



Together
FOR IMPACT



CanadaWatch

New Research Centre Will Challenge Stereotypes and Equip Evangelicals

"The newly established Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism (CRCE) will 'improve the accuracy of public and scholarly representations of Evangelicals...'"

Who are Canadian Evangelicals? The media get it wrong time and time again. The newly established Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism (CRCE) will "improve the accuracy of public and scholarly representations of Evangelicals and provide evangelical ministry leaders with useful information to aid them in their work," says Program Manager Rick Hiemstra.

For Evangelicals accustomed to depending on American statistics about trends or thoughts in the community, a Canadian source of research will provide a much-needed service.

One of the first CRCE projects examines how Canadian Evangelicals have been identified and counted. "We decided to look at this issue when various polls said 'Evangelicals are like this' or 'Evangelicals do that.' We've discovered that Canadian Evangelicals tend to cooperate on a wide variety of projects, even if they aren't always in the public eye," says Hiemstra.

Watch for more Canadian statistics, information and resources from the CRCE, including the online version of its publication Church and Faith Trends.



Hill Watch

The EFC is meeting with Members of Parliament and representing and advocating on Parliament Hill on behalf of Canadian Evangelicals. We provide solid resources to MPs and Canadians on the issues facing our nation.

The EFC is working to reinstate Bill C-22, The Age of Protection Bill, to raise the age of sexual consent in Canada from 14 to 16. Bruce J. Clemenger, the EFC's president, has written to the Prime Minister and leaders of the Opposition parties requesting that this important bill be reintroduced back onto Parliament's agenda. We launched a campaign urging Canadians to write similar letters to ensure that Canadian youth are protected from sexual predators. We have long advocated raising the age of sexual consent, arguing that it impacts not only the level of sexual activity among young teens but also issues of child abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography. Children must be protected from exploitative sexual relationships with adults.

The EFC is supporting Bill C-293 which introduces measures to make poverty reduction the primary mandate for Canada's aid program and increases accountability for how aid money is used. Known as the "Development Assistance Accountability Act," the bill is currently being reviewed by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. We have sent a letter to committee members asking for prompt action on the bill.

What's new for Canadian Ministries from the EFC?

Several key EFC partnerships are equipping ministries across Canada. Here are some of the latest projects from EFC's Centre for Ministry Empowerment.

Children's Ministry Partnership

(CMP): The CMP is researching excellence in children's ministries. Their latest resources are available on the EFC's website.

Poverty and Homelessness Round

table – Ministry leaders and front line workers and agencies are finding solutions to poverty and homelessness through resource, networking, challenge and inspiration. The biennial conference, "Streetlevel 2009" will be coming up.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries –

National leaders from a variety of youth and young adult ministry sectors are laying the foundation for a cooperative future to reach Canada's youth and young adults more effectively. The 2008 Youth and Young Adult Ministry Forum happens soon.

Christian Higher Education Canada

(CHEC) – The CHEC's research project "Defining the Market" examines how Canadians view Christian values, beliefs and thoughts, particularly about Christian higher education.

Workplace Transformation Partnership

(WTP) – This recent partnership, to begin operating on the EFC platform, will present conferences and initiatives to promote spiritual transformation and business excellence. Watch for the Canadian Workplace Conference, Toronto, April 2-4 2008.

EFC President's Day Affirms Common Purpose

Many leaders of the 162 denominations, ministry organizations and educational institutions affiliated with the EFC gathered at the annual EFC President's Day held on Oct. 18 in Calgary. Discussion was lively and productive, as participants viewed "Misplaced," a film about church and young adults produced by MakeYouThink.

Doug Ward spoke about trends impacting the Church's missional call. David Wells shared insights on improving existing church structures. Ray Aldred shared a theology of a ministry of reconciliation with indigenous peoples and the Church in Canada.

Participants agreed that Canadians need to "support the existing and champion the emerging" when it comes to joining in God's mission for Canada and the world. *Canada Watch* readers can view "Misplaced" on the EFC website.



www.evangelicalfellowship.ca

EFC Equips Intercultural Ministry

The EFC is empowering and equipping Canadian ministry organizations to reach out more effectively to multicultural communities through our Intercultural Engagement Symposiums, offered for free across Canada.

How can your church begin to intentionally embrace Canadians from different ethnic backgrounds?

