



# CanadaWatch

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

**MINISTRY SERVICES:** Q & A with the  
Director of EFC's Centre for Research  
on Canadian Evangelicalism

**PARTNERS IN FAITH:** A Message From  
The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's  
President, Bruce J. Clemenger



## Christmas in Ottawa With the EFC

When The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada opened its Ottawa office in 1996, it was both symbolic and strategic.

Fulfilling our role as ambassadors of the evangelical faith and giving it voice in matters of law and public policy could have been done from anywhere in the country; but being present is what makes an ambassador effective. Being in the nation's capital communicates a strong message articulated by then director of national affairs, and now EFC President Bruce J. Clemenger. "Because we've put our money where our mouth is by investing in facilities and staff in the nation's capital, we've proven we're serious about wanting our voice heard," he said at the time. We're still only three short blocks south of Parliament Hill.

Being in Ottawa is more than symbolic. It's strategic. Over the last 17 years the EFC has been able to respond to the question, "Can we meet?" with, "When and where?" and the next 15 minutes is always a viable option. Our biblically-based, articulate and well-reasoned engagement over 17 years "on the Hill" has earned the EFC both respect and invitations for comment about issues on which we have developed and demonstrated expertise – along with new issues that Parliamentarians recognize require the perspective of an informed moral compass.

One Member of Parliament has publicly (and humorously) stated, "When I need to know what my opinion is on a moral issue, I call the EFC!" That's worth a chuckle, and also worth a moment's pondering. We've known this MP long enough to appreciate that he makes up his own mind; and to recognize that we help inform his opinion and those of many others.

The EFC has been instrumental in helping to shape public policy for strong legal limits on genetic and reproductive technologies; raising the age of consent for sexual activity with an adult from 14 to 16 years of age; introducing human trafficking as a crime under Canada's *Criminal Code*; developing the understanding that child pornography is actually a crime; protecting clergy from being required to perform marriages that would violate their religious beliefs; standing against repeated attempts to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia; and much more, including regularly reminding Canadians and Parliamentarians that the child in the womb is a child deserving of protection that is not currently provided under Canadian law.

Over the last 12 months alone, the EFC has been engaged in the development of Canada's

### How You Can Help

- Continue to financially and prayerfully support the EFC.
- Introduce the EFC to three of your friends who care about Canada and its most vulnerable people. Pass on this *Canada Watch* to them, or call us to request extra copies to distribute.
- If you are in the nation's capital, drop into our office to say hello.

**UPDATES ON THE ISSUES**  
that the EFC is currently involved  
with are always available at  
[www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca) 1-866-302-3362

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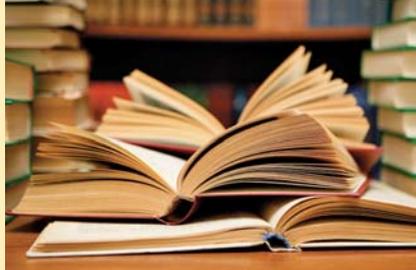
National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking; appeared before one Senate committee and two in the House of Commons; hosted an educational MP/Senator breakfast in the Parliamentary Dining Room; participated at several key events held on or near Parliament Hill; and released a number of discussion papers, studies and reports on issues being addressed in Parliament.

The EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life, as the Ottawa office is now called, is also within six blocks of the Supreme Court of Canada where the evangelical perspective has been presented in over 20 legal interventions by the EFC on cases ranging from the freedom to express our beliefs in worship and on public policy, to a legal understanding of the sanctity of life as a foundational concept for the interpretation of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* "right to life," along with a prohibition on patenting modified higher life forms, and defending the legal definition of child pornography.

This month alone, the EFC appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada to argue that the religious beliefs of the patient must be considered when assessing end-of-life decisions. We received status to intervene before the British Columbia Court of Appeal in a case dealing with physician assisted suicide and started preparation to seek to intervene before the Supreme Court of Canada in a case challenging Canada's laws on prostitution.

