



TOGETHER FOR INFLUENCE, IMPACT AND IDENTITY • OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013



# CanadaWatch

## NATIONAL PRESENCE:

The EFC Works Nationally and Provincially

## CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE:

The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill

## MEET YOUR EFC TEAM:

Profile of Bonnie Knoll, Donor Relations



## WRITING LETTERS

The EFC regularly encourages our donors and friends to write letters to MPs and editors of newspapers or magazines to share biblical values on the most pressing issues facing Canada today. We write letters too!

In addition to its involvement with Bill 52 in Quebec, the EFC has publicly responded to the proposed Charter of Quebec Values, which, if passed, will bar some people of faith from employment as teachers, daycare workers, civil servants or other government funded employment. You can read EFC President Bruce J. Clemenger's letter at ([www.theEFC.ca/BanningReligiousSymbols](http://www.theEFC.ca/BanningReligiousSymbols)).

Visit [www.theEFC.ca/letters](http://www.theEFC.ca/letters) for a taste of the letters we send. Keep writing!

## The EFC Says No to Quebec's Euthanasia Bill

The Government of Quebec recently introduced legislation that has the potential to change the landscape of medical practice and end-of-life care across Canada. Both before and after this legislation was revealed in May, EFC staff have been working closely with those on the ground in Quebec.

Together we are championing the recognition of the inestimable worth and dignity of all human life – and opposing proposals to implement medically performed euthanasia. We have provided evangelicals in Quebec with support and helpful information from the extensive library of the EFC's experience on this issue. As Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12, we are part of a great Body in which each part has a different role.

The EFC released a detailed analysis of Bill 52 during the Government of Quebec's hearings on its draft legislation in October. In the paper, *Quebec's Bill 52: Euphemisms for Euthanasia*, we review the key components of the legislation and expose the harmful implications of the legislation. The EFC recommends that the elected members of Quebec's Assemblée nationale act to stop the proposed legislation.

Bill 52 proposes to head down a treacherous path by trying to redefine generally and medically accepted definitions, in an effort to legitimize a prohibited act: a physician or nurse ending the life of a patient. Bill 52 euphemistically uses the term "medical aid in dying" (MAD) as an additional and final stage in end-of-life care. MAD, as defined by the bill, aligns with the World Health Organization and Canadian Medical Association definitions of euthanasia. Euthanasia is a medically and legally prohibited act in Canada.

Canada's Constitution gives the federal government jurisdiction over criminal matters. The provinces have jurisdiction over health-care matters. The *Criminal Code* prohibits euthanasia, a prohibition that has been confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada on more than one occasion as a legitimate exercise of federal power. In October the B.C. Court of Appeal upheld Canada's prohibition on assisted suicide and euthanasia, recognizing that only Parliament has the constitutional jurisdiction to legislate.

Federal politicians have repeatedly rejected attempts to legalize euthanasia. As recently as 2010, a private members bill to remove criminal prohibitions against euthanasia was overwhelmingly rejected by parliamentarians by a vote of 228 to 59 on first reading in the House of Commons.

The EFC is concerned about the potential impact of pro-euthanasia activism on our country's

*(Continued on next page)*

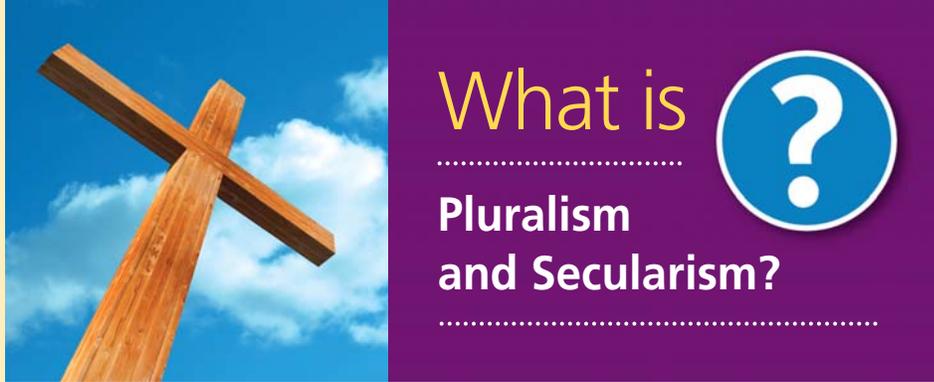
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most vulnerable citizens, our culture’s ongoing respect for the sanctity of life, our medical system and our laws.

