

For Immediate Release

Xtra publishes 16-page ad-free supplement on Stephen Harper and the religious right

TORONTO, Sept. 24, 2008/CNW/ – Pink Triangle Press (PTP), Canada's gay and lesbian media group, is calling on all Canadians to cast their votes to defeat the Conservative Party in the Oct 14 federal election.

Voters need to know the whole story before they go to the polls. Today PTP publishes a special advertising-free supplement online at the new *Xtra.ca* and a 90,000-copy, 16-page insert in *Xtra*, *Xtra West* and *Capital Xtra*.

Stephen Harper and the Rising Clout of Canada's Religious Right is an in-depth examination of how the Conservative Party pandered to anti-gay, faith-based groups to win a minority government in 2006. The piece, written by award-winning journalist Marci McDonald, originally appeared in the Oct 2006 issue of *The Walrus* magazine.

"Were... gestures – like Harper's promised vote on reopening the gay marriage debate – mere sops to a constituency that the Conservatives need to transform their mandate into a majority?" writes McDonald. "Could it be that Harper has tied the Conservatives' future to a strategic faith-based alliance modelled after one that is already beginning to backfire on his ideological soul mate in the White House?"

"Candidates in this federal election are not talking about issues specifically affecting gay and lesbian people," says Matt Mills, *Xtra*'s Associate Publisher and Managing Editor. "This Conservative government was elected partly because the Harper campaign promised anti-gay, faith-based groups that it would actively marginalize gay and lesbian Canadians. McDonald's work illustrates that point brilliantly. We are running it in the *Xtra* publications because I believe every Canadian ought to read it before the Oct 14 vote. This could be the most important election for gay and lesbian Canadians in decades. We've got to vote and we've got to avoid a Conservative majority."

About Pink Triangle Press (PTP):

Pink Triangle Press is Canada's leading gay and lesbian media organization. It is one of the most diversified and fastest-growing gay media enterprises in the world.

Among its divisions PTP publishes *Xtra*, *Xtra West*, *Capital Xtra* and *Xtra.ca*. It publishes *The Guide* and *Guidemag.com* as well as *fab* magazine and *fabmagazine.com*. It operates *Squirt.org* and *Cruiseline*. It produces the international travel television show *Bump* and is a shareholder in *OutTV*.

PTP provides more than \$750,000 annually in sponsorship value to Canadian gay and lesbian community and cultural organizations.

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