

August 2015

"And let us consider how we may
spur one another on toward love
and good deeds, **...encouraging
one another.**" Hebrews 10:24-25

Dear Friend,

Let me begin by expressing how truly grateful I am for your generous support of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. As an EFC supporter, you are part of a body of believers made up thousands of churches, schools, nonprofits, businesses and individuals who understand that, together, we can do more for His Kingdom.

Throughout Canada's history, evangelicals have come together to build up the Body of Christ as well as to advocate for righteousness, justice, and the greater good. The EFC was formed in 1964 in order to promote fellowship and cooperation amongst churches and ministry organizations to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to provide a united voice on biblical truths in the public square.

Today, the leadership at the EFC is still deeply committed to "uniting evangelicals to bless Canada in the Name of Jesus." We want to edify the Body by empowering evangelicals to bless their communities and the nation through their acts of love and compassion, and by helping them to understand and respond to complex contemporary issues in light of biblical teachings.

Of course, today's Canada is very different than it was fifty years ago and achieving consensus to provide a unified Christian voice in the public square has become much more difficult. We live in an era with widespread accessibility to abortion, majority support for the legalization of physician-assisted suicide, government sanction of same-sex marriages, and unchecked proliferation of internet pornography. The once firm stance of many Christians on issues that impact upon care for the vulnerable, religious freedom, sanctity of human life, and marriage and family is now noticeably lax.

In fact, many Christians, having been fully immersed in the existing culture for most of their lives, often view biblical teachings as gross intolerance for what is "normal" and "acceptable, as long as no one gets hurt." Christians who think that the laws of the land don't have the ability to erode people's moral views only need to hear the next generation talk about pro-choice or gay rights to realize the impact our laws have on redefining social norms.

Moreover, we live in an increasingly self-absorbed culture that encourages us to only do that which advances our autonomy and reject principles and norms that tell us something else is required of us. The Church is finding it increasingly challenging to "spur one another on towards love and good

over please...



"Blessing Canada involves nurturing a caring and just society."

deeds,” and to care for the vulnerable – children, the sick and dying, strangers, the marginalized, and those living in poverty – as Jesus and scripture clearly call us to do.

Blessing Canada involves nurturing a caring and just society. As individuals, we can reach out to our neighbours, participate in church-based programs that minister to others in communities across Canada, faithfully preach the Gospel, and work for just laws and policies that shape our communities and our nation.

Sadly, many Christians today believe that keeping silent and withdrawing is the only way to live peaceably with our neighbours. But if the public sphere is where we, as a society, decide who we are and who we will be, and where we consider and resolve the issues of the day, then it is imperative that the Christian voice must be present there; that the Church not give up on its mandate; and that we not shy away from doing good, knowing that God’s ways are perfect and that justice cannot exist without truth (Isaiah 59:14).

There will continue to be lively debate about the role that the EFC can and should play in the public square and what causes we should champion. But one thing is certain: we won’t be silent.

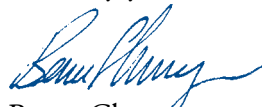
The EFC has long been recognized as being a reasoned and respected voice in the public arena. As such, the courts continue to grant us intervener status so we may boldly promote the application of biblical principles, and Parliamentary and Senate committees continue to accept and consider our submissions on issues ranging from abortion to prostitution, from palliative care to pornography.

In the face of challenges that religious viewpoints should be excluded from civil affairs or educational institutions, the EFC will continue to defend our freedom of religion in the courts. In a culture that has largely rejected the belief that “God created humans in his own image,” the EFC will continue to uphold the truth that is the foundation for all human rights, social justice, and pro-life battles. Where there is mounting pressure to only practice our faith in private, the EFC will continue to encourage and empower evangelicals to live out the Christian faith at school, at work, at play, and at rest; and to foster compassionate responses to the vulnerable as well as to engage our neighbours with the gospel message.

You understand that our work is unique and vital. Your prayers and generous support help us to facilitate compassionate responses to those in need – loving our neighbours as an expression of our love for God, and help us to continue to be an unwavering voice of life-giving principles and biblical truths to the governments and the highest courts to impact how laws and policies are enacted and enforced.

If you share our vision and want to partner with us in our journey in our work to build up the Body of Christ in Canada by promoting unity and cooperative ministries and by helping to bless every community in this country for God and Jesus Christ, we humbly ask you to make a gift in support of the EFC today. And may God make His face shine upon you!

Sincerely yours,



Bruce Clemenger
President

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