



CanadaWatch

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

MINISTRY SERVICES: Spotlight on
StreetLevel, the EFC's Roundtable on
Poverty and Homelessness

NEW EFC RESOURCES:
Share your *Faith Today* - July/August
issue will be available free online

How you can help



- **Read** about prostitution in Canada and the Nordic Model suggested by the EFC and our partners at www.theEFC.ca/prostitution, and in the March/April cover story of *Faith Today*.
- **Call, email or write** your MP to register your support for the Nordic Model and encourage the government in its appeal of the Ontario ruling.
- **Prayerfully and financially support** the EFC's work on this issue.

UPDATES ON THE ISSUES

that the EFC is currently involved with are always available at www.theEFC.ca 1-866-302-3362

The EFC Proposes New Laws to Protect Victims of Prostitution

Last September, Ontario Superior Court Justice Susan Himel ruled that the prohibitions against operating a common bawdy house (brothel), living off the avails of prostitution, and communicating for the purposes of prostitution forced prostitutes to "choose between their freedom and their right to security," as guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Himel ruled that the Criminal Code provisions against prostitution were unconstitutional.

A similar challenge is going forward in British Columbia. Challenges in other provinces will likely follow. The Canadian government has always discouraged prostitution, enforcing laws rooted in the understanding that it is an exploitative practice which harms its participants, typically women and minors, and is detrimental to Canadian society as a whole. The current challenge to our laws is a defining moment for Canada — an opportunity for Parliament to re-examine existing laws and consider whether it might chart a better, more just way forward.

Justice Himel's decision has been stayed until April 29, 2011, which means all Criminal Code sections about prostitution remain in effect until at least that date. The Federal Government and Government of Ontario, who have both indicated they will appeal the ruling, have until then to file all their paperwork and documents. If they fail to do this in time, the appeal will not be heard, and Justice Himel's ruling will stand — making prostitution legal in Ontario. If the appeal is heard, the laws that have already been found flawed by one court, could be found flawed again.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) disagrees with Justice Himel's ruling. But we agree that the status quo isn't working. Our current laws do not protect prostituted women and minors from harm or discourage the men who buy them.

The EFC is urging the Canadian government to give full consideration to the example of Sweden, where prostitution is not considered a safe or legal form of work, but understood to be only and ever a form of exploitation and sexual violence against women. Instead of attempting to regulate prostitution, the Swedes took measures directed toward its abolition, an approach now commonly referred to as the Nordic Model. The Nordic Model decriminalizes the prostituted victims and imposes harsh penalties on the johns, pimps and traffickers.

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Sweden also enacted strong measures to help victims exit prostitution, and a public education campaign to help reshape the way society understands and views the sex trade — not as free enterprise, but as harmful social practice.

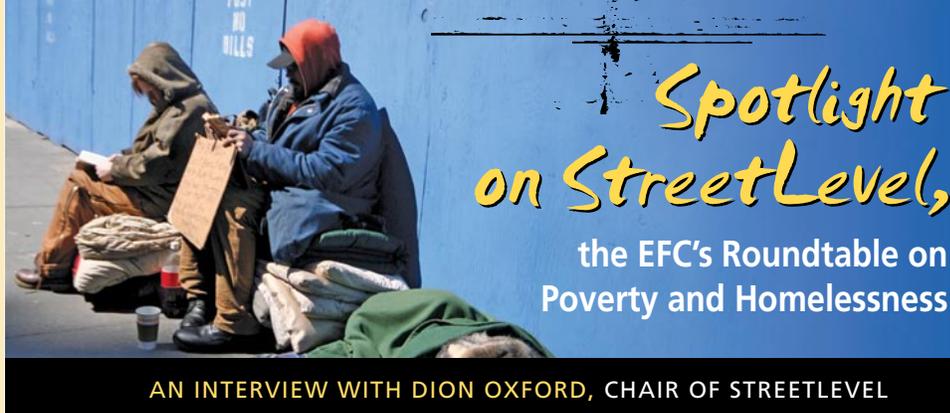
More than 10 years later, the results of an independent inquiry in Sweden found dramatically reduced rates of street prostitution and a corresponding decrease in the establishment and operation of organized crime and human trafficking for sexual purposes. These results were echoed in Norway after similar legislation was enacted. The Nordic Model works.

The EFC is working to encourage Parliament to take bold and just action on this issue. The EFC will continue to encourage the Church to use its prophetic voice against prostitution, and to mobilize healthy homes to model what it means to cherish and protect one another, especially women and children.



Homelessness
is not an
“us and them”
conversation. It’s
all about “us.”

StreetLevel operates on the EFC’s administrative and communication platform. For more information on this and other ministry partnerships, visit www.theEFC.ca.



Q WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING we need to know about StreetLevel?

StreetLevel is a national association of people who, compelled by their Christian faith, have committed themselves to the care of poor and homeless people. We gather those interested in engaging in social justice issues, and provide opportunities for support, celebration and collaboration. We learn all we can about the causes and effects of poverty and homelessness — and positive responses to those issues — and share what we are learning. This includes a teaching component alongside being a prophetic voice.

Q HOW CAN THIS PARTNERSHIP HELP EVANGELICALS better engage with their own communities?

