

We have spoken.
And we were heard.

December 2014

Dear Friend,

On Wednesday, November 5, 2014 there was cause for celebration in the offices of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

It's fantastic to end the year with a significant win.

I say that, of course, in relation to the passing of the new prostitution bill in Canada. Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, targets pimps and purchasers of sex. It turns the purchase of sex into a crime – and promises to increase the protection and exit strategies for the women and youth who wish to start a new life, free of the violence, degradation and oppression of prostitution.

It was a bright day in Canada when the bill passed. As you know, we work very hard for these significant victories that profoundly impact Canada.

As a friend of the EFC, you know what an up-hill battle this has been since the very beginning. When Canada's prostitution laws were first struck down by an Ontario court, we knew we had a once in a lifetime opportunity (or even a once in a nation's history) to protect women and youth trapped in prostitution, by helping our government to craft a bill that recognizes their value, worth and dignity as persons made in God's image.

The EFC, along with our partners, fought hard for this victory. And when you climb up a steep hill, it's good to stand at the top for a moment and enjoy the view.

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November 5, 2014
Canada's new
**prostitution
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"The EFC made a promise to you: that we would be the reasoned, respected voice of biblical principles in Canada. We have kept that promise."

Here, in fact, is a bird's eye view of how we worked on this law, empowered by your prayer and financial support. I'd like to share it as a way of pulling back the veil so you can see how we work to accomplish these milestones every time.

Because there are more hills ahead in 2015.



STEP 01	The EFC's presence on Parliament Hill gives us an early alert to bills being contemplated and upcoming social issues.
STEP 02	We conduct essential research on the issue. This is research we will share with you, with MPs and Parliamentary Committees and eventually with the Supreme Court of Canada.
STEP 03	We meet with partners and other groups to build a network and share information and strategy.
STEP 04	We begin the process of applying to be an official intervener if the issue is going to court.
STEP 05	We begin communication with EFC friends, donors and Faith Today readers.
STEP 06	We speak in churches, conferences and the media to inform Canadian Christians.
STEP 07	We write briefing papers and letters to legislators.
STEP 08	Our team meets with Members of Parliament, and appears before Senate and Parliamentary Committees.
STEP 09	The EFC contracts with lawyers who will represent the EFC in court.
STEP 10	Day in Court. Our fully prepared lawyers usually have 10 minutes to present their Biblically-based arguments and presentations.

In 2014, the EFC appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada three times. We were there for the Loyola case, which you will recall was about religious freedom and a Catholic school in Quebec which was not permitted to teach the provincial ethics and religion course from a Catholic perspective.

We were in the Supreme Court again for the Saguenay case, again about religious freedom, with a town council seeking the religious freedom to say a prayer before their meetings.

And we were there again recently on the Carter case fighting back against the rising tide of the acceptance and spread of euthanasia in this

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country. It is rare for any one organization to appear before the Supreme Court of Canada three times in one year. It's even more unusual for an organization to be granted permission to intervene before the Court each and every time that they have requested it. That would be the EFC.

The EFC fought hard in 2014 for religious freedom and the protection of the vulnerable.

The EFC made a promise to you: that we would be the reasoned, respected voice of biblical principles in Canada. We have kept that promise.

In 2014, the EFC appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada 3 times.

- Loyola (*Religious Freedom*)
- Saguenay (*Religious Freedom*)
- Carter (*Euthanasia*)



And we will continue to stand strong on that pledge. Our future – and the future of our children and grandchildren – are too precious to do otherwise.

We will only retain the religious freedoms that we are willing to fight for. The vulnerable will only be protected as much as we are willing to fight for their protection. That much is clear in today's Canada.

What is our nation looking like right now?

- The EFC is working to encourage Canada towards a national palliative care strategy. Without that, the slide toward euthanasia will become even easier for our society. There is an appalling shortage of palliative care options for Canadians who wish to die a dignified death, surrounded by loving family and a caring medical team.
- The EFC will continue to be the standard bearer for religious freedom in Canada. This will be an ongoing, urgent need in the months and years ahead. The tide is always pushing towards eroding those freedoms. We must continually be strengthening the wall of protection we have built around them.

Thank you. It has been a good year to be at work, alongside you, as a bold and biblical voice in Canada.

We have spoken. And we were heard.

Everything we do will not always end in an overwhelming victory, like the new prostitution law in Canada. The celebrations are sweet, treasured moments. But the victories do come. And even when full victory is not ours to have, the EFC has been able to win provisions and safeguards which still provide many of the protections we all seek.

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Victories came in 2014 and women are safer because of it. They will come again. Will you join us?

We are thankful to have been given so many opportunities this year to proclaim the life-giving principles of biblical truth with a strong voice to a country that is in desperate need of hearing them. We are also extremely grateful for donors like you who helped put us in a place of influence, and even more importantly to make a difference.

As 2014 draws to a close, we are thankful for 50 years of influence and impact in our country. We are also so grateful for your partnership with us on this journey.

Whether we stood in a Parliamentary committee or

The Supreme Court of Canada, we have done so with the clear sense that you have stood alongside us. When we gave voice to those who could not speak for themselves, it was only because you were there to send us and pray for us. Thank you.

Your partnership is what continues to make a difference in our country and our culture and we can't do it without you. Together we have accomplished great things in His name and we want to continue to influence our country for good.

Please give a special gift today and help the EFC to be a strong voice in Ottawa and in the whole country, on behalf of the faith that moves us and guides us. Please be as generous as you are able this holiday season. We want to continue being culture shapers and difference-makers. Will you please put the EFC on your year-end donation list? We can't do it without you.

Sincerely,



Bruce Clemenger

P.S. Please make a generous year-end gift to the EFC. This year has provided us with proof that when you empower us with your prayers and your financial support, we can accomplish great things together.

"We want to continue being culture shapers and difference-makers. We can't do it without you."

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