

Harness the Power of Social Media with the EFC



Social media provides an opportunity like no other to inform and equip fellow Evangelicals to engage in Canada's public square with the EFC. Here's how you can join us:

- Become a Facebook fan of the EFC at www.facebook.com/theefc
- Subscribe to the EFC's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/theEFCca
- Follow the EFC on twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/theefc>
- Follow the Centre for Faith and Public Life blog at <http://activatecfpl.theefc.ca>
- Then let social media work do its cross-pollination best by sharing links to EFC videos, resources, news and updates on your blog, Facebook, twitter, and good old fashioned email
- Read the cover story of the July/Aug *Faith Today* to find out more about how to use social media for social good www.faithtoday.ca



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

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

- Grace Chapel _____ Halifax, NS
- Devon Park Baptist Church _____ Fredericton, NB
- Philadelphia Mennonite Brethren _____ Watrous, SK
- Life House Christian Church _____ Vancouver, BC
- Hamilton Chinese Alliance Church _____ Hamilton, ON
- Gunningsville Baptist Church _____ Riverview, NB
- West Park Free Methodist Church _____ Napanee, ON
- Keswick Christian Church _____ Keswick, ON
- Heart Lake Baptist Church _____ Brampton, ON
- Bendale Bible Chapel _____ Scarborough, ON
- Grace Free Reformed Church _____ Brantford, ON
- Malvern Christian Assembly _____ Scarborough, ON
- Caistor Centre Free Methodist Church _____ Caistor Centre, ON
- Partners In Harvest _____ Toronto, ON

YOUR IMPACT!

In April the EFC asked for your support as we prepared to intervene before the Supreme Court of Canada in the Quebec Ethics and Religion and Culture program case heard on May 18. Without your prayer and financial support we would not have experienced that powerful day in court. The nine Supreme Court judges were well prepared and began to question lawyers minutes into each presentation. Our lawyer was ready. One denominational leader who attended the hearing scored the EFC's lawyer as the best in the courtroom, respectfully and intelligently answering judges with sound reason. Freedom of religion remains a cornerstone of the EFC's mandate and together with your support, we will continue to stand for the right to believe, worship and engage our beliefs in action, free from government interference or imposition.



M.I.P. Box 3745, Markham, ON L3R 0Y4
Tel: 905.479.5885 Fax: 905.479.4742 Email: efc@efc-canada.com
www.evangelicalfellowship.ca

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 • SUMMER 2011

CanadaWatch

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

MINISTRY SERVICES: Spotlight on the Canadian Network of Ministries to Muslims (CNMM)

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

How you can help



- Visit www.theEFC.ca/sl to watch a brief video clip about the case, read a case summary, access the legal factum written by the EFC, and view media releases and other resources on this case.
- Post the EFC link to your Facebook page with a brief explanation, or email and tweet it to your friends and colleagues.
- 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

Why a Quebec Court Case Matters so Much

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada stood before the Supreme Court of Canada on May 18 in defence of the parental right to decide on education — particularly the religious education — of their children.

In 2008, the Quebec government introduced the controversial Ethics and Religion and Culture (ERC) program as mandatory in all schools. With the goal of teaching "harmonious social relations," the grade one to 11 program instructs on the place of religion – Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism, Native Spiritualism, etc – in Quebec's history. While there may be good intent, the development of a curriculum that regards all religions as equal and without distinct and true claims on the life of believers provides an unbalanced view. The program also regards ethics arising from a communal or conversational and situational basis, without regard for religious claims of absolute truth being foundational in both belief and practice.

The ERC has been criticized by secularists for imposing instruction on religion — and by people in the faith community for imposing inaccurate instruction about religious beliefs and practices. In short, the ERC does not recognize the legitimacy of the sincerely held religious beliefs of Christians — or any other faith community.

Although the program is not a requirement for graduation, every student is compelled by law to attend, without exception. This applies to public schools, private schools, religious schools, and home schooling.

Some evangelical parents have noted the benefit of having the place of religious contribution to the development of Quebec society recognized. Others are greatly concerned about the impact, on their children, of parental authority on religious instruction challenged by the authority of the teacher. "The right to pass on one's religious and cultural heritage to their children is a fundamental aspect of religious freedom and parental authority in Canada," noted Faye Sonier, EFC legal counsel.

– Continued on next page

– Continued from page 1

In addition to parental concern, several teachers are concerned that they are required to teach the program which inaccurately depicts their personal faith and does not permit them to teach from that faith perspective.

“The goal of the ERC – to develop ‘attitudes of tolerance, respect and openness’ in order to prepare children ‘to live in a pluralist and democratic society’ – is betrayed by the very lack of tolerance, respect and openness to pluralism and democracy that is demonstrated in the curriculum itself, and by the Government of Quebec’s approach to mandatory instruction,” said Don Hutchinson, EFC’s general legal counsel.



