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◆ **Bill C-400** – In March, the House of Commons defeated Private Members' Bill C-400 that called on the federal government to work with provincial and aboriginal leaders to establish a national housing strategy to combat homelessness in Canada. The EFC strategically engaged this bill.

◆ **Prostitution** – The EFC filed an application in early April to intervene before the Supreme Court of Canada in the Ontario case *Bedford v. Canada* that proposes to strike down certain of Canada's prostitution laws.

◆ **Motion 382** – On March 5, MP Bev Shipley brought a Private Member's motion before the House of Commons for its first hour of debate. The motion encouraged the government, as part of its foreign policy, to continue to speak out against persecution and all acts of violence toward religious groups. The motion also encourages the Canadian government to "support the opposition to laws that use 'defamation of religion' and 'blasphemy' both within states and internationally to persecute members of religious minorities." The second hour of debate is scheduled for May 3. A vote to follow. For more details and to view the video of the March 5 debate, visit: [www.bevshipley.ca/media/press-releases/my-private-member-s-motion-m-382](http://www.bevshipley.ca/media/press-releases/my-private-member-s-motion-m-382).

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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)

## De-coding "On Parliament Hill"

When we say that the EFC is involved with a bill on Parliament Hill, this means that we are taking active, concrete steps to participate in the process of the bill.

Depending on the bill, and what stage it is in Parliament, strategic engagement might mean the EFC is:

1. Meeting with MPs to discuss the issue.
2. Preparing background papers for MPs and other groups who care about this issue.
3. Informing you, our donors, about this activity and how you can be engaged with this issue.
4. Appearing in Court as an intervener.
5. Appearing and presenting before parliamentary committees.
6. Launching media campaigns to raise awareness in the general population.
7. Reporting back on the bill's progress to you, our donors, and other partners on this issue.
8. Praying.



Visit [www.theEFC.ca/calendar](http://www.theEFC.ca/calendar) to find out about events across Canada that might interest you and your church.

You can post your own event online for free.



NEW MAILING ADDRESS (AS OF FEB. 2012):  
Box 5885 West Beaver Creek Post Office, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 0B8  
Tel: 905.479.5885 • Toll Free: 1.866.302.3362 • Fax: 905.479.4742  
Email: [efc@theEFC.ca](mailto:efc@theEFC.ca) • [www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.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 • APRIL/MAY 2013

# CanadaWatch

### CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE:

The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill.

### MINISTRY SERVICES:

Q & A with Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller, senior editors of *Faith Today* magazine.

### PARTNERS IN FAITH:

Meet Your EFC Team. Members of the EFC Staff will be introduced in upcoming issues.

### How you can be involved



- **Read**, then post and tweet, the May/June cover story of *Faith Today* "Why Is It So Hard to Talk About Abortion in Canada?" at [www.faithtoday.ca/digital](http://www.faithtoday.ca/digital).
- **Visit** [www.theEFC.ca/abortion](http://www.theEFC.ca/abortion) to access the EFC's resources on abortion in Canada.
- **If you can't join them, pray for them.** The pro-life movement in Canada is filled with dedicated, sometimes life-long activists on this issue. Add them to your church's prayer lists and your own prayer life. They need energy and encouragement. Do consider joining a local or national pro-life group.

### UPDATES ON THE ISSUES

[www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca)

## The EFC is a National Pro-Life Leader

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) has consistently been recognized as a leading pro-life organization in Canada. We address the issue of abortion from a multi-faceted, reasoned and biblical position. And we couldn't do that we do without your support.

In 2012 the EFC celebrated 25 years since the release of its *Declaration on Life*. This thoughtful and comprehensive document sets out the reasons which compel Evangelicals to engage in the fight for protections for the unborn child and better care for women, their children and families.

The *Declaration* states, "We believe the Spirit of God is calling those who follow Jesus Christ to accept personal and corporate responsibility in launching a long-term program to convince Canadians, encourage the medical profession, and press legislators to accept our common task of assisting individuals, raising our collective morality and saving lives." The EFC takes this admonition seriously.

Over the last few years, the EFC's Faye Sonier, Don Hutchinson and Bruce Clemenger have engaged with Members of Parliament on a regular basis to discuss protections for unborn children. We have met with both pro-life and pro-choice MPs to share our perspective, listen to and offer resources and support when appropriate.

The EFC has actively supported Parliamentary initiatives including, most recently, Motion M-312, which sought a fresh discussion on the *Criminal Code's* definition of "human being," and Motion M-408, which sought the opportunity for Parliament to condemn sex-selective abortion.

Members of the EFC's team are also part of two significant national pro-life working groups, each of which includes a variety of pro-life leaders who meet on a regular basis to pray, plan and participate in events to raise awareness of this issue. As the EFC says frequently of our own strong affiliate relations, "we are stronger together." We see this playing out on the national pro-life scene.

The EFC have also become widely recognized for the quality of our resources. Thanks in part to research done by university and law school student interns, in the last four years alone we

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have released a large number of unique and unprecedented research papers and analyses on the issue of abortion in Canada. For too many years, pro-life advocates have had to rely on American experience or research to advance the cause of respecting the life of the child in the womb. Now, we make a stronger case because we can stand on accurate and reliable Canadian data.

