**DocZone**

**Thoroughly Modern Marriage: The New Normal**

Marriage getting a make over:

* marrying after having children,
* same-sex
* open
* mixed race couples

**A celebrant**: non-religious person to perform a wedding

Modern wedding is a status symbol. Huge business! $30,000 is average.

* Couples are 5 years older than previous generations.
* 33% increased in mixed race couples in the last 10 years
* 75% of marriages can survive infidelity
* attitudes toward fidelity have become more conservative
* single people out number the married people for the first time in history
* benefits to health if in a (good)marriage; lower blood pressure
* Canada 4th in the world to legalize same-sex marriage
* Common law unions have tripled in the last 25 years
  + Fewer rights
* Less institutionalized
* Easier to walk away
* We have unrealistic expectations of marriage now (Marriage historian)
* Married brain research :8 months ‘honeymoon’.
  + Brain scans >>1. Sex drive 2. Romantic love 3. Attachment
  + Levels of attachment sky rocketed after the intense trip

Quebec

* Outgrown the institution of marriage
* Common law is more common than anywhere else in the world
* Backlash against the church. Young people wanted a fresh start with new government. Religion has no influence.
* Common-law in Quebec do not have to pay alimony to partner if they split up

Hanover, Manitoba

* Hanover, marriage capital of Canada
* 70% of adults are married. 20% higher than the national average
* marriage should be rooted in religion
* do not believe in divorce