



CanadaWatch

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

MINISTRY SERVICES: *Faith Today*, the
EFC’s Magazine to Connect, Equip and
Inform Evangelical Christians

PARTNERS IN FAITH: A Message from
the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada’s
President – Bruce J. Clemenger

How you can help



- **Unsure of how to contact your MP?** Visit the website of the Parliament of Canada (accessible at www.theEFC.ca/contactMP) and search for your MP by your postal code. You should quickly find a link to your MP’s personal website. If you don’t see an advertisement for a summer gathering, email your MP right from their site to ask for the date.
- **Brush up on the most pressing issues of the day** for Canadian Christians by visiting www.theEFC.ca/socialissues. Activate CFPL, the EFC’s Centre for Faith and Public Life blog, can also help give you great talking points and easy overviews of critical issues (www.activateCFPL.theEFC.ca).
- **Need more help than that?** Give us a call at our Centre for Faith and Public Life in Ottawa and ask us your questions about how to best interact with your MP: 1.866.302.3362.

It’s BBQ Season for MPs and You!

Summer is barbecue season in Canada. Not just for you, your family and friends, but for Members of Parliament. Our kids take the summer off from homework. However, from the last week of June until the third week in September MPs leave Parliament — and they take their work home!

So, what does that mean for you? BBQ circuit season gives you the opportunity for some one-on-one conversation with your elected representative. MPs will be promoting the accomplishments and future plans of their parties while attending or hosting community events. You can attend, too! You can thank them for their service and accomplishments in Ottawa and tell them what you think some of their future plans and priorities should look like.

“How do I do that?” you might ask. “I’m just a normal person and he/she is a Member of Parliament.” They serve in the House of Commons for a reason. Not only do MPs represent “the common people,” they happen to be people just like you and me. The biggest difference between them and us is the effort they put in to being elected and the effort they make to maintain our confidence.

Prepare in advance. What do you think is important? This issue of *Canada Watch* has some ideas that you might find helpful. For more, you might want to visit www.theEFC.ca/socialissues (our main website under “social issues”) and www.activatecfpl.theEFC.ca (our public policy blog).

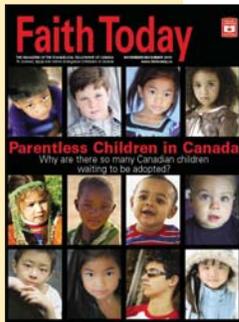
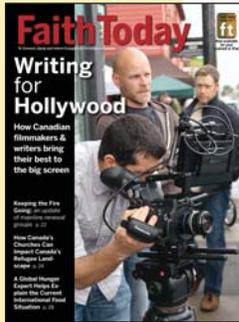
It would be great if you gave your MP a big “thank you” for the new National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking: a comprehensive plan that is designed to get police services, border security and charitable organizations working together in Canada and outside our borders to fight this modern day slavery. We see the evidence of human trafficking in Canada in the sex for sale industry, forced labour (like the recently broken up construction ring in Southern Ontario and domestic home workers brought illegally from other countries), and forced marriages.

It would also be great if you let your MP know that you will be watching to see their vote for MP Stephen Woodworth’s motion M-312, the motion to establish a parliamentary

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committee to study when a child should be considered to be a human being under Canada's *Criminal Code*. Currently, a child is not considered a human being – protected by the *Criminal Code* – until the child has fully emerged from his or her mother's body.

Call your MP's office to ask when an event like a BBQ will be taking place, then mark it on your calendar as a special event that you won't miss. Talk to your family and friends to encourage them to consider the issues and prepare to strike up a conversation over a burger and pop. While you're at it, how about the BBQ hosted by your Mayor or City Councillor or Member of the Provincial Legislature? Not many people study the issues (or even just one or two of the issues) so your interest will translate into influence. And you might just change the course of government in your hometown, province or nation.



SPOTLIGHT: *Faith Today*, the EFC's magazine to connect, equip and inform Evangelical Christians.

Canada Watch spoke to Bill Fledderus, senior editor of *Faith Today*, to find out what's up with this award-winning national publication.



Q: Bill, what is the most exciting thing going on at *Faith Today* these days?

Now anybody with Internet access worldwide can read all our latest online issues for free. That's at www.faithtoday.ca/digital and includes every issue since January 2008. Previous to May 2012 we had subscription fees and web-login mechanisms, but really our mandate is to serve as much of the Canadian church as we can.

These digital editions are great – you can quickly search, download, print pages, share over Facebook and email – and, of course, read leisurely over a coffee or tea.

Readers can also sign up for notifications that let you read each new issue online even before the print version is delivered (at www.faithtoday.ca/subscribe). We also now have free Apps for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets (Apple and Android) – those are really taking off. They include bonus information feeds from the EFC, updated regularly for those who want to be in the know. The links for those Apps are at faithtoday.ca.

Q: Do you see *Faith Today's* mandate to connect, equip and inform Evangelical Christians in Canada any differently today than you did even five years ago?

