



# CanadaWatch

## CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE:

The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill

## MINISTRY SERVICES:

Spotlight on The Child in Church and Culture Partnership

## NEW EFC RESOURCES:

Alternative Approaches to Public Education, and the latest *Faith Today*



## Did You Know?

- **Religious education** has been one of the most controversial legal battlefields in Canadian history.
- **The United Nation's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, signed and ratified by Canada, calls governments to "undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents...to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions."
- **In Chamberlain v. Surrey School District No. 36**, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that religious parents have a right to participate in the decision-making process about public school education and that the primary consideration is "tolerance and respect" for all groups in society.

## The EFC Equips Parents and Students From Grade School to University

It was national news last spring when Ontario's Ministry of Education introduced — and then quickly withdrew — a new Health and Physical Education curriculum. The curriculum, which one *Toronto Star* writer called "a treasure trove of learning," included sexual education content that many parents felt was age inappropriate or contrary to their moral or religious beliefs.

The ensuing outcry from parents representing a variety of faith groups clearly had an impact, at least temporarily, on the government's plans. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) sent an open letter to the Minister of Education asking for additional information, as well as proper accommodation for children whose parents do not want them exposed to troubling content. The EFC recommended greater transparency in future curriculum development. A "Questions and Answers Handout" about the program and curriculum development in general is available on the EFC's website, along with a template letter of concern for parents and caregivers to download, customize and send to the Minister of Education.

Ontario's curriculum will be reintroduced in some form in the near future. Parents can, and should, respond pro-actively to concerns with sex education material — or any other form of troubling curriculum — in the public education domain. The EFC will continue to monitor and respond to this issue and equip concerned parents and caregivers across Canada. Canadian parents from coast to coast are watching the developments in Ontario, knowing that although education is a provincial governance matter, what happens in one province tends to happen in others.

Meanwhile, pro-life clubs and students on Canadian university campuses are facing increasing levels of censure, academic penalties and even arrests for their work on >>

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behalf of the unborn and women hurt by abortion. The EFC's "Pro-Life Clubs and the Law: A Reference Guide for Students and their Legal Counsel on the Law and Legal Principles involved with Pro-Life Campus Club Challenges" shares the stories of pro-life clubs across Canada that have fought for their right to free speech. The guide provides an overview of applicable case law and legislation pertaining to these challenges. Pro-life organizations and advocates have widely endorsed the document. To download a copy of the guide, or any of the EFC's education resources, visit [www.theEFC.ca/education](http://www.theEFC.ca/education).

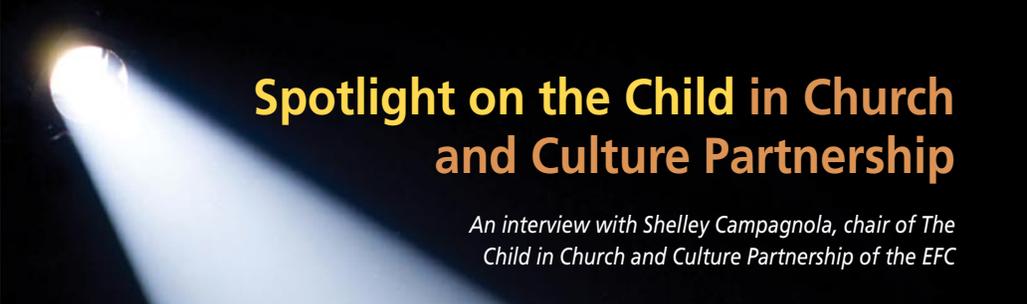
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## YOUR IMPACT

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Last August, the EFC asked for your support in advocacy for Bill C-510, known as "Roxanne's Law," to help protect women from being coerced into abortions and to protect their unborn children. You responded. Since that date, the EFC has continued to publicly support this bill and provide resources, such as "Law Related Questions and Answers on Bill C-510," to equip people to understand and engage in support of the bill. The bill had its first hour of debate in the House of Commons on November 1, 2010.