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

In a recent letter to EFC donors, I noted that the EFC has gathered Evangelicals together for influence, impact and identity since Lester B. Pearson sat in the office of the Prime Minister. Our mission and vision continues to focus on the gathering and partnering of Evangelicals for effective ministry and to provide a reasoned and constructive evangelical voice into Canada’s most crucial debates and decisions. The Office of Religious Freedom, promised by the Prime Minister and long advocated for by the EFC, is a victory for Canadian Evangelicals very aware of the importance of religious freedom around the world. The S.L. v. Commission scolaire des Chênes Supreme Court case, also covered in this issue, proves we must remain vigilant about religious freedom here at home. The EFC is doing just that. Thank you for your partnership. Together we are making a difference in the life of our country.

.....



SPOTLIGHT: Canadian Network of Ministries to Muslims (CNMM), an EFC Ministry Partnership

An interview with Randy Hoffman,
chair of the CNMM

Q What is the most important thing we need to know about the Canadian Network of Ministries to Muslims (CNMM) partnership?
This is a comprehensive network that is open to all denominations, organizations and ministries across Canada, and our focus is Canada. The CNMM works to mobilize the Church to bear witness to the gospel to people of Islamic faith. The Muslim world is diverse with 4000 different people groups. We have a significant number of Muslim groups here in Canada and generally they know little of the Christian faith and of the gospel. They are becoming our neighbours.

Q How can this partnership help Evangelicals better engage with their own communities?
There are many misunderstandings about Islam. Churches can use this network to be better informed about Islam, how to develop relationships of care with their Muslim neighbours, and how to talk about our Christian faith. Churches in general have been slow in learning how to make meaningful connections. Learning how to build relationships needs to take place. That is a role that we believe this network, made up of individuals from different churches and organizations, can fill. For example, churches do camp ministry in the summer. In some of these camps Muslim kids are coming. But the camp personnel don’t know how to address the Islamic backgrounds of these kids. Same for the Muslim women who go to church-run crisis pregnancy centres looking for help. When churches engage in social service activities and encounter Muslims, CNMM can help with training and resources. We know where to get literature and other inexpensive resources. At our national conference in Calgary last year we offered DVDs and large numbers of books with materials about understanding Muslims, and how to talk about our faith.

Q What new initiatives are around the corner? What should we be watching for from this partnership?
We’re continuing to set up more city networks across Canada. Right now we are in 10 cities, and that number will grow. A network is made up of a leader working with a group of people from various denominations and ministries. Muslim background believers are part of the CNMM. We’re continuing to put things in place so the Church across Canada can be resourced, empowered and strengthened to share the gospel in word and deed with our Muslim neighbours. The CNMM/EFC is organizing a national conference in Toronto in Oct. 2012 with workshops, networking, resources and plenary speaker George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilisation. All are welcome to attend. We want the ministry to be owned by local churches or organizations. We are here to help them.

For more on CNMM and other EFC Ministry Partnerships, visit www.theEFC.ca/partnerships or email info@cnmm.ca.

Office of Religious Freedom: An EFC Goal for Canada Realized

When Stephen Harper pledged to create an Office of Religious Freedom in Canada during the recent election campaign it was the realization of a long-standing EFC goal. The EFC has been a rigorous advocate for the formation of an Office of Religious Freedom in Canada through our Centre for Faith and Public Life in Ottawa and the EFC Religious Liberty Commission.

Christians are the most persecuted people in the world — 176,000 Christians were killed for their faith from mid-2008 to mid-2009. Other faith communities around the world are in great need of protection. Prime Minister Harper pointed to three tasks of the new office: to monitor religious freedom around the world; to promote religious freedom as a key objective of Canadian foreign policy; and to advance policies and programs that support religious freedom around the world.

The EFC believes that this office will form a critical part of Canada’s foreign policy. The EFC anticipates the office will work closely with Canadian faith communities and organizations with expertise in this area. The EFC is poised to help.

“Christians are the most persecuted people in the world — 176,000 Christians were killed for their faith from mid-2008 to mid-2009.”

Sign up for the EFC’s Religious Liberty Alerts to help frame your prayers and practical action to help end religious persecution around the world by emailing RLC@efc-canada.com.



Faith Today Wins the Big One!

Faith Today, the EFC’s flagship magazine, was awarded the highest honour by the Canadian Church Press (CCP), an association of nearly 100 Canadian periodicals. The recent CCP Awards ranked Faith Today first in the category “General Excellence – Denominational and Interdenominational Magazine.” Visit www.faithtoday.ca to read other Faith Today articles that won awards this year and at past CCP conventions.

Remember, the July/Aug issue is a perfect way to introduce your world to Faith Today. It will be a digital-only issue, available free. Check it out — and share it — in July at: www.faithtoday.ca/digitalsample



FREE Faith Today
issue online in
July 2011

On Parliament Hill



The EFC looks forward to meeting new MPs of all political parties, and building successful relationships like the ones we have nurtured for years with returning MPs. The EFC celebrates that Bill C-22, requiring mandatory reporting of child pornography by internet service providers, became law just days before the election was called.

Moving into this session of Parliament, the EFC will:

- work towards the fulfillment of the Prime Minister’s commitment to establish an Office of Religious Freedom in the Department of Foreign Affairs
- continue to support legislation to protect children from sexual predators
- help to develop a national action plan to combat human trafficking, including necessary changes to Canada’s prostitution laws
- address legal gaps created in the Assisted Human Reproductions Act by the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in Dec. 2010

