

Off the Wall

Recent posts on the Facebook Wall of the EFC:

This week EFC President Bruce J. Clemenger and EFC VP Operations Bill Winger will be participating in the World Evangelical Alliance's International Leadership Team (ILT) meetings in Indonesia...

Pray for us! This is the plea of Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. In Canada, where we have freedom to worship, let us remember those who are not so fortunate. On November 13, join others in a global prayer for the persecuted...

In the latest issue of Faith Today: "Is our right to freedom of expression - including expressing our faith - expanding or dwindling in a Canada that is more politically correct than ever?"

Don't miss the lively discussions amongst Evangelicals from around the world on EFC's facebook page. <http://www.facebook.com/theefc>



"Like" us and receive instant connection to

breaking news and resources to help Evangelicals impact Canada.

facebook

Come join the EFC on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/theEFC



Activate CFPL is the EFC's law and public policy blog – Visit www.activateCFPL.theEFC.ca

Together We Are Stronger

Your voice. Your platform. Your public witness. The EFC welcomes our newest affiliates, gathered together for influence, impact and identity.

Chartwell Baptist Church (Clarkson Village) _____ Mississauga ON
New Life Pentecostal Assembly _____ Elliot Lake ON
Wycliffe College _____ Toronto ON
Fusion Fellowship of Edmonton _____ Edmonton AB

If your church, denomination, organization or school is an affiliate of the EFC, your employees enjoy great discounts on products and services. Visit www.theEFC.ca for more information on the benefits of an EFC affiliation. Or, contact Paul Hilsden at 905.479.5885 ext 238 to discover all the great benefits of being an EFC affiliate, and to join us today.

YOUR IMPACT!

Recently, the EFC extended an invitation to our Partners in Faith program to supporters who receive our appeal letters. We explained that Partners in Faith is a monthly giving commitment that helps solidify the EFC's ability to stand strong on the cultural and political issues that matter the most to Evangelicals. Thank you to those who responded. This type of foundational giving by donors empowers the EFC to respond to the "front-page issues" that we alert Evangelicals about — like the Supreme Court of Canada case on Freedom of Expression — but also the more day-to-day issues that the EFC has been involved with recently. Those are often the more localized concerns of Evangelicals across the country, like encouraging a local school board to include Christian groups in their student religious groups; like calling on a national loyalty card provider to not discriminate against Christian groups; like the various consultations with groups and individual Evangelicals that the EFC regularly engages in. Thank you!

If you have not yet signed up to be a Partner in Faith, call us today at 1-866-302-3362.



The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

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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.



TOGETHER FOR INFLUENCE, IMPACT AND IDENTITY • FALL 2011

CanadaWatch

CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE: The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill

MINISTRY SERVICES: Spotlight on prayer – focusing on the spiritual and political health of Canada

NEW EFC RESOURCES: *Faith Today* Serves Evangelicals – in digital or in print



How you CAN HELP

- Visit www.faithtoday.ca to read Sept/Oct's cover story on freedom of expression in Canada, including details about the Whatcott case.
- Visit www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/Whatcott to watch a video interview with Don Hutchinson, general legal counsel for the EFC, read the Whatcott case summary and learn more about religious freedom in Canada and around the world.
- Prayerfully and financially support the EFC's work for religious freedom in Canada, especially around this very important case.

The EFC Defends Christian Faith and the Public Square

The EFC's intervention in *Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission v. William Whatcott* marked our 22nd appearance before the Supreme Court of Canada as an intervener in a key case being heard by the court. Most of those appearances have been on the subject of religious freedom for Canadians. This case fit in the long line that has established the EFC as one of Canada's pre-eminent defenders of both the Christian faith and a pluralist public square in our constitutionally free and democratic nation.

The Whatcott case focused on whether or not a series of four flyers – vehement in tone and language against homosexuality and based on William Whatcott's understanding of Scripture — constitute non-permissible hateful expression, because some people took offense at the content.

The EFC intervened believing that if the court rules that one cannot act in a non-harmful way in public discourse, based on one's foundational religious beliefs, then one does not actually have religious freedom.

Religious freedom, a right with recognition in Canadian law that pre-dates the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, includes the right to hold such religious beliefs as a person chooses and to declare those "religious beliefs openly and without fear of hindrance or reprisal, and the right to manifest religious belief by worship and practice or by teaching and dissemination," wrote former Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Brian Dickson in the 1985 decision in *R. v. Big M Drug Mart*.

What does religious freedom mean? Dickson wrote: "Freedom means that, subject to such limitations as are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, no one is to be forced to act in a way contrary to his beliefs or his conscience."

The right to debate moral issues and issues of public policy is foundational in a true democracy. And, according to the Supreme Court of Canada in the 2002 decision in *Chamberlain v. Surrey School District No. 36* (another case in which the EFC's intervention was significant), the religiously informed mind has a place in public debate on important issues.

On behalf of the court, Justice Charles Gonthier wrote, "everyone has 'belief' or 'faith' in

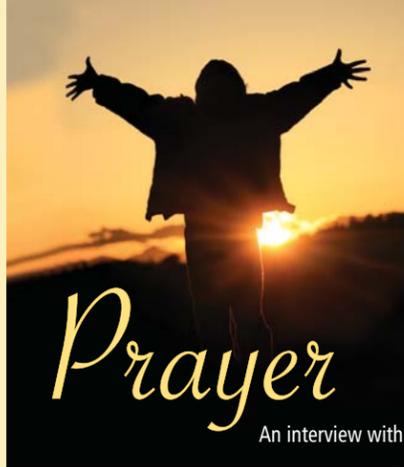
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something, be it atheistic, agnostic or religious. To construe the 'secular' as the realm of the 'unbelief' is therefore erroneous. Given this, why, then, should the religiously informed conscience be placed at a public disadvantage or disqualification? To do so would be to distort liberal principles in an illiberal fashion and would provide only a feeble notion of pluralism. The key is that people will disagree about important issues, and such disagreement, where it does not imperil community living, must be capable of being accommodated at the core of a modern pluralism."