Expand your impact! Start a petition, write your Member of Parliament or create a YouTube video sharing your support for this important bill. On November 30 the EFC launched its official action campaign in support of Roxanne's Law. Please visit [www.theEFC.ca/Roxanne](http://www.theEFC.ca/Roxanne) for more information and instructions on how you can be more involved. The second hour of debate and vote are likely to take place in mid-December.



# Spotlight on the Child in Church and Culture Partnership

An interview with Shelley Campagnola, chair of The Child in Church and Culture Partnership of the EFC

## Q What is the most important thing we need to know about The Child in Church and Culture partnership?

We used to be the Children's Ministry Forum, the first partnership the EFC ever had. When people heard the term "children's ministry" they thought of kids in Sunday school or the church's neighbourhood club. The Child in Church and Culture Partnership represents all the kids in Canada, whether they attend church or not. We deal with the issues relevant to kids at any particular time, and right now the biggies are pornography, poverty and the alienation of certain groups, like Aboriginal kids.

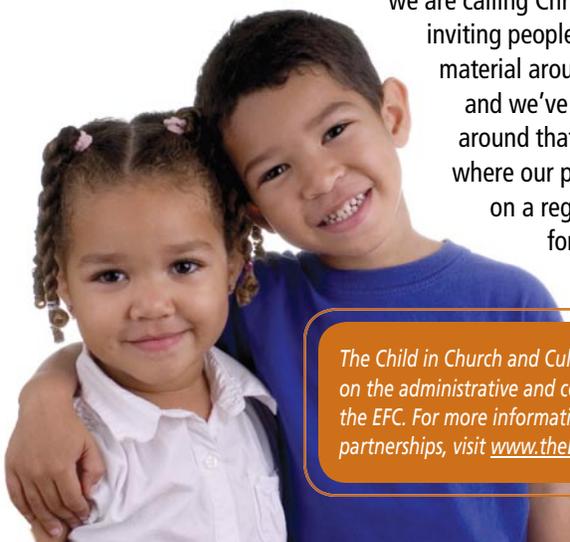
## Q How can The Child in Church and Culture Partnership help Evangelicals?

The EFC represents the evangelical community really well in Ottawa on the legislative front. We want to partner with the EFC to help churches respond effectively to those issues. We want to mobilize the everyday Christian, particularly parents. We are not a lobby group, although we do advocacy work. We ask the question: How do parents mobilize their kids to respond with a biblical world view? We don't repeat what the EFC is doing in Ottawa, we complement it.

We are a resource hub where people can come together, learn from each other and find out who else is doing effective ministry across the country. The partnership can be a place that provides resources — and makes sure those resources are top-quality and address the needs of children now and in the future. We anticipate what children will face and make sure we are ready.

## Q What new initiatives are around the corner?

We're solidifying what it means to be a partnership and we are creating a children's manifesto — that this is what we believe about children in Canada, and this is how we are calling Christians to respond. We're inviting people to partner with us to write material around issues of children in Canada, and we've set some high standards around that. Watch for a new website where our partnership can upload material on a regular basis. It will be a true platform for people to come together!



The Child in Church and Culture Partnership operates on the administrative and communications platform of the EFC. For more information on this and other ministry partnerships, visit [www.theEFC.ca/partnerships](http://www.theEFC.ca/partnerships).



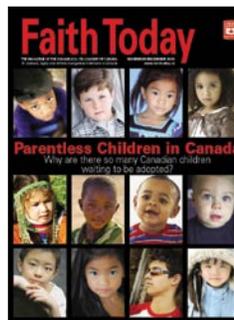
# EFC RESOURCES

All EFC resources are available for ordering or download at [www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca) or by calling toll-free 1-866-302-3362.

**“Alternative Approaches to Public Education,”** a resource from the EFC’s Centre for Faith and Public Life (CFPL), provides an overview of four types of education that parents can seek or provide for their children in Canada. “With the debate continuing in regard to curriculum change in public schools and the concerns it provokes, it is important to be aware of educational options within and outside the public school system.” — from “Alternative Approaches to Public Education.” Visit [www.theEFC.ca/education](http://www.theEFC.ca/education).