Homelessness is not just an urban issue. I grew up in a small town in Newfoundland and I continue to bump into folks on the street from Newfoundland. There are a half-dozen evangelical churches in the town I grew up in, all known for their differences as opposed to what they have in common. If the Church learned how to partner better in our communities, we could prevent vulnerable people from slipping through the cracks. I believe that the solution to homelessness lies in the two great commandments that Jesus told us: to love God with our whole heart and life, and love our neighbour as ourselves. If we took those two things seriously in whatever community we live in we could eliminate homelessness. My friends on the street come from small towns and cities all across Canada. Homelessness is not an “us and them” conversation. It’s all about “us.”

Q WHAT DO WE WATCH for from this partnership?

StreetLevel is about to take a new shape. We are going to travel across Canada in 2011, and discover who the evangelical players are actively pursuing justice for all people. Regional StreetLevel caucuses comprised of like-minded people in those regions will be formed. Conferences will invite local churches and evangelical street workers to come out together for training, networking, and mutual encouragement. I, among other speakers on the round table (like Terry LeBlanc and Rick Tobias) will offer to go and speak at those conferences if local organizers want us to come.

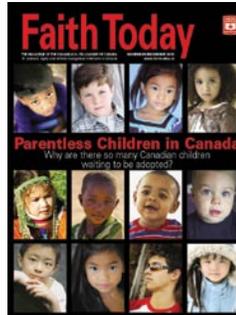
StreetLevel is compiling an email list of people across Canada interested in regularly staying informed about our activities. *Canada Watch* readers can email streetlevel101@gmail.com to be added to this list.



Share Your Faith Today

Faith Today, the EFC's flagship magazine, is offering a special way to share your faith – and your *Faith Today* – online this summer. The Jul/Aug issue will be available free online to anyone world-wide – no password needed to read, save or print off pages.

This is a unique opportunity to introduce neighbours and friends to the EFC, to the evangelical community in Canada, and to this award-winning magazine. It's also a great opportunity for ministries and businesses to highlight their services and products using slideshows or video advertisements. The issue will appear in July at www.faithtoday.ca/digitalsample. Sharing it will be as simple as sending an email message: "Check out the free summer issue of my favourite magazine at www.faithtoday.ca/digitalsample. There's even a link there to get a free mobile phone app." The special issue will also allow the EFC to honour this year of budgetary restraint.



The **FREE Faith Today** issue will appear online in **July 2011**

www.faithtoday.ca/digitalsample

Message from the EFC's President – Bruce J. Clemenger



Exploiting women and children through prostitution and pornography is a sign of a sickness with far reaching affects. Both are an affront to what it means to be made in God's image. We'd like to get you talking and responding to these issues and more. We have the opportunity to shape laws based on a biblical understanding of compassion, justice and restoration. Please join us in our efforts. You'll also read about an opportunity to engage deeper with Street Level, our roundtable on poverty and homelessness.

Take advantage of these and more opportunities to partner with us to impact Canada — together. Thank you for your partnership.

On Parliament Hill



Child Protection

■ The EFC has secured a commitment from Justice Minister Rob Nicholson to maintain current Criminal Code prohibitions against child pornography, which agree with international commitments and understanding, as well as the interpretation of the Supreme Court of Canada. The EFC continues our support of Bill C-22, now in the Senate, which requires mandatory reporting of child pornography by internet service providers.

Gender Identity

■ The EFC has expressed deep concern at the House of Commons passage of Bill C-389, which proposes to amend the Canada Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination. Both of these categories are recognized in law as being covered by the term sexual orientation which is already in the Act. This private member's bill is now in the Senate. The EFC will continue to speak to these issues and be a faithful witness on biblical truths. We are called to stand firm.

Help the EFC fly



Collect Air Miles with an EFC Air Miles card and help make it possible for EFC senior leaders to travel for court interventions and to resource and connect with EFC affiliate leaders and supporters across Canada. Request your card today by e-mail airmiles@evangelicalfellowship.ca; phone 1-866-302-3362, or at www.theEFC.ca/airmiles. Thanks to our Air Mile card holders who have already made it possible for EFC leaders to travel at a lesser cost.

Text to Have an IMPACT



Now it's easier than ever to donate to the EFC. Text EFC to 20222 to make an instant \$10 donation, anytime.



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



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

Together We Are Stronger

Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals and a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society. The EFC's affiliates currently include 39 denominations, 76 ministry organizations, 35 Christian higher education institutions and more than 750 local congregations.

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

- The Life Centre Christian Fellowship _____ Ottawa, Ontario
- Bethesda Church _____ Winnipeg, Manitoba
- New Covenant Forum _____ North York, Ontario
- Bethel Baptist Church _____ Whitefish, Ontario
- Unionville Alliance Church _____ Unionville, Ontario
- Stoneville Pentecostal Tabernacle _____ Stoneville, Newfoundland

If your organization or church is not yet an affiliate of the EFC, please consider the following. Each affiliate strengthens the influence we have in the public square where decisions are made that affect your daily lives, as well as the nation. Also, we have a new program to benefit our affiliates, called the Affiliate Benefit Program (ABP).

Check it out on our website at www.theEFC.ca

YOUR IMPACT!

Last August, the EFC asked for your support in advocacy for Private Member's Bill C-510, known as "Roxanne's Law," to help protect women from being coerced into abortions and to protect their unborn children. Although Bill C-510 was defeated by a vote of 178 to 97, the initiatives surrounding the Bill generated much media attention – television, radio, print and internet – that began the nation talking once again about the protection of women and the unborn. Protection for the life of each unborn child remains a cornerstone to the EFC's mandate and together, with your support, we will continue to engage politicians and the public on the protection of the unborn.



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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.