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## Religious Sect Behind Anti-Gay Ads

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The Exclusive Brethren sect have revealed they are behind the recent campaign against gay marriage in Canada which has triggered complaints from the public, the media and parliament.

The aggressive but anonymous campaign included a barrage of direct-mail and advertising campaigns including a full-page ad this week in a prominent newspaper, telling senators that gay marriage will never "rise to this standard (of being an) honourable relationship". Tens of thousands of pamphlets were also sent to Canadian households, warning "marriage is about to be dumped into the garbage can of history", listing names addresses and phone numbers of local MPs.

The campaign's sponsors identified themselves in the provocative ads and mail-outs only as "concerned Canadian parents", or CCP. Despite complaints and demands that the group come forward and identify itself, the protestors remained anonymous until Thursday last week.

Traditionally, the ultra-conservative Exclusive Brethren sect separate themselves from society and are never involved in politics. This changed last year when it was revealed the group spent more than US\$500,000 to promote George W Bush. Members have been seen in parliament for the past few months, talking to MPs and attending committee meetings. About 30 members, including 10 women wearing headscarves, were in the public gallery during the recent vote to legalise same-sex marriage.

A spokesperson for the Exclusive Brethren members calling themselves CCP said those who think the group were being unethical and deceptive by remaining anonymous in the latest campaign "don't understand our approach to the outside world".