These reports include: an examination of abortion funding in Canada; the revelation of missing Canadian abortion statistics; a breakdown of public opinion polling with an explanation of Canadians' true opinions on abortion; and an examination of the terrible practice of sex-selective abortions taking place in our country. Stay tuned. There is more to come in the months ahead.

Many in the pro-life community feel that May, though unofficially, is pro-life month in Canada. Marches for Life take place across the country. Several organizations host conferences, lectures and concerts. We meet because of the need to take a clear stand against the Canadian abortion culture, but gathering together is a wonderful time of encouragement and fellowship as well. Last year, EFC representatives joined more than 20,000 on Parliament Hill for the National March for Life.



# Q&A SPOTLIGHT ON Faith Today

**Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller** are the senior editors of *Faith Today* magazine. They are joined by a team of freelance writers from across the country to produce an excellent bi-monthly publication that inspires, equips and informs evangelical Christians in Canada.



## Q: What is new and exciting with Faith Today?

Our best answer is that things are always new and exciting at *Faith Today* because the stories we tell reflect the very dynamic evangelical community in Canada. *Faith Today* occupies a unique place in the publishing world in Canada, because we tell the news, stories and insights of a group that is both unique and incredibly diverse.

## Q: What is the most important thing you want EFC donors to know about Faith Today?

That it serves a crucial role in the fabric of evangelical life in Canada. Part of the EFC's mandate is to be a gathering place for Evangelicals in Canada. *Faith Today* performs the essential role of being present at that gathering, being an observer, a truth-teller, a documenter – and also something to sit down with and enjoy with a cup of tea! To non-Evangelicals, it offers an accessible window (issues are free at [www.faithtoday.ca/digital](http://www.faithtoday.ca/digital)) to see what God is doing among us.

## Q: How can EFC supporters be involved with Faith Today?

Well, read it of course. Order a print subscription and pass it along to your friends and neighbours. And also tell us your stories. Be our eyes and ears across the country letting us know what is happening with your churches, your ministries, your lives and your communities. Help us to tell your stories well.



### Coming up in the May/June Faith Today

- Why is it so hard to talk about abortion in Canada?
- History Lesson, a new column that reveals surprises from Canada's church past.
- The *Faith Today* Interview digs into mental health.



### From the President, Bruce J. Clemenger

Every year I stand on Parliament Hill during the National March for Life and look out over a sea of people of all ages and ethnicities who share a common commitment to protecting the lives of unborn children and the emotional and physical wellbeing of their mothers. This is a movement that has met frequent frustrations and roadblocks in our country, but continues to literally save lives and change minds day in and day out. I'm proud that the EFC is part of it. I salute the pro-life movement in Canada.

The diversity of the items listed On Parliament Hill in this *Canada Watch* delights me, and I hope it does you too. We introduce a new feature, Meet Your EFC Team, so that our donors will see the heart and the impact of some of the team players whose work your generosity enables. I'm a little embarrassed to introduce a section that kicks off with my own role, but I am also proud to be the captain of such a great and able team. Thank you for all you do to empower and equip the EFC. We are making a difference in this country.

### Meet Your EFC Team

Other members of the EFC staff will be introduced in upcoming issues of *Canada Watch*.



#### PROFILE: BRUCE J. CLEMENGER

Bruce J. Clemenger is President of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC), Canada's largest association of Evangelicals gathered for impact, influence and identity.

"The Canadian context within which we live out our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ has significantly changed in the past 50 years," says Clemenger. "The societal norms that once undergirded our public life together are being refashioned. So, what does effective public witness look like in this context? What can the evangelical community bring to the discussion? Those are a few of the questions that really interest me and help inform the EFC's work."

Before he became EFC president, Clemenger established the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life in Ottawa in 1996, reflecting his personal passion and the EFC's ongoing and expanding role to promote an evangelical Christian understanding on the invaluable role of the Christian faith in Canadian society.

"The EFC develops guiding principles for response to these issues in a manner that reflects a reasoned and credible Christian witness and models healthy citizenship in Canada," says Clemenger. "It is about being a public witness to the gospel, in ways that impact Canadian culture for the public good. And we have to do that well, each and every time."

On Parliament Hill



#### ◆ Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia –

In March, the EFC made a verbal presentation before the British Columbia Court of Appeal in *Carter v. Canada*. This case is a challenge to Canada's laws that prohibit assisting someone to commit suicide. Read the EFC's verbal presentation and written factum at [www.theEFC.ca/carter](http://www.theEFC.ca/carter), under the subtitle "Legal Submissions." The Quebec government has announced plans to introduce legislation in June to take steps to permit physician assisted suicide and euthanasia in Quebec. The EFC will be involved in this battle – as it has been in Parliament, defeating similar legislative initiatives three times, and before the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1993 case *Rodriguez v. British Columbia*. In that case, the court accepted the EFC's arguments asserting the unique dignity and sanctity of human life.

◆ **Bill C-279** – The House of Commons passed private members' Bill C-279 in amended form, proposing to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include "gender identity" as a prohibited ground of discrimination and the Criminal Code to include "gender identity" as a ground in the hate crime provisions. The EFC has expressed concern that this proposal adds unnecessary – and thus legally dangerous – language to the law. Gender identity is already covered under the term "sexual orientation," which is already in the Act and the Code.

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