1. **Realize** – God's expectation of you reaching cross-culturally
2. **Reach Out** – Develop intentional strategy to reach out to different ethnic groups
3. **Respond** – Help with practical needs that those of other nations might have
4. **Reflect** – Work towards the goal of your congregation, platform and leadership reflecting the diversity in your community
5. **Rejoice** – Celebrate the richness of the diversity God has created!

To find out more about EFC's Intercultural Engagement Symposiums being held across Canada, or webinars on this topic, visit www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/national or call 905-479-5885



Reaching out to multicultural communities!



Law Watch

The EFC monitors and intervenes in legal cases of deep concern to Canadian Evangelicals. Here are some of our latest initiatives.

The EFC is standing up and speaking out for Christian broadcasters, radio or television, who face discriminatory treatment by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). The EFC contends that the requirement for religious broadcasters to adhere to different content and ethical standards than other broadcasters is discriminatory.

Don Hutchinson, EFC's general legal counsel, appeared before the CRTC in September. Hutchinson argued that restrictions on freedom of expression placed on those involved in "single faith broadcasting," coupled with additional expenses that single faith broadcasters are required to pay to meet CRTC requirements is discriminatory.

The EFC is supporting the right of peaceful protests in the hotly contested "bubble zone" around abortion clinics. Donald Spratt was convicted in B.C. of violating bubble zones that prohibit opposition to abortion within a certain area surrounding a clinic. The EFC is part of The Canadian Religious Freedom Alliance, (CRFA), and argued in court in September that the definitions of "protest" and "sidewalk interference" are too broad and infringe freedom of expression as guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The CRFA agrees that besetting, intimidation, physical interference, graphic recording, threatening and harassment should be prohibited, but peaceful leafleting and innocuous protest should not.

The EFC is defending Canadian children as we call again for a full study into what is in children's best interests, in light of the recent decision in the Three Parents case. The decision, which allows more than two parents to be recognized as the legal parents of children, raises many questions about what can happen to children when long-standing social policies are changed through litigation to suit adult desires.

We urge you to read our regular updates on these and other issues on Parliament Hill. Sign up to receive the weekly EFC update!

From Bruce J. Clemenger, president of the EFC:

Canada Watch illustrates what a powerful impact Evangelicals have when we work together for influence and impact in ministry and public witness. In the public square, we are influencing critical pieces of legislation. In our churches and ministry organizations, we are equipping church leaders who know Evangelicals can make a profound difference in the world, and are committed to living out the gospel in word and deed. Thank you for your partnership in these vital tasks.



The EFC Sends Speakers to you

The EFC offers a Speaker's Bureau to help Canadian ministries interact faithfully with the issues of the day. Here are just some of our experts from the EFC's Senior Leadership Team.

- **Bruce J. Clemenger, president of the EFC:** *Evangelicals and the Canadian public square*
- **Douglas Cryer, director of public policy:** *Evangelicals and public policies*
- **Don Hutchinson, general legal counsel:** *Developing church policy on thorny issues*
- **David A. Macfarlane, director of national initiatives:** *How to become intentionally intercultural*
- **Linda Milke, director of ministry advancement:** *What is the EFC up to?*

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For a complete list of potential speakers and their topics, or to book a speaker, visit www.evangelicalfellowship.ca.



EFC Event Calendar - Join Us!

EFC Offers Events Across Canada

The EFC offers a wide range of events, workshops, seminars and conferences from coast to coast. Our goal is to equip and connect Canadian Evangelicals for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Visit www.evangelicalfellowship.ca to find out what is coming up, and to list your own event free of charge.



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The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is the national association of Evangelicals, gathered together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals and a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society.

EFC Welcomes New Affiliates

Joining us for influence, impact and identity:

New Congregational Affiliates:

- Congregation Beit Mashiach, Edmonton, AB
- Living Hope Community Church, Estevan, SK
- Good Shepherd's Chinese Christian Church, Toronto, ON
- Napanee Standard Wesleyan Church, Napanee, ON
- Graphite Bible Chapel, Maynooth, ON
- Siloam Mission Church of the Nazarene, Winnipeg, MB

New Organizational Affiliates

- Horizon College & Seminary, Saskatoon, SK
- Bus Stop Bible Studies, Scarborough, ON

Please encourage others to join you in affiliating with the EFC. Together, we are stronger.

Your gift helps the EFC gather Evangelicals for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Thank you.

Please use my enclosed donation \$_____ where it is most needed.

YES! Email me information about how I can be a *Partner in Faith* with the EFC.

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