

same-sex couples have demanded the right to marry. Same-sex couples already have won access to marriage, via court order, in the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec and in the Yukon Territory.

"We will not be defending the federal law," provincial Justice Minister Gord Mackintosh told the Canadian Press wire service Aug. 25. "We don't have an interest in opposing legally recognized rights of Canadians.... The weight of the decisions across the country have pointed to the conclusion that the current federal law is not in accordance with [Canada's] Charter [of Rights and Freedoms]."

The federal government has promised to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide as soon as the Supreme Court answers some questions on the matter that officials submitted to it.

Canada's top dictionary, the Canadian Oxford Dictionary, has added numerous gay words and phrases to its new edition, *The Washington Blade* reports.

They include bareback, bi-curious, cottaging, civil union, co-parent, cruisy, gaydar, GLBT, glory hole, homoerotic, leatherman, lesbian, lipstick lesbian, rainbow flag, queeny, she-male, tranny, trans and transgendered.

"Cottaging" is not in use in U.S. English. It means cruising or having sexual contact with another male in a public toilet. The term likely crossed over from the United Kingdom.

The Canadian dictionary also redefined "marriage" as "the legal or religious union of two people."

TANZANIA

A new ban on gay sex has taken effect on the island of Zanzibar, which is part of the African nation of Tanzania.

Sex between men is punished with 25 years in prison, and sex between women is punished with seven years in prison. President Amani Karume signed the measure into law in mid-August.

Tanzania already criminalizes homosexuality nationwide, but the law is rarely enforced. Zanzibar is predominantly Muslim, and Islamic groups have been pressing for a more puritanical legal code.

NIGERIA

A transvestite in Kano will face trial for dressing and living as a woman, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported Sept. 1. As Abubakar Hamza awaits her Sept. 16 court date, however, she has become a celebrity in the city, with posters of her selling briskly among male admirers, the network said.

If found guilty under Section 9 of the Prostitution and Immoral Acts Law, the 19-year-old could be sentenced to one year in prison or fined about \$80. She is being kept in jail until the trial.

NEW ZEALAND

About 7,000 anti-gays marched Aug. 27 on the New Zealand Parliament. They traveled to Wellington from all over the country to oppose a pending civil unions bill, abortion, prostitution law reform and a lowered drinking age.

"The cornerstone of any nation is family," said Destiny church movement founder Brian Tamaki, according to *The New Zealand Herald*. "And the cornerstone of any family is marriage. You cannot touch what God has ordained."

The protesters, all dressed in black, chanted

"Enough is enough" and punched the air with their fists, *The Dominion Post* newspaper said.

A group of 1,500 queers counterprotested. "I feel like I'm at a Nuremberg rally," said trans Member of Parliament Georgina Beyer.

GREECE

A total of 11 out gays and lesbians participated in the Summer Olympics in Athens, and seven of them won medals.

According to OutSports.com, the openly gay Olympians were U.S. equestrians Robert Dover and Guenter Seidel, British equestrian Carl Hester, New Zealand equestrian Blyth Tait, British hurdler Rob Newton, French tennis player Amélie Mauresmo, U.S. tennis player Martina Navratilova, Spanish tennis player Conchita Martínez, Dutch swimmer Johan Kenkhuis, German fencer Imke Duplitzer and German cyclist Judith Arndt.

Arndt won a silver medal in the women's road race, Mauresmo won a silver medal in women's singles tennis, Martínez won a silver medal in women's doubles tennis, Dover and Seidel won bronze medals in equestrian

team dressage, Duplitzer won a silver medal in women's team epee, and Kenkhuis and his teammates won silver medals in the men's 4x100 freestyle relay.

Arndt was fined \$162 for "flipping the bird" as she crossed the finish line. She was upset that her lover, Petra Rossner, had been cut from the German road race team, she said.

Dover told reporters there were many more gay Olympians than the 11.

"You spend a day with these athletes, and it becomes obvious that gay people are everywhere," he said. "The reason many of them aren't out is because they're focused on their job during this time when sports is the No. 1 thing in their lives."

COLOMBIA

The son of a former president of Colombia is among the founders of a new national queer political organization.

Virgilio Barco, son of President Virgilio Barco Vargas, came out last month in conjunction with the inauguration of the Proyecto Colombia Diversa group. Barco's partner, Andrew Dier, also is working with the organization, which has an Internet site at www.proyecto.colombiadiversa.org.

UNITED KINGDOM

The armed forces joined a British Gay Pride celebration for the first time Aug. 28.

Eight officers from the Royal Air Force rode on a float in Manchester's Pride parade in hopes of recruiting new members. Gay sex was banned in the British military until last year.

"The RAF tries to reflect the community from which it draws its members," a Royal Air Force spokeswoman told the British Broadcasting Corp. "We have recruitment policies that recognize that people from different backgrounds can make positive contributions. An individual's sexual orientation is none of the RAF's business." □

Compiled by REX WOCKNER, who has reported for the gay press since 1985. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Drake University and started his career as a radio reporter.



Queer German cyclist Judith Arndt won a silver medal in the women's road race during the Summer Olympics



Abubakar Hamza has become a celebrity in Nigeria



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