebrant 2**, we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant you have made here this day before each one of us as witnesses. Therefore, in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today, I, **Officiant**, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the *Marriage Act*, do hereby pronounce you **Celebrant 1** and **Celebrant 2** to be married.

You may now kiss.