

December 2015

Dear Friend,

"Out with the old and in with the new!"

Such was the mindset of many Canadians as they voted in the October federal election. Canadians wanted BIG change and, for better or for worse, we are getting it!

According to the results of the election, only 37% of the 338 Members of Parliament got re-elected. This means that 63% of all the MPs are inexperienced rookies. This is the largest number of new MPs in the House of Commons in more than two decades. In the majority caucus alone, 84% are newly elected.

Not only have major changes to the federal legislative agenda been promised, our new Prime Minister had also vowed to make free votes in the House of Commons standard practice. Legislators will be allowed to vote according to their own personal conscience rather than according to the official party line. If this happens, then *each* MP must adopt a stance on issues like doctor-assisted suicide, legalizing marijuana, gender identity, poverty, pornography, prostitution, and the refugee crisis.

Allowing free votes could mean a greater voice for Canadians on Parliament Hill. But Canada's 4 million Evangelicals believe only one voice needs to be heard – God's. To benefit from the current changes, there *must* be a strong, clear voice for biblical truths on the Hill *now!*

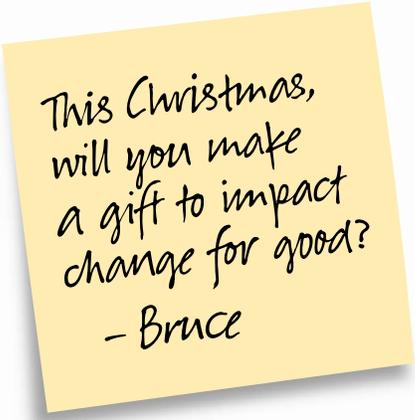
But who has the time and resources to determine where each MP stands on serious issues that may violate the sanctity of human life, deny justice and compassion to those being abused and oppressed, undermine the integrity and capacity of families, or challenge our religious freedoms? *The EFC does!*

And who has the experience, expertise and proven ability to clearly present biblical principles to those with "ears to hear" God's timeless truths on issues facing Canada? *Again, we do!*

Formed in 1964, the EFC has been through 16 federal elections, seen eight Prime Ministers and 12 opposition leaders come and go, and watched political parties rise and fall. Through it all, the EFC continues to be a voice for the Good News of the gospel and the blessing and benefits that flow when we seek the welfare of Canada, to paraphrase the prophet Jeremiah, by championing laws and policies that promote the biblical understanding of justice, righteousness, compassion, and true freedom.

The EFC Centre for Faith and Public Life in Ottawa is strategically located near Parliament Hill. With our resourcefulness, research capabilities and analytical expertise, we have been effective at identifying, building, and maintaining strategic relationships that have strengthened the work that God has called us to do. At the same time, our proximity has made our team accessible to individual MPs and government committees and has allowed the EFC to be present and engaged at a moment's notice.

over please...



This Christmas,
will you make
a gift to impact
change for good?
- Bruce

With more than five decades of experience, the EFC has a long and proven track record of tackling major challenges and achieving significant victories as we seek to boldly proclaim and uphold the Word of Truth in our interactions with law and policy makers. We widely respect for our faith-based convictions, credible arguments, influence, and staying power. As a result, the doors to many offices are opened for us.

We are distinguished as being the evangelical voice of millions who hold the Bible as the final authority in life. Our affiliates include 42 denominations, 65 ministry organizations, 38 schools, and more than 700 congregations across the country, united through a shared desire to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.

Sure, the government is undergoing major changes, but unlike the rookie MPs who are still getting their feet wet, we are seasoned professionals. We stay focused. We don't allow changes to break our stride. Because too much is at stake, it is vital that the work with the new Parliament begin immediately.

Consider these pressing issues...

- How will the government respond to the decriminalization of assisted suicide before the looming February 6th deadline imposed by the Supreme Court?
- What system is in place to re-settle 25,000 Syrian refugees before New Year's Day?
- Is care for our country's most vulnerable citizens (the elderly, the disabled, indigenous women, homeless children of the state, our veterans, etc.) a priority for the new government?

The EFC is constantly identifying and preparing to meet with MPs and Senators on these and other urgent issues that we must continue to push forward on.

EFC supporters and affiliates continue to tell us that they value our work to uphold religious freedom, strong families, sanctity of life and protection for the vulnerable. Friends like you have affirmed your trust in the EFC's ability to get the job done. We are grateful for your investment in the EFC.

Change is exciting. It also means we face a lot of unknown challenges. If we are to make the most of this time of transition, we must **strike while the iron is hot**. We need your gift of support today!

Historically, we have counted on the extra generosity of our donors over the Christmas season to help make up for any shortfalls throughout the year. This year is no different. Election years hit us especially hard. As such, please know that we will be that much more grateful for your Christmas gift to the EFC this year.

May God bless you as you prepare to celebrate the joys of Christmas in the coming weeks!



Bruce Clemenger
President

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