

National

OLD-AGE SPOUSAL BENEFITS

Gay couple will fight on

Southam News
OTTAWA — Gay rights suffered a setback Thursday when the Federal Court of Appeal ruled homosexual couples are not entitled to old-age spousal benefits.

In a split decision, the country's second highest court said the federal government did not violate the constitutional rights of an elderly British Columbia couple by denying them spousal benefits under the Old Age Security Act.

The court said John Nesbit and James Egan, of Courtenay, who have lived together for 45 years, were not the victims of discrimination because of their sexual orientation.

But Egan, now 71, said he will seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, which earlier this year avoided a definitive ruling on benefits for gay couples.

"We will fight this thing to the bitter end," Egan said in a telephone interview.

"I don't know whether it's the Crown's intention to keep going until we die of old age, but even if we do the case will go on. If ultimately Jack and I lose this case, there'll be another gay couple coming along behind us . . . and ultimately equal rights for the gay community will become a reality."

Thursday's ruling is considered significant because at least 50 other federal laws have a similar restrictive definition of spouse and the ruling is binding on all departments.

Some provincial courts and human rights tribunals have ruled in favor of benefits for same-sex couples under provincial laws but none have extended federal payments.

The spouse's allowance, first introduced in 1975, is given to couples where one spouse has reached the age of 65 and the other is between 60 and 65.

But the benefit is restricted to couples "of the opposite sex" who have lived together for at least a year and who publicly represent themselves as husband and wife.

Egan began collecting his old age pension in 1986 and a year later applied on behalf of Nesbit

for the spouse's allowance but was rejected.

They challenged the definition of spouse, claiming it discriminated against them because of their sexual orientation, contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

But the appeal court ruled 2-1 that the law is not discriminatory against gays because there are many other couples who live together yet are not eligible for benefits.

"Cohabitation by siblings is a commonplace example, persons otherwise related by blood or marriage do so as well and so do persons not related," wrote Mr. Justice Patrick Mahoney.

"They do so for countless personal reasons and combinations thereof, for example: mere convenience, the advantage of pooling resources, shared interests, congeniality, friendship and affection not involving sexual attraction, to have someone with them in disability, failing health or simply to avoid loneliness and seclusion."

Tory leadership hopefuls warming up for rematch

by BOB COX
the Canadian Press

Flexing and primping, candidates readied themselves Thursday to climb back into the ring tonight in Calgary for round three of their ideological boxing match known as the Conservative leadership debates.

Front-runner Kim Campbell, accused of being constrained and muscle-bound in previous outings in Toronto and Montreal, flexed her economic ideas before a Calgary business audience.

Campbell promised to increase the GST rebate for new homes, freeze taxes, cut government costs, revamp lucrative pension plans for federal politicians and re-examine universal social programs.

Supporters of Jean Charest showed off tentative judges' scores which gave their boss the nod in the first two rounds, thanks to his verbal bobbing and weaving.

A poll done for the Charest campaign suggested TV viewers thought he outperformed Campbell in the first two leadership debates of the five scheduled.

"I think the debates have made a difference," said Charest, who is considered to be running a distant second to Campbell.

But the poll surveyed only voters in Toronto and Montreal, not delegates to the June leadership convention.

A Canadian Press tally of delegates selected so far gives Campbell 478 delegates to 183 for Charest, 161 undecided, and 55 for Jim Edwards. Patrick Boyer has five, Garth Turner and business executive John Long have none.

Both Campbell and Charest

were being careful to keep their guard up for Edwards, an Edmonton MP who was expected to punch hard debating in his home province.

Unofficial polling of Alberta delegates showed Edwards with more support than Campbell.

Alberta support for Edwards appeared to stem from a combination of his home-town appeal and his right-wing talk.

That had Campbell and Charest emphasizing the more right-wing aspects of their platforms for the western audience.

Charest claimed he could win the next federal election campaigning for tough deficit-fighting measures, including user fees on medicare.

"If we question universality, it's not because we want to eliminate Canada's social safety net, it's because we want to save it," said Charest.