In the small number of countries where these practices have been legalized, there are well documented reports of moving beyond administration of an overdose to those near death all the way to euthanizing the disabled – including children – and even euthanizing people without their consent, or penalty of law. The so-called safeguards are failing in every one of those jurisdictions.

The journey down this dangerous path starts with acceptance of the attitude that there is such a thing as a life not worthy to be lived. The Bible teaches instead that every human life is of inestimable worth to our Creator and should be treated with value and respect. Life, which is a gift of God, should be protected at all stages: terminal illness does not strip a person of his or her worth; nor does physical or mental disability. The EFC rejects euthanasia and assisted suicide on moral grounds as the premature cessation of life that is a gift of God.

Read the full EFC report at [www.theEFC.ca/ResourcesOnEuthanasia](http://www.theEFC.ca/ResourcesOnEuthanasia).



# What is



# Pluralism and Secularism?

The sentiments behind the move in Quebec to remove all religious symbols from public life are not restricted to Quebec. Those sentiments can be found across Canada, running beneath the attempts to sideline the Christian faith from the public square. With your support, the EFC has played an active and shaping role in Canada’s public square for decades. We are committed to being a Christian voice and presence. Here are two definitions that can help you in your own discussions around this issue.

### Pluralism:

- The existence together in our society of people of different beliefs, ways of life, culture, races, religions and ancestries. (From: *Being Christians in a Pluralistic Society*, a discussion paper by the EFC Social Action Commission, at [www.theEFC.ca/pluralism1997](http://www.theEFC.ca/pluralism1997)).

### Secularism:

- The attempt to remove religion from influence in public institutions and the public places, and confine religious expression to homes and churches.



**“As Canada sits between what is now essentially post-Christian secular Europe, which was the heartland for Christianity for a millennium plus, and the United States, which has a larger number of people who claim to be Christian, Canadian Evangelicals certainly need to ask about the future of the Christian faith in their country. How do they reverse the trend toward fundamentally secular society?”**

– Ron Sider in an upcoming interview with *Faith Today* (Nov/Dec)



## Meet Your EFC Team

PROFILE:  
**BONNIE KNOLL**

■ Hi, my name is Bonnie Knoll. I’m in donor relations. This means I am the one you usually speak to first when you call in. I look after our “Partners in Faith” monthly donors. I update our database, open the mail and process the donations and payments. I look after the general email box, and process *Faith Today* subscriptions. I enjoy my job here at the EFC because I love working with you, our donors, subscribers, etc. I feel fortunate to work for an evangelical charitable organization.



BONNIE KNOLL



## The EFC Works Nationally and Provincially

**T**he EFC has a strong track record of successfully bearing witness to the truths of Scripture and their application in the areas of law and public policy. We have positioned ourselves theologically, philosophically, linguistically and physically to engage on public policy issues impacting the nation.



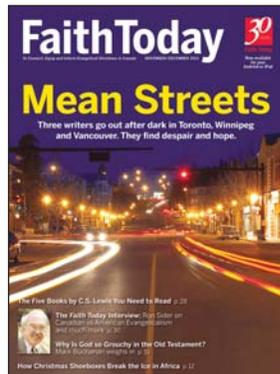
Since 1996 our Ottawa office, located just off Parliament Hill, has enabled us to be an active part in the debates about public policy and the constructive role churches can play in the life of our country.

When issues of national impact have arisen at the level of provincial or municipal politics, the EFC has applied our expertise and the wisdom of biblical principles into these forums as well.

