



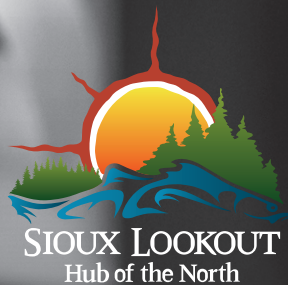
MUNICIPAL

CI  IL

*Ceremonies*

*Marriage Ceremony*

TEMPLATES



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## Welcome

### Option #1

We are gathered here today to take part in the most time honored celebration of the human family, uniting a man and a woman in marriage. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have come to witness before us, telling of their love for each other. We remember theirs is a love whose source is the affection of those who loved them into being.

### Option #2

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, and to cherish the words which shall unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage.

### Option #3

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, the joining of two hearts. In this ceremony today we will witness the joining of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage.

### Option #4

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to cherish the words which shall unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage.

## Openings

### Option #1

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 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 those 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 the threshold of life, and things will never be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this is my husband, this is my wife. (this is my life partner)

### Option #2

Marriage is the promise between two people who love each other, and who trust in that love, who honor one another as individuals, and who wish to spend the rest of their lives together.

This ceremony will not create a relationship that does not already exist between you. It is a symbol of how far you have come in the past \_\_\_\_ years. It is a symbol of the promises you will make to each other to continue growing stronger as individuals and as partners, no matter what challenges or success you encounter together in the years before you.

Today, your lives, which began on separate paths, will be joined as one.

### **Option #3**

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding today.

### **Option #4**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in the days ahead of you, there will be times of difficulty and conflict. When you find yourselves in these situations, I ask you to reflect on this marriage advice.

Let your love be stronger than your anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend than to break.

Look for the best in your beloved rather than the worst.

Confide in your partner and ask for help when you need it.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

Give your spouse the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.

Say "I love you" every day.

### **Readings:**

**(Other readings may be used; consult Marriage Commissioner regarding your preferred readings.)**

#### **Option #1**

The little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands, It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day. It is never going to bed angry. It is never taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all years. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow. It is finding room for the things of spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal. It is not marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

#### **Option #2**

Today is the day you will always remember – the greatest in anyone's life. You'll start off the day just two people in love and end it as husband and wife. It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey with moments to cherish and treasure. And although there'll be times you both disagree, these will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You'll have heard many words of advice in the past, when the secrets of marriage were spoken, but now you know that the answers lie hidden inside, where the bond of true love lies unbroken. So live happy forever as lovers and friends, it's the dawn of a new life for you, as you stand there together with love in your eyes from the moment you whisper, "I do". And with luck, all your hopes, and your dreams can be real, may success find its way to your hearts. Tomorrow can bring you the greatest joys, but today is the day it all starts.

**Declaration of Intent and Vows**

**(The couple may write their own vows, providing they include the Marriage Act prescribed wording.)**

**Option #1**

“ \_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife/husband/partner/spouse? Do you commit yourself to her/his happiness and self-fulfillment as a person? Do you promise to love, honor, and trust her/him in sickness and in health, in adversity and prosperity, and to be true and loyal to her/him so long as you both shall live?”

Wife/Husband/Partner/Spouse – “I do”

I do solemnly declare that I do not know any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse).

(Repeated by both parties)

**Option #2**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse).

\_\_\_\_\_, I promise to be faithful, supportive, and loyal and to give you my companionship and love throughout all the changes of our life. I vow to bring you happiness, and I will treasure you as my companion. I will celebrate the joys of life with you. I promise to support your dreams, and walk beside you offering courage and strength through all endeavors. From this day forward, I will be proud to be your wife/husband/partner/spouse and your best friend.

(Repeated by both parties)

### **Option #3**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse). I choose you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse), as my friend and love. On this day I affirm the relationship we have enjoyed, looking to the future and to keep and strengthen it. I will be yours in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, in failure and in triumph. Together, we will dream, and live as one while respecting one another, we will stumble but restore each other, we will share all things. I will cherish, comfort, and encourage you, be open with you, and stay with you as long as I shall live.

(Repeated by both parties)

### **Option #4**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse) from this day forward, to have and to hold as equal partner in my life, to whom I give my deepest love and devotion. I humbly open my heart to you as a sanctuary of warmth and peace, where you may come and find a refuge of love and strength. I will love you enough to risk being hurt, trust you when I don't understand, weep with you in heartache, and celebrate life with you in joy. I will receive you as my equal throughout all of our days.

