OLD-AGE SPOUSAL BENEFITS

Gay couple will fight on

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 ultithere'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 depart-

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 pay-

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

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.

Canadian Diabetes Association

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."

And she continued to have to

deflect punches from opposition

politicians as well as other Tory

Democrats, anxious to tie Camp-

bell to the controversy surrounding

Canadian peacekeepers in Somalia,

condemned her in the Commons

for a lack of leadership and eva-

sion of accountability as defence

Campbell has admitted she

didn't know one of four Somalis

who died at the hands of Canadian soldiers was a victim of a homi-

cide until two weeks after the inci-

leadership contenders. The Liberals and

Association canadienne du diabète Your money has punch. Fight Diabetes.

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 it's 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 childrens' 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!

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 sweatshirt. 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.

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 Campell, 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 tenative 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

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 medi-

"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

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

For our flyer Woolco discount

running April 28, 1993. Due to shipping problems these items are not available.

Page 4 - Padded stool on sale for 9.97. 3 tier book shelf on sale for

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

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

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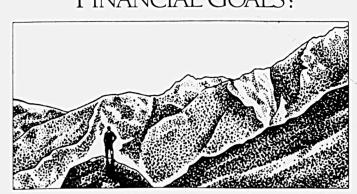
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CORRECTION

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.

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