For logistical reasons, provincial and municipal engagement is often carried out in a different way than when our team can walk the few blocks from the EFC's Ottawa office to Parliament Hill. The EFC's partnering with like-minded colleagues in Quebec on action regarding Bill 52 is a good example of this.

### Faith Today Hits the Streets...Literally

**T**hree writers, in three cities, on three nights. That is the concept *Faith Today* editors used to assign one of our most revealing stories yet. Writers spent long nights in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver meeting prostituted women and the Christian workers who reach out to them. This is a cover story that will change how you think about this issue in Canada. You will also want to read our interview with evangelical thought leader – and Canadian – Ron Sider.



**> Now is the time to subscribe or renew your subscription – and receive a gift subscription for free. Call toll-free 1-888-302-336**

On Parliament Hill



◆ Canada's prohibition on assisted suicide and euthanasia was upheld in October when the British Columbia Court of Appeal released its decision in *Carter v. Canada*, a case in which the EFC intervened. The decision recognized that only Parliament has the constitutional jurisdiction to legislate. The court also upheld the binding nature of the Supreme Court of Canada decision 20 years ago in *Rodriguez v. B.C.* The EFC also intervened in *Rodriguez*. It's great news that the court endorsed our arguments supporting the sanctity and dignity of human life. However, the case may be appealed to the Supreme Court. Read more at [www.theEFC.ca/Carter](http://www.theEFC.ca/Carter).

◆ The EFC intervened about prostitution law in the *Bedford* case before the Supreme Court of Canada in June. Now we're finalizing details of a proposal for a reform of Canadian law that would criminalize the acts of buying and marketing sex, and provide a way for those being sold to exit prostitution (with support from church, non-governmental and government organizations) and to re-establish life with legitimate employment. No one should be devalued by being made available for rent or sale for the sexual gratification of another.

◆ EFC staff have held meetings with Members of Parliament and senior government officials to advance efforts that will better meet the needs of those living in poverty and homelessness in our nation.



## Message from the President, Bruce J. Clemenger

**T**he debates over the Quebec Charter of Values, euthanasia and prostitution all drive to the heart of what societal norms will shape and guide how we treat one another as

Canadians and our very core understandings of what it means to be

human, and how we as a society treat the vulnerable and the marginalized. Will we kill those who are near death, or will we care for them and affirm the very value of their lives before God? Will we allow women and youth to be sexually exploited, or will we affirm the dignity of all and seek to abolish the commercialization of sexual intimacy? Will we treat those of other faiths the way we want to be treated, and ensure that religious belief is not a barrier to working for the government?

In these critical debates Canadians need to hear the wisdom of the Scriptures and the thoughtful and reasoned explanations of how the principles of the Bible are both relevant and provide answers which lead to justice and blessing for all. We will continue to be a credible, constructive and clarion voice in the Canadian public square.



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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.



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



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## For a Lasting Legacy... Consider Having Another Child.

(A child called  
Charity, that is).



What if you had one more child in your family – would that child also be included in your estate? The example below illustrates a charitable giving option many people are adopting to **leave a lasting legacy to both their heirs and charities dear to their hearts.**

Whether your estate is big or small, there are only three places you can direct assets at the time of death –

- > **Loved Ones**
- > **Taxes and Fees**
- > **Charities you Care About**

Whether or not you have children, adding a Child called Charity as a beneficiary to your estate redirects money to charities of your choice that would otherwise go to taxes. For those who have a lifetime pattern of giving, it is natural to include charity in your estate plan.

### Estate to your children



### Include an additional 'child'



*(The math is not wrong – call and ask about the simplicity and impact of using the Child called Charity to create a lasting legacy)*

Our partners at ADVISORS with Purpose have created hundreds of custom-built estate plans for donors just like you, helping them leave a legacy with eternal significance.

**Call 1.866.336.3315 today** to speak to an estate specialist—this service is provided at no cost or obligation to our supporters.

[www.advisorswithpurpose.ca](http://www.advisorswithpurpose.ca) [greta@advisorswithpurpose.ca](mailto:greta@advisorswithpurpose.ca)



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