(Repeated by both parties)

### **Option #5**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse), my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow and forever. I will trust and honor you. I will laugh with you and cry with you. Through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. Whatever may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep.

(Repeated by both parties)

**Option #6**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband/wife/partner/spouse?

(I do)

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him/her, forsaking all others and holding only unto him/her forevermore? (I do)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse).

(Repeated by both parties)

**Option #7**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I remind you that marriage is a precious gift; a lifelong dedication to love and a daily challenge to love one another more fully and more freely.

With this understanding do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your beloved husband/wife/partner/spouse?

Do you promise to be a tender, faithful husband/wife/partner/spouse?

Do you promise to love and cherish her/him, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and keep yourself only unto her/him? (I do)

Would you please face each other, join hands and repeat after me.

I do solemnly declare that I do not know any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_, may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse).

(Repeated by both parties)



## Exchange of Rings

### Option #1

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen rings as outward symbols of the commitment they make today.

The wedding ring is a symbol of unity, a circle unbroken, without beginning or end. And today \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ give and receive these rings as demonstrations of their vows to make their lives one, to work at all times to create a life that is whole and unbroken, and to love each other without end.

\_\_\_\_\_, take the ring which you have selected, place it on the third finger of \_\_\_\_\_'s left hand, and say to her/him these words.

“This ring, a gift for you, symbolizes my desire that you be my wife/husband/partner/spouse from this day forward.” (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite her/him)

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

### Option #2

\_\_\_\_\_, take the ring and as you place it on the third finger of \_\_\_\_\_'s left hand, please state your pledge to her/him repeating these words:

“I begin my life with you today knowing that we have developed a trust and commitment that is strong enough to last through good times and bad. With this ring, I offer you my hand, my heart, and my soul as I know they will be safe with you.” (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite bride/groom)

### **Option #3**

Officiant: May I have the rings please? \_\_\_\_\_, Please place this ring on her/his third finger of the left hand and repeat after me:

“ \_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you.” (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite bride/groom)

### **Option #4**

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love, freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Please place this ring on her/his third finger of the left hand and repeat after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_, take thee \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband/wife/partner/spouse. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my husband/wife/partner/spouse, for as long as we both shall live. (slips ring on)

(Repeat with opposite husband/wife)

### **Option #5**

Wedding rings are an unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this couple in marriage.

\_\_\_\_\_, This ring is my sacred gift, with my promise that I will always love you, cherish you and honor you all the days of my life. And with this ring, I thee wed. (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite Groom/Bride)

## Service Conclusion

### Option #1

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, as a collection of words, this ceremony would count for little, were it not for the love and commitment you have pledged to one another. Your vows may have been spoken in minutes, but your promises to each other will last a lifetime. Having witnessed your vows for marriage with all who are assembled here, I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act of the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be married.

It gives me great pleasure to present to you, for the first time as husband and wife, Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

### Option #2

You have made your marriage vows to one another, witnessed by your friends and family. You have sealed your vows with the giving and receiving of these rings.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act of the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be married.

Please put your hands together to congratulate the newlyweds! \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (last name) !

### Option #3

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know, that in your hearts, you truly want what is best for each other. It will take dedication, to stay open to one another – and to learn and grow together. It will take faith, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings. And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged to today.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act of the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be married.

You may now kiss your bride/kiss.

I would like to introduce the happy couple \_\_\_\_\_.

**Option #4**

May the sun bring you new energy by day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your worries.

And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act of the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be married.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, for the first time as husband/wife/partner/spouse \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Option #5**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage – as they do to every relationship at one time or another – focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act of the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be married.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, for the first time \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Marriage Ceremony Solemnization: Short version**

We are gathered at this place for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman/ these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Province of Ontario.

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted.

Therefore if there is any one present that can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

### **REPEAT (Person # 1)**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_ may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

### **REPEAT (Person # 2)**

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, \_\_\_\_\_ may not be joined in matrimony to \_\_\_\_\_.

### **REPEAT (Person #1)**

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner).

### **REPEAT (Person #2)**

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, \_\_\_\_\_ do take you, to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner).

### **SOLEMNIZER:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Province of Ontario Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be (husband and wife *married as partners in life*). (*you may kiss*)

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

(After signing the Register, Officiant announces): "May I introduce to you the married couple!"