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## **Religious leaders call on Ottawa to give same-sex marriage second look**

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OTTAWA (CP) - A coalition of religious leaders is calling on the federal government to give the whole issue of same-sex marriage another look.

Bruce Clemenger, president of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, says 43 Christian and Muslim leaders have signed a common declaration calling for some "sober second thought" on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Clemenger says the holy leaders want Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper to live up to his election promise to hold a free vote in Parliament on the legislation the former Liberal government passed legitimizing same-sex marriage.

The Evangelical leader says a debate will allow "constructive public dialogue on the definition and nature of marriage."

Clemenger says the debate over same-sex marriage has been rife with "a lot of five-second clips" and name-calling and not enough serious analysis and understanding.

A vote on reopening same-sex marriage is expected sometime this fall, although surveys have suggested many MPs, perhaps a majority, think the issue is settled and won't vote to revisit it.

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