While the EFC need not necessarily condone the words used by Mr. Whatcott, the principle remains: Every individual in Canada should feel free to openly bring their religious convictions to bear on their opinions and their participation in debate on public policy; whether that participation be verbal or written. The EFC appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada arguing just that.

For the latest on the Whatcott case visit www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/Whatcott



Prayer

An interview with Aileen Van Ginkel, vice-president, Ministry Services of the EFC.

Spotlight on Prayer

A group of national prayer leaders are focusing their prayers — together — on the spiritual and political health of Canada.

The EFC is helping make it happen.

Q What is the national prayer leaders gathering?

We are drawing together leaders of national prayer movements, leaders of national and local houses of prayer, denominational prayer coordinators and prayer coordinators of ministry organizations, all of whom have a particular perspective on the spiritual climate of Canada. It's about communal discernment on what is going on in Canada from a spiritual perspective, so that each ministry focuses prayer out from a broader vantage point. We all become better informed on how to pray for Canada, for the social, the political as well as the Church. We've done this every year since 2005.

Q What is the EFC's role in this gathering?

Based on the input of those who have attended the gatherings, we do the inviting for the next year, and then help make each event run smoothly. We just met in Ottawa for three days of prayer which included a prayer walk around Ottawa. EFC's Don Hutchinson joined us on that walk, and helped flesh out what was happening in Parliament and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Q What are the benefits of this kind of gathering?

Prayer to support God's work in Canada is an essential component of the partnership in mission that God calls us into. The better we can discern God's purposes, the better we can focus our prayer efforts both individually and organizationally. Out of this last gathering, for instance, each participant can pass on to their own communities a number of prayer focus points, including:

- **Prayers for the health of the nation:** concerns around rising anti-Semitism and the lack of a moral compass in many areas of society;
- **Prayers for government and Supreme Court:** new composition of Parliament (federal); religious freedom legal decisions;
- **Prayers for the work of the Church in Canada:** increasing the number of Christian disciples in Quebec and among young people in particular; heightened dependence on God in prayer on the part of those who lead in congregational and other ministry contexts.

Faith Today Serves Evangelicals — in digital or in print

Many readers experienced *Faith Today* for the first time this summer, as the complementary digital July/Aug issue made its way through Christian circles around the world. The cover story "How Evangelicals Can Change the World With Social Media," provided guidance for Evangelicals on the powerful impact social media like Facebook, twitter and YouTube can have on their ministry. Live links throughout the story gave readers examples of social media done well, along with practical tips. You can still view it — and pass it along — online at www.faithtoday.ca/digitalsample.



Here is what one reader said about the convenience of the digital format of *Faith Today*:

"I think this is excellent. I am currently on sabbatical leave in China studying Chinese language. With this, I do not have to wait till I get home to read my printed copy which will be 6 months old. I can read it now. If downloaded, I can even read it while flying or travelling on a computer or to some on an iPad." — Simon Wong

Whether in print or digital — or in both formats as many readers prefer — *Faith Today* is a valuable tool:

"Just a note to let you know how much I enjoy receiving and reading *Faith Today*. The quality of writing, the depth of content and the breadth of discussion are superb and well above most Christian publications I receive." — Ron Suter

The EFC has Media Momentum



An important part of the work the EFC does — sometimes on a daily basis — is to provide a reasoned, and knowledgeable evangelical voice to Canadian journalists as they report on the issues of the day. Here is a snapshot of EFC's media activity from Jan.1, 2011 to July 31, 2011.

The EFC was mentioned in 130 separate articles written by 57 different authors. These included:

- 72 news reports
- 12 blogs
- 8 media releases from other organizations
- 7 video interviews
- 6 letters to the editor
- 4 opinion pieces
- 3 editorials
- 2 documentaries
- 2 feature articles
- 2 YouTube videos
- 1 audio interview
- 1 column
- 1 journal article
- 1 radio talk show
- 1 wiki mention

The EFC also appeared on CBC's *The National*, CTV News Channel, *Byline* with Brian Lilley and *Listen Up TV*, and published an op-ed piece in the *National Post* and several blogs in *Holy Post* (*National Post's* online religion page). The EFC spoke to a wide range of issues in these media appearances, including religious freedom in Canada, abortion, marriage and family, education, religious freedom around the world, poverty and homelessness and sexual orientation. An EFC online media centre at www.theEFC.ca helps journalists determine who to interview on which topics. EFC supporters can read current and archived media releases online, anytime.

On Parliament Hill



• **IN SEPTEMBER**, the EFC released "Seeking Justice, Rescuing the Enslaved: Recommendations for a National Strategy to End Human Trafficking in Canada." The Government of Canada has committed to developing a strategy to address Canada's status as both destination and source country for human trafficking. The EFC submission builds on our several decades of work promoting biblical principles in the establishment and development of Canada's laws in this area, which includes the impact of earlier EFC proposals when human trafficking was first added to the Criminal Code in 2004.

• **IN EARLY OCTOBER**, the EFC participated in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade consultation with Minister John Baird on the establishment of the Office of Religious Freedom. The Office is intended to monitor and promote religious freedom around the world as a key objective of Canadian foreign policy. The EFC has been encouraging the development of such an office for over a decade and is pleased to be a consultant during this process.

