

To the guests

I'd like to welcome you all here today on behalf of ___bride___ and ___groom___ and their families, and thank especially those who have come a long way to be here today. For the record, I am Lise Chamberland and I am a Humanist Officiant, duly licensed by the Province of Ontario to solemnize marriages. I have no objections to anyone taking pictures during any part of the ceremony. I ask that you ensure that your cell phones are turned off. As ___bride___ and ___groom___ selected both the duration and the words of this ceremony, I ask for your utmost attention.

You will notice that everyone has been given a flower to wear. This was done to honour each of you as part of today's wedding party. It reflects the importance of the role you play in the lives of ___bride___ and ___groom___.

Today is the day chosen by ___bride___ and ___groom___ to tie the proverbial knot, to celebrate the blending of their two lives, which includes their family and friends. Today is not only a celebration of the love and commitment that ___bride___ and ___groom___ give to each other, but an opportunity to celebrate all of the relationships in their lives that have contributed to their becoming the people they are today. It is appropriate that you, the family and friends are here to participate in this wedding. The ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect, which these two bring to their marriage, have roots in the love, friendship, and guidance that you have provided them.

To the Bride and Groom

This is the time you have chosen to become husband and wife. We are here, not only to witness your commitment to each other, but also to wish you every happiness in your future life

together. ___bride ___and ___groom___, no matter the words spoken or papers signed, you are making a commitment to honour and protect one another above your own interest. It is your commitment to treat each other with the highest regard, to foster each other's dreams and to love each other unconditionally, that will strengthen and keep your marriage.

We, who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life your Love and Respect for each other, your trust and understanding of each other will increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living. Within its framework of commitment, loyalty and communication, marriage enables the establishment of a home, where through trust, patience and respect, the love and affection that you have for each other can develop into a deep and lasting relationship.

A vast, unknown future stretches out before you. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. But it is a great tribute to your belief in each other that you are willing to face those uncertainties together. May the pure, simple love with which you join hearts and hands today never fail, but grow deeper and surer with every year you spend together.

Statement of intent

___bride___and ___groom___, did you come here freely and are you ready to make the pledges to which you commit yourselves to each other in love?

(Answer: "Yes")

Declaration

Do you –bride__and do you ___groom___ solemnly affirm that you do not know of any lawful impediments against you getting legally married?

(Answer: "I do")

Are both of you willing to accept one another as your egally wedded spouse?

We are gathered together with family and friends, to join you --- __bride__and you ___groom___ in marriage. This ceremony is not magic. It will not create a relationship that does not already exist. It is time for tying a knot in the rope of days and saying, "We will not slip backwards from here, but will grow forward together." It is a time for one thing of which ___bride___ and ___groom___are certain, their love for one another, and their desire for that love to last forever. Your love must be a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, and a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places.

Because marriage is concerned with the most fundamental of human relationships, it must not be regarded lightly. Those who enter into this relationship shall cherish for each other a mutual esteem and love, bear each other's infirmities and weaknesses, comfort each other in sickness, trouble and sorrow, encourage each other in trials of the spirit, and live together as the heirs of life. Marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly, but with devotion, respect and discretion. Love and loyalty will be the foundation of a happy and enduring home; and if the solemn

vows you are about to make be kept with honour and integrity, your life will be full of peace and joy, and the home you are establishing will be one of warmth and understanding.

Hand Ceremony

__bride__, please face __groom __, and hold his hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life. These are the hands that will work along side yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams. These are the hands that look so large and strong, yet will be so gentle as he holds your baby for the first time. These are the hands that will work long hours for you and your new family. These are that hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow and tears of joy. These are the hands that will comfort you in illness, and hold you when fear or grief trouble your mind. These are the hands that will give you support as he encourages you to chase your dreams.

__groom__, please hold __bride's__ hands, palms up, where you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, smooth, young and carefree, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as she pledges her love and commitment to you all the days of her life. These are the hands that will work along side yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams. These are the hands that will hold you in joy and excitement and hope, when she tells you that together you have created a new life. These are the hands that will hold each child in tender love, soothing them through illness and

hurt, supporting and encouraging them along the way, and knowing when it is time to let go. These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times. These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick, or console you when you are grieving. They are the hands that will love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you *too* to chase your dreams. Together as a team, everything you wish for can be realized. (Reposition hands so that they are clasped together.) Together, these are the hands that will ease your parents' loneliness as you leave the nest, will raise your own children, and will be a sign to friends and strangers alike as to just how wonderful married life can be. These four hands will give you support as you build your life and future. Reaching first out to each other, then united towards the world, these hands will be your strength, your shield, your shelter, and your guide.



Introduction to vows

___bride___ and ___groom___, you have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way. All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks – all those sentences that began with “When we’re married” and continued with “I will and you will and we will”- those late night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe” – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, “you know all those things we’ve promised and hoped and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word.” Look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion, and even teacher. Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this is my husband, this is my wife.

Vows

Je, ___groom___,
 te choisis, ___bride___
 pour être mon épouse,
 pour être la mère de mes enfants
 pour être ma compagne de ménage
 nous persévérons ensemble
 à travers tout ennuis et peines que la vie peut nous amener
 et partagerons ensemble toutes nos joies et notre abondance
 d'amour

I, ___bride___,
 take you, ___groom___,
 to be my husband,
 to be the father of my children,
 to be the companion of my house.
 We shall persevere together
 through the trouble and sorrow our lives may lay upon us,
 and share together our store of goodness and plenty and love.

Ring Exchange

May these rings which you give and receive this day be a symbol of your true love and trust in each other, and always remind each of you of this special day.

Instruction

__groom__ please take __brides__ left hand and lovingly present her with her ring while repeating after me:

"I give you this ring to wear as a symbol of our love for each other."

« Je te donne cette bague pour porter comme symbole de notre amour »

__bride__ please take __groom__ left hand and lovingly present him with his ring while repeating after me:

"I give you this ring to wear as a symbol of our love for each other."



Pronouncement

For as much as __groom__ and __bride__ have thus pledged themselves to each other in the presence of friends and family, I, Lise Chamberland by the power vested in me by the Marriage Act of Ontario, pronounce them husband and wife.

Kiss

You may now seal your vows with a kiss.

Parents' wisdom (if you want to add if not can be removed)

__bride__ and __groom__ have asked their parents to share some thoughts, some words of wisdom to guide them as they embark on their married journey together.

I invite __parent or special person __ to speak.

...

I now invite __special person to speak __ to speak.

...

Thank you for sharing your love and wisdom with __groom__ and __bride__, and all of us gathered here today.



Signing of the Register

Now, I invite __bride__, __groom__ and their __witness__ as witnesses to sign the register.

Words of Closure

And now, may the confidence, trust, and affection you have for each other on this day, sustain you as you go forth upon your journey of life together with its joy, its laughter, its sorrow and its pain. May you find together the loftiest that is in the universe. May you dwell together in peace, love and joy. May you create for your children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives. May your house be a place of happiness for all who enter it, a place where the

old and the young are renewed in each other's company, a place for growing, a place for music, a place for laughter. And, when shadows and darkness fall within its rooms, may it still be a place of hope and strength for all who enter it, especially for those who may be entrusted to your care. May no person be alien to your compassion. May your larger family be the family of all humankind. And may those who are nearest to you and dearest to you constantly be enriched by the beauty and the bounty of your love for each other.

Please help congratulate the newlyweds!