The mandate is increasingly urgent – as a vast and diverse body of Canadian Christians we really need each other in so many ways. *Faith Today* can serve best when we meet believers where they are. Today so many people do their reading on the screen of a mobile device. If we can be there for them, we can also serve new audiences who would never read us in printed form – I'm thinking of many of the college students who have signed up in the past year and also business people who may always be on the go.

And that's really part of our mandate, not only to reach across denominations and geographical regions of the Canadian church, but also across the generations. There are also a lot of Canadian Christians outside the country – think of all the missionaries – and digital content reaches them too.

Years ago, a lot of people who would find out about us would right away subscribe in a committed way. Nowadays people expect to Google-up a magazine's content for free online, and they may eventually subscribe after three or four times of finding useful articles – some may never bother to subscribe! So we need to be creative in our financial stewardship – and we're really grateful to our advertisers for partnering with us.



Faith Today always needs your input and feedback. Have an idea for an article? Know a ministry somewhere in Canada that God is using? **Contact us at editor@faithtoday.ca**



Q: What's the most important thing you would like *Canada Watch* readers to know about *Faith Today*?

Faith Today exists to serve you, individual believers that make up the body of Christ across Canada. We always need your input and feedback. Have an idea for an article? Know a ministry somewhere in Canada that God is using? Have a bone to pick with one of our articles? Let us know at editor@faithtoday.ca. We know you will find us worth reading, please invite your friends to try us out.

Q: What can we look forward to in the next issue and issues to come in the Fall?

Well that depends how we handle all the great ideas that will come in from *Canada Watch* readers this month! Some of the important stories we have in the works include one on the trend for many young adults to drop out of church and another on euthanasia. We're also talking about doing an overview of some of the top music recordings by Canadian Christians. A member of our *Faith Today* staff travelled to South Sudan to see the work Christians are doing in refugee camps there, and we will have that story as well. There's lots more to come, so stay in the loop by signing up for our email notifications (only six per year) at www.faithtoday.ca/subscribe.

Twenty-Six Issues of *Faith Today* Available Online

From Faith & Science to Prostitution in Canada to How to Use Social Media for ministry, *Faith Today's* new, free digital archive enables readers to access 26 back issues of the magazine (to 2008), read articles and email them to others. Visit www.faithtoday.ca/digital and click on "back issues" to access this free treasure trove of Christian journalism in Canada.



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



Our Canadian summer is underway and so are times of much-needed rest and time with family and friends. This summer, in our lead article, we're encouraging you to engage with your MP in a way that might be new to you. If you are able to connect with your MP at a social event and have a one-on-one conversation about issues

that matter to you, please let us know how it goes. We'd love to hear. Connecting Evangelicals, because we are stronger together, is at the heart of what the EFC is all about. You are an essential part of that connection. Thank you.

On Parliament Hill



■ In June, EFC representatives attended the official launch of Canada's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, a plan for which the EFC was consulted, following over a decade of active work on the fight to end human trafficking, including last October's EFC report *Seeking Justice, Rescuing the Enslaved: Recommendations for a National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking*. (available at www.theEFC.ca/HTseekingjustice).

■ EFC Policy Analyst Julia Beazley appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in June to express the EFC's support for Bill C-310, An Act to amend the *Criminal Code* (trafficking in persons). This is the second private member's bill sponsored by MP Joy Smith (Kildonan-St. Paul) on the issue of human trafficking. Bill C-268, establishing minimum sentences for traffickers in children, passed a year ago. Learn more at www.theEFC.ca/humantrafficking.

■ Bill C-279 is a repeat of last year's Bill C-389, a private members' bill proposing to amend the Canada Human Rights Act to include "gender identity" and "gender expression" as prohibited grounds of discrimination passed second reading in the House of Commons and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The EFC has deep concerns about this bill as both of these categories have been recognized in law as being covered under the term "sexual orientation" which is already in the Act.

New EFC Offices Open. All Are Welcome.

Staff and Board Members greeted friends of the EFC in May, as the new national headquarters of the EFC officially opened in Richmond Hill, Ont. "This office gives us a central, streamlined headquarters where our team can work out the EFC mandate to gather evangelical Christians for influence, impact and identity in ministry," says Bruce J. Clemenger, EFC president. "We are so grateful to the donors who helped make this ultimately cost-saving move possible. We look forward to effective ministry in the public square for years to come, based out of this attractive, accessible location." Friends of the EFC are welcome to stop in anytime to see the new location at: 103 9821 Leslie Street Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3Y4



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breaking news and resources to help Evangelicals impact Canada.

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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.

Faith Worship Centre _____ Toronto, ON

The Stone Church _____ Toronto, ON

Stanley Park Baptist Church _____ Kitchener, ON

Almaguin Evangelical
Missionary Church _____ South River, ON

Harvest Family Church _____ Mississauga, ON

Shalem Mental Health Network _____ Hamilton, ON

Grace Community Church _____ Winnipeg, MB

Living Stones Church _____ Red Deer, AB

We appreciate all our EFC affiliates. Your affiliation strengthens our influence in the public square. 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.



EFC

The Evangelical Fellowship
of Canada

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

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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.