



# CanadaWatch

### CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE:

The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill.

### MINISTRY SERVICES:

What Do "Influence, Impact and Identity" Really Mean?

### EFC RESOURCES:

Launching in September: the beautiful new *Faith Today* magazine

## How you can help!



- Visit [www.theEFC.ca](http://www.theEFC.ca) often to find out more about partnerships and the work we do together.
- Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theEFC](http://www.facebook.com/theEFC) to receive links to partnership research and other articles and news of interest.
- Pray for the work of the EFC and our partnerships, strengthening the Canadian Church together.

### UPDATES ON THE ISSUES

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

## The Art of the Partner

Partnerships have been at the heart of the EFC for the last 50 years. Increasingly, partnerships and the collaboration and energy they represent direct all of our paths of ministry and impact. *Canada Watch* asked Aileen Van Ginkel, vice-president of ministry services, to share what donors need to know about EFC partnerships – and how we all benefit from working together.

**Partnership seems to be so close to the heart of the EFC's mandate to connect and equip. How have you seen our partnerships grow over the years?**

EFC's partnership "program," which we began in 1998, was simply intentional encouragement of the informal networking that had been taking place since our founding in 1964. Partnership was organic, so we put some structure around it to keep it moving forward. It was a recognition of the unique opportunity we had thanks to the EFC's ability to gather interdenominationally and with different ministries. We worked from what we called a "high-convenability quotient," looking for ministry sectors where institutions seemed open to working together. The EFC doesn't play a controlling role in this kind of work. We convene, we cultivate, we communicate. This is part of our DNA as an organization that gathers – we don't want to duplicate what our partners are doing. Instead, we want to provide a platform and a gathering place across denominations and ministries to tackle major issues affecting evangelical Christians in Canada.

**What are the top three elements to a successful partnership?**

First, strong interpersonal relationships, and these are dependent on humility and trust. Following through on commitments and sharing the credit for successes and the burden of failures is essential. Second, there must be listening and dialogue – and always ongoing communications. And third, a clear understanding of purpose that comes out of a shared assurance that God is leading us to articulate a meaningful response to the basic partnering question: What can we do better together than apart?

**How do EFC supporters benefit from the partnerships we nurture?**

I've seen this many times over the years. Peer encouragement and spiritual/emotional support for leaders is huge. The EFC family offers its members a broadened perspective on the changing landscapes in Canada. There is a rich cross-pollination of ideas for dealing with the realities and challenges of post-Christendom Canada. The conferences offered by the partnerships (and facilitated by us) have been top-notch, reflecting the spread of best practices in specific ministry fields. The research done through partnering helps our donors

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# What Do “Influence, Impact and Identity” Really Mean?



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and supporters better understand the challenges – as well as the emerging and very exciting opportunities – for ministry in changing environments in Canada. Ultimately, I believe not only our donors but thousands of others benefit from the healthy leadership and heightened ministry effectiveness that the EFC partnerships have been nurturing across Canada.

**You’re planning an EFC 50th year celebration for November that we’re sure will involve a time of reflection and looking back. Have you stumbled on any special stories you would like our donors to hear?**

There was a special partnership between the EFC and Navigators of Canada (Navs) in the 1980s and '90s. Alan Andrews, then president of Navigators, shared with the EFC’s Brian Stiller the vision for the National Task Force on Evangelism – better known as Vision 2000 Canada – which would help to mobilize people for evangelism and facilitate their doing so, all within a partnering, interdenominational context. The Navs made it possible for this task force to be staffed by Don Moore, and later, seeing the importance of the prayer emphasis in all of this, seconded Eric Stolte to the EFC to lead Prayer Summits Canada. Together, the Navs and the EFC stimulated many denominations to develop decade-long plans for evangelism, church planting and discipling.

Many of those continue today, albeit in different formats. Our early inter-denominational work demonstrated the benefits of such partnering. Today there are several interdenominational church plants for instance, in response to the shared recognition of a particular need in a particular neighbourhood. We will have many more great stories to share as the year continues.

**“Partnerships have been at the heart of the EFC for the last 50 years.”**

**T**hose are three of the words we use to describe the work of the EFC and the impact donors have when they step into the mission of this unique, national movement.



