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MORTON, DESMOND

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Family unit suffering in sexually-free Canada

A growing preference in sexual freedom is destroying the family unit in Canada, Erindale College principal Desmond Morton said Monday at the kick off for National Family Week in Peel.

"We are living through an era when marriage and family are in decline," Morton told about 50 local politicians and representatives from Family Services of Peel.

"Affluent Canadians are preferring their sexual freedom to family burdens, and those who bear the fewest children want the greatest (governmental) voice," Morton told the group.

His lecture, which Morton attested had an aim to "trouble minds," presented the incongruities of family life.

"In Third World countries the family is the only social agency that matters. A century or more

ago Canadians lived more like Third World country families, but now it is the state, not the family that provides what the family traditionally supplied."

He observed that immigrants to Canada bring with them strong family tradition. Yet with that tradition, he observed, there are issues that "need to be raised". He mentioned pre-arranged marriages, maintaining one's virginity until marriage, and a Japanese tradition that lauds the mother-in-law "mistress of the home," — a tradition which Morton said has been described in Japanese literature as resulting in treachery for other family members.

In Canada, Morton said family allowances have dwindled with little public reaction.

"I'm not sure we as Canadians have all that much respect for families," he said.

National Family Week in Canada runs Oct. 1-7. Instituted by Family Service Canada in 1985, its primary purpose is to celebrate families in their many and varied forms.