**“Come to the Table: Landing the Missional Church in Canada,”** by Shelley Campagnola, chair of the Child in Church and Culture Partnership, examines the role of children and youth ministries in the growing missional identity of the Canadian Church. “Canada continues to wrestle with both protecting and empowering children, and it is again the church that can lead the way.” — from “Come to the Table: Landing the Missional Church in Canada.” Visit [www.theEFC.ca/partnerships](http://www.theEFC.ca/partnerships).

**Faith Today:** Sept/Oct’s cover story investigates the reality of sex education in Canada today, and what parents and the Church can do about it. Adoption is an issue that Evangelicals can mobilize around, as thousands of Canadian children wait for homes. Read and learn about this issue in the Nov/Dec *Faith Today*. Subscribers can view the full digital edition online at [www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca). Request a risk-free trial offer [www.faithtoday.ca](http://www.faithtoday.ca) or call us at 1-866-302-3362.



**EFC’s Back-to-School Blitz all year long:** This fall, the CFPL released a series of resources to assist parents and students to navigate educational issues of interest to Evangelicals. Topics include Ontario’s sex education curriculum — instructive for parents and educators all across Canada; alternatives to public education; and a reference guide for pro-life students facing campus club challenges. Visit [www.theEFC.ca/education](http://www.theEFC.ca/education).

On Parliament Hill



◆ **Affordable Housing Bill:** The EFC has endorsed Bill C-304, an Act to ensure secure, adequate and accessible housing for all Canadians (MP Libby Davies, NDP). This bill calls on the Federal Minister responsible for housing to meet together with provincial and territorial counterparts, First Nations communities and other stakeholders to develop a national housing strategy.

◆ **Prostitution Laws:** The EFC is working with a broad coalition of groups across the country calling on the Federal Government to re-examine the country’s prostitution laws after an Ontario Superior Court Justice ruled that three key provisions in the Criminal Code related to prostitution were unconstitutional. The Federal and Ontario governments have indicated they will appeal the ruling, so the current laws remain in effect.

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

**I** am a father. When I look at my own two children I see their resilience and power, but also their incredible vulnerability. Our job as parents is to nurture and empower our children to be strong, grounded adults, but also protect them from the dangers that are so very real in our society. This is what the EFC is doing at the national level with your partnership, working diligently for Canadian children and youth. As you read this issue of Canada Watch you will learn about some of the initiatives the EFC is taking to ensure that Canadian children and youth are both protected and empowered.



**Thank you for your continuing support and partnership. TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.**

## Faith Today Goes Mobile

**S**tay connected, equipped and informed with a *Faith Today* app that is as mobile as you are! Read current and past issues of the EFC's award-winning magazine, absolutely free. Receive real-time updates from the EFC, including breaking news stories, video feeds on topics that matter, and updates from the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life, including the Activate CFPL blog-feed. Download the *Faith Today* app at [www.faithtoday.ca](http://www.faithtoday.ca).



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# IMPACT

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Activate CFPL is the EFC's law and public policy blog – Visit [www.activateCFPL.theEFC.ca](http://www.activateCFPL.theEFC.ca)



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## Together We Are Stronger!

**S**ince 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, 85 ministry organizations, 36 Christian higher education institutions and more than 900 local congregations.

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

- Association Chretienne Pour  
La Francophonie \_\_\_\_\_ Longueuil, QC
- Bridlewood Community Church  
of the Nazarene \_\_\_\_\_ Kanata, ON
- Eglise Evangelique Baptiste  
Renaissance \_\_\_\_\_ Quebec City, QC
- Paris Presbyterian Church \_\_\_\_\_ Paris, ON
- Promise Keepers Canada \_\_\_\_\_ Burlington, ON
- Temple Baptist Church \_\_\_\_\_ Sarnia, ON
- Trinity East Anglican Church \_\_\_\_\_ Toronto, ON
- Warden Full Gospel Assembly \_\_\_\_\_ Scarborough, ON

Find out more about the benefits of EFC affiliation at [www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca) or call 1-866-302-3362 for more information.



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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.*