The EFC is respected, represented or quoted on all of these issues. We tracked over 530 media hits this last year in news media across the nation. Your voice is being heard!

As Christmas arrives in Ottawa, EFC representatives will be attending traditional Christmas gatherings with the community of relationships we have relationships that help shape our nation. We couldn't do it without your support. Thank you for your prayers and your financial contributions. And Merry Christmas!



# Q&A

With  
Rick Heimstra

The Director of EFC's Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism

The EFC's ability to bring together partners to work together for the good of the Canadian Church was seen clearly in the publication of *Hemorrhaging Faith: Why and When Canadian Young Adults are Leaving, Staying and Returning to Church*. The EFC's Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism is emerging as a leader in the field of distinctly Canadian and distinctly evangelical research. *Canada Watch* talks with the centre's director, Rick Heimstra.



**Q: Rick, how has *Hemorrhaging Faith* been received across Canada?**

I think people welcome the Canadian data and they are obviously concerned about their kids, their grandkids and whether or not they will continue in the faith. They welcome the research and some of the practical applications that come out of it.

**Q: What are the limits of this kind of research?**

Research has to be a partnership between those who crunch the numbers and those who do the application. The EFC is not an academic institution doing research in the abstract, we are looking for solutions to problems that ministry leaders face on a day-to-day basis. Our research has a bias towards action and being helpful in ministry.

**Q: But how can statistics help us in the first place?**

A statistic is like taking a temperature with a thermometer. It gives you a number, but it doesn't tell you why you're sick or what to do about it. My job is taking the temperature. Our job together as Christians is figuring out the diagnosis.

**Q: Distinctly Canadian data must be especially welcomed by the Church.**

I think ministry leaders welcome the Canadian data – for too long we've been looking south, at Barna and other groups. While they do good research, they simply don't understand the Canadian context well enough to interpret what they're finding in a way that resonates with the Canadian experience. Canadians do have a very different experience when it comes to ministry, and our culture is different than Americans.'

**Q: Do Americans pay attention to Canadian statistics as well?**

*Hemorrhaging Faith* has received attention in the States. Americans look at what is happening in Canadian culture as an indicator of what they can expect a decade down the line. As Western cultures move through a post-modern period, Canada is just further down the road. Debates about things like same-sex marriage happened earlier in Canada.



"Research has to be a partnership between those who crunch the numbers and those who do the application."



## Q: What can we anticipate from the EFC with further research?

We're finding ways to be more resourceful in working with data that already exists, that will help us learn about the Church, but also forming research partnerships with frontline ministries. *Hemorrhaging Faith* would be an example of that. Increasingly, we will be making similar partnerships for these kinds of projects.

## Q: Rick, why do you personally enjoy this work?

When I was pastoring, one of the big questions was, "Why isn't the gospel received as good news by Canadians?" There is something more going on in our culture that makes it difficult for Canadians to latch onto the gospel. I want to explore that and help ministry leaders. To the extent that research can help us understand that, that's what drives me at the end of the day.

## A Year of Knowledge in EFC Reports

EFC  
REPORTS  
2012

Researching the top issues of the day – and then ensuring the research gets in the right hands – is an essential part of the work of the EFC. Here are the reports the EFC released in 2012. You can access them yourself at [www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca).

**JANUARY:** *Pre-budget submission to Standing Committee on Finance, Federal Budget 2012 – Families, Compassion & Charities: Key Components to Maintaining a Strong Canada*

**FEBRUARY:** *Abortion Polls in Canada: A Compilation by Topic of Opinion Polling in Canada from 2007-2012 (updated November 2012)*

**MARCH:** *The Overlooked Demographic: A Report on the Impact of Religious Persecution on Children (the EFC's Religious Liberty Commission)*

