

## MP votes 'yes' for Alliance motion

Halton MP Julian Reed was among the 53 MPs in the Liberal caucus who supported the Canadian Alliance motion to restrict marriage rights to straight couples in a vote Tuesday.

The motion was narrowly defeated in a dramatic 137-132 vote, showing that opinions within Liberal ranks had evolved in favour of gay marriage over the past four years when the same motion passed by a wide 216-55 margin.

"It is simply consistent with the way I voted in 1999," said Reed. "There is nothing in my view different than it was then."

Since the vote, Reed said he has received many calls of support from constituents, and since the same same-sex marriage issue first came to light 600 calls, letters and e-mails have come into his office. Of those, only about eight he said, are in favour of changing the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

Reed said he would support a



JULIAN REED

statement acknowledging homosexual unions but he doesn't want "it mixed up with marriage." Reed, who expected the vote on Tuesday to actually go in favour of the Canadian Alliance motion, stressed the vote "has nothing to do with the legislation."

"From the point of view of governance of the country it means nothing." He added, however, the vote did reinforce "the fact the country is very divided on the issue."

Before the vote on the motion MPs reached a stunning 134-134 tie vote on an amended version of the Alliance motion—one that dropped the call to take "all necessary steps" to preserving traditional marriage. The Speaker cast a vote that ultimately defeated that motion.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer with files from Torstar News Service

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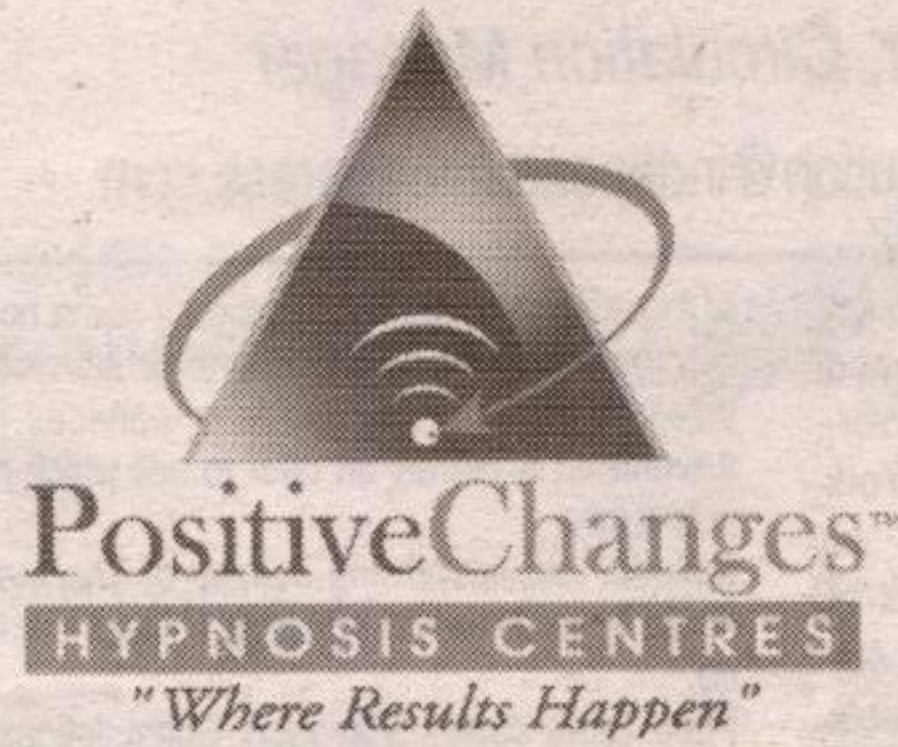
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