Campbell, who also has promised to eliminate the deficit, said she was open to the idea of allowing provinces to decide if they want to have user fees, a practice the federal government currently doesn't allow.

And she continued to have to deflect punches from opposition politicians as well as other Tory leadership contenders.

The Liberals and New Democrats, anxious to tie Campbell to the controversy surrounding Canadian peacekeepers in Somalia, condemned her in the Commons for a lack of leadership and evasion of accountability as defence minister.

Campbell has admitted she didn't know one of four Somalis who died at the hands of Canadian soldiers was a victim of a homicide until two weeks after the incident.

CORRECTION

In this week's ad the 1989 Pontiac Sunbird GT should have read \$7,995 not \$4,995.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Barnes
CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE CADILLAC LTD.
2000 Victoria St., Prince George B.C. V2L 2B2
Dealer No. 0022

HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO REACH YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS?



**TRIMARK
MUTUAL FUNDS**

WE MANAGE
TO OUTPERFORM.

TRIMARK FUND
23.3% 15.6% 15.1% 14.8%
1 YEAR 3 YEARS 5 YEARS 10 YEARS
PERFORMANCE TO MARCH 31, 1993

All returns, audited by Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants, are historical annual compounded total rates of return and reflect changes in unit value and distributions reinvested. They do not take into account sales charges or administrative fees payable by unit holders which would have reduced returns. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Your unit value and investment returns will fluctuate. Important information about any mutual fund is contained in its simplified prospectus. Read your prospectus carefully before investing. You can obtain one from:

Gajic Insurance & Financial Service Inc.

206 - Bon-Accord Building
300 Brunswick St.,
Prince George, B.C. V2L 2B5

562-6599

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____

Designed by Trimark Investment Management Inc.

Canadian
Diabetes
Association



Association
canadienne
du diabète

Your money has punch. Fight Diabetes.

Supported by The Prince George Citizen



NAME OUR MASCOTS AND WIN!

Prince George Savings will soon introduce two new accounts. One account will be designed for children up to thirteen years of age and the other for teenagers. The Credit Union has adopted the Husky as its mascot for these accounts. The Husky is considered dependable, reliable and strong and is accustomed to teamwork.

The full grown (adult) Husky will represent the teen account and the Pup - the children's account. We invite your participation in a contest. The contest is not limited to members of the Credit Union or restricted to any age group. With the exception of Credit Union employees, directors and their immediate families, THIS CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL!



Your home town team
**PRINCE GEORGE
SAVINGS
Credit Union**

To enter, simply fill in the coupon at the bottom of this announcement, and take it to the credit union booth at the Home Show from April 30 - May 3. You could win a Husky sweat-shirt. Fifty shirts will be given away over the three days. If you can't make it to the Home Show, simply drop in into the barrel(s) at any of the two Prince George Savings Branches.

The winning entry will be awarded a \$500.00 term deposit in the credit union and the second place finisher will receive a \$200.00 deposit. Judging will be performed by an independent panel and all materials will remain the property of the credit union. The winning entries may or may not serve as the names of the account. Contest closes at midnight May 31, 1993.

Enter ballots at any of the following locations:

Town Centre Branch
1532 6th Avenue,
Prince George, B.C.

5th & Ahbau Branch
513 Ahbau Street
Prince George, B.C.

In order to enter please complete the following:

MY SUGGESTION FOR
TEENAGE ACCOUNT _____

MY SUGGESTION FOR
CHILDREN'S ACCOUNT _____

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

DRIVE A LEADER.



Special Bulk Purchase

• XL trim • Heavy Duty payload pkg.
• AMFM Stereo/Clock • Styled steel
wheels • Rear step bumper • 300
CID 6 cyl. engine • 5 Speed special
• P235/75R X15XL • Block Heater
• Western Mirrors

Brand
New

1993 F150 133" W.B. PICKUP (25 units to choose from)

4X2

\$12,995⁰⁰*

4X4

\$15,995⁰⁰*

* Rebate to dealer



Prince George MOTORS

1331 CENTRAL STREET

DLN 5419

563-8111

