

## **Expanded Vows**

### **SOLEMNIZER:**

We are gathered here today to witness the formal joining of (Person #1) and (Person #2) in the legal state of Matrimony. You are to be married according to the orders, customs, and the authority granted by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Matrimony, as understood by us, is a state enriched by a long and honourable tradition of devotion. According to the law each participant is equal and supports the common rights of one another to the marriage. Marriage is not just a ceremony here today – it is a commitment for life. This union, then, is most sacred and serious, because it will bind you together in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows are all hidden from your eyes.

Therefore, it is not to be entered into thoughtlessly or irresponsibly. There must be a desire for lifelong companionship. Marriage means working together to create and sustain a home in which the marriage may flourish. Couples will support and comfort each other, through the ever changing experiences of life. May you laugh together in joy, grieve together in sorrow, and grow together in love.

With this understanding (Person #1) and (Person #2) wish to be joined in marriage. Therefore, if any persons can show just and sufficient reason why these two persons may not be joined in matrimony, let them declare their reasons now, or from this time forward, keep their peace.

I now call upon you both in the presence of these witnesses, to repeat after me:

**REPEAT (Person #1)**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, (Person #1) may not be joined in matrimony to (Person #2).

**REPEAT (Person #2)**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, (Person #2) may not be joined in matrimony to (Person #1).

As no impediment was declared or admitted, I require you to give answers to these questions:

**SOLEMNIZER to Person #1**

Do you (Person #1) promise to give to this (woman/man) the love of your person, the comfort of your companionship, and the patience of your understanding? Will you share with her equally the necessities of life as they may be earned or enjoyed by yourself; and to respect the dignity of her own personal rights?

*(Answer: I do)*

**SOLEMNIZER to Person #2**

Do you (Person #2) promise to give to this (woman/man) the love of your person, the comfort of your companionship, and the patience of your understanding? Will you share with her equally the necessities of life as they may be earned or enjoyed by yourself; and to respect the dignity of her own personal rights?

*(Answer: I do)*

Now, please face one another, join hands, and let the (groom) repeat after me:

I call upon those persons present to witness that I, (Person #1) do take thee, (Person #2) to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner), (to have and to hold, from this day forward, in whatever circumstances or experiences life may hold for us.) -or- (Secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love. I promise to love you without reservation; comfort you in times of distress; encourage you to achieve all your goals. I will laugh with you and cry with you; grow with you in mind and spirit; always be open and honest with you; and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.)

Let the (bride) repeat after me:

I call upon those persons present to witness that I, (Person #2) do take thee, (Person #1) to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner), (to have and to hold, from this day forward, in whatever circumstances or experiences life may hold for us.) -or- (Secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love. I promise to love you without reservation; comfort you in times of distress; encourage you to achieve all your goals. I will laugh with you and cry with you; grow with you in mind and spirit; always be open and honest with you; and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.)

Having declared these marriage vows, let the groom place the ring on the third finger of the bride's left hand, repeating after me:

Person #2, I give this ring that you may wear it as a lasting reminder of our marriage vows and as a symbol of my love and commitment to you.

Let the (bride) say after me: I accept this ring as a symbol of your love and commitment.

If a second ring is presented, let the (bride) place the ring on the third finger of the (groom's) left hand, repeating after me:

Person #1, I give you this ring that you may wear it as a lasting reminder of our marriage vows and as a symbol of love and commitment to you.

Let the (groom) say after me: I accept this ring as a symbol of your love and commitment.

(Person #1) and (Person #2) you have consented in marriage, and have declared your solemn intention in this company, before these witnesses, and in my presence. You have exchanged this (these) ring(s) as the pledge of your love for each other and you have joined hands to accept one another.

Now upon the authority vested in me by the Province of Ontario, I pronounce you (husband and wife/married as partners in life).

(You may seal this union with a kiss.....)

As you begin your marriage, let your home be a haven of peace in the midst of a busy and changing world; Let your relationship be one of complete truth, love and understanding between you both. Respect the confidences of your partner in this marriage, and consider that your marriage will yield only what you give it.

Life is not a destination, it's a journey. We all come upon unexpected curves and turning points, mountain tops and valleys. Everything that happens to us shapes

who we are becoming, and in the adventure of each day, we discover the best of ourselves.

If you treat each other with kindness, with compassion and trust, and always let your tender feelings show: If you laugh together often and enjoy the time you share, but give each other space to learn and grow: If you understand your differences, respecting who you are, and put each other first in all you do – Your marriage will be beautiful, a reason to feel proud, and a special source of love your whole lives through...

May you enjoy a long life, fulfill your hopes and dreams, feel content as you live day by day, and keep your promises to each other.....