**APRIL:** *By the Numbers: Rates and Risk Factors for Bullying, A Brief Examination of Canadian Bullying Statistics*

**JULY:** *Recovering What Was Lost: Recapturing the Integrity of the Assisted Human Reproduction Act*

**AUGUST:** *Black Holes: Canada's Missing Abortion Data – A Brief Examination of Canada's Abortion Data Collection Policies and an Analysis of Ontario's New Legislation*

**NOVEMBER:** *Provincial Decisions: Abortion Funding in Canada*

**NOVEMBER:** *Palliative Care and End of Life Therapies: A Discussion Paper*



And of course, one of the most talked about reports of the year: *Hemorrhaging Faith: Why and When Canadian Young Adults are Leaving, Staying and Returning to Church* available at [www.hemorrhagingfaith.com](http://www.hemorrhagingfaith.com)

On Parliament Hill



◆ The EFC appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Cuthbertson v. Rasouli* case on Dec. 10. The EFC presented arguments which consider the sanctity of human life and the importance of moral and religious beliefs in end-of-life decisions. Find out more about this case and read the EFC's legal arguments online at [www.theEFC.ca/Rasouli](http://www.theEFC.ca/Rasouli).

◆ In December 2010, the Supreme Court of Canada released a decision that compromised Canada's limitations on genetic and reproductive technologies. The EFC remains involved in the effort to restore the strength of the legislation through a report issued in July of this year, and through our ongoing efforts with the Ministers of Health and Justice. You can access the report online at [www.theEFC.ca/RecoveringWhatWasLost](http://www.theEFC.ca/RecoveringWhatWasLost).

◆ The EFC has expressed concern that the proposal in private members' Bill C-279 to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include "gender identity" and "gender expression" as prohibited grounds of discrimination, is a proposal to add unnecessary – and thus legally dangerous – language to the law. Both categories are already covered under the term "sexual orientation," already in the Act.

Find updates on these issues and more, and receive regular commentary from EFC staff blogging at [www.ActivateCFPL.theEFC.ca](http://www.ActivateCFPL.theEFC.ca).



## From the President, Bruce J. Clemenger

Because we've put our money where our mouth is by investing in facilities and staff in

the nation's capital, we've proven we're serious about wanting our voice heard. That's exactly what I did say back in 1996, when the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life opened in Ottawa. And that's exactly what has happened: we have proven we are serious about being ambassadors of the evangelical faith. Our voice is calm, reasoned, intelligent, constructive and bold. Our voice is heard speaking to Canada's most challenging and pressing issues, and let me assure you that ears are open to the EFC. Thank you for being an essential part of the work we do in Ottawa and all across the country. Merry Christmas and may God bless you in the coming year.



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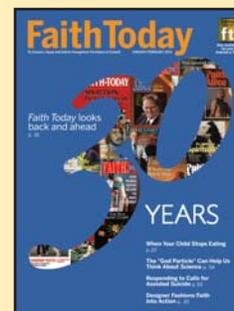
Activate CFPL is the EFC's law and public policy blog – Visit [www.theEFC.ca/activateCFPL](http://www.theEFC.ca/activateCFPL)

## Coming up in Faith Today



There are always great things to anticipate with each issue of *Faith Today*, but here are some particular highlights to watch for in 2013:

- Q and A interviews with leaders of congregational affiliates from coast to coast. This new feature of *Faith Today* asks ministry leaders from all sizes of congregations, in settings as diverse as Halifax, Meadow Lake and Vancouver Island, what's new, what's helping and what they'd like the rest of the EFC family to know about their Kingdom work in their part of Canada.
- More articles that equip congregations to take active steps in their churches in response to the *Hemorrhaging Faith* report. It's one thing to crunch the numbers, it's another to come up with some solutions. *Faith Today* will continue to dig deep into this topic.
- *Faith Today* turns 30 this year and will look back on some favourite stories – and continue to produce our free mobile app (available at [www.faithtoday.ca](http://www.faithtoday.ca)) to keep you in the know while on the go.
- More columns by your favourite thought leaders in Canadian evangelicalism.



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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.*