**Influence:** the capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behaviour, opinions of others. (Random House Dictionary)

**TOGETHER, WE INFLUENCE BY:**

- presenting biblical principles to lawmakers on urgent issues such as: the sanctity of human life; caring for the most vulnerable members of our society including the poor and elderly; the integrity of the family; and religious freedom
- intervening before the courts on critical issues facing Canada
- meeting and dialoguing with Members of Parliament on matters of concern and encouraging their positive efforts to improve Canadian society
- monitoring and reporting trends in religious persecution in Canada and around the world to appropriate lawmakers and praying for those who suffer from it.



**Impact:** the force exerted by a new idea, concept, technology, or ideology; an effect or influence. (Random House Dictionary)

**TOGETHER, WE IMPACT CANADA BY:**

- seeking to understand and interact with changing contexts in the Church and in society – locally, nationally and globally
- providing distinctly Canadian research on topics that matter to Evangelicals and the Church
- collecting and communicating best practices in mission and ministry to exert the most impact and faithfully reflect the love of God to the world we serve
- helping to form and facilitate national and local networks and partnerships of churches and organizations that meet the needs of communities and serve neighbourhoods and our nation in Christ’s name



**Identity:** the condition of being oneself or itself, and not another. (Random House Dictionary)

**TOGETHER, WE CREATE AN IDENTITY IN CANADA BY:**

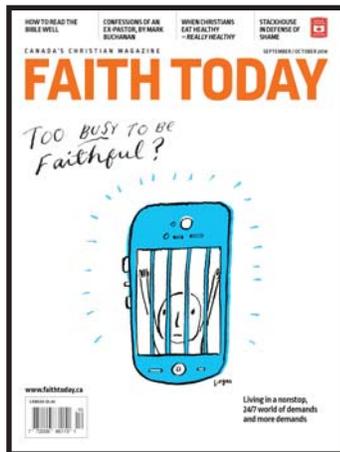
- meeting and connecting in prayer and conversations, which help us discover where God is leading the Church



- working together in obedient response to that leading
- expressing an evangelical understanding and vision of life as we interact with lawmakers, other government leaders, the courts and the media through the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life in Ottawa

## Launching in September: the beautiful new Faith Today

The *Faith Today* team are like anxious relatives, pacing the halls waiting for a new birth. *Faith Today* is in the hands of a Christian designer, being given a brand new life with a roomy new layout, great design features and new elements that will engage Christians across Canada.



You will see the new look and content with the Sept/Oct issue of the magazine. Our new tagline is not shy: *Faith Today* – Canada's Christian magazine. That's because there is no other publication like *Faith Today* in Canada: geared towards Evangelicals, national in its scope, trans-denominational in its breadth, tucked firmly into the mission of the EFC but also telling the stories that all Canadian Christians love to read.

Here's a little of what you can expect in Sept/Oct and onward:

- beautiful layout with lots of breathing room for stories
- an At Issue page summarizing what you need to know about social issues through story, stats and solution. Succinct and immediately usable information.
- expanded arts coverage including a Reading the Bestsellers review plus a reproduction of an artwork by a Canadian Christian.
- a few other surprises along with the great features and interviews you have come to expect.

Subscribe today at [www.faithtoday.ca/subscriptions](http://www.faithtoday.ca/subscriptions). While you're there be sure to check out the new *Faith Today* blog that offers a look behind the scenes at some recent stories.

### Message from the President, Bruce J. Clemenger



With 50 years under our belt, I wish I had 50 ways to say thank you. The impact you have as a donor and partner with the EFC is immeasurable. Please read the interview with Aileen Van Ginkel, about how partnerships have been such a valuable part of the EFC's work in Canada. She, of course, is talking about the partnerships we create and the ones we facilitate. If you measure impact, however, our donors are the most crucial partnership we will ever enter into. You empower all we do. And we do a lot. **Thank you. Fifty times fifty.**



The EFC will be intervening in two cases at the Supreme Court this fall.

- ◆ One case is about religious freedom and whether it is permissible to pray prior to government functions like town council meetings. The question before the court is whether state neutrality means any religious observance is unconstitutional.
- ◆ The second intervention concerns a challenge to Canada's laws prohibiting euthanasia and assisted suicide. The EFC intervened in this same case before the B.C. Court of Appeal, which upheld the constitutionality of the current laws. Our legal arguments are due by the end of the summer. Please pray for our lawyers and staff as we prepare our arguments.

*Bill C-36: the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* has been passed by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. Over four full days of meetings in July, the committee heard from a number of witnesses, including the EFC. Following these, the committee adopted two amendments to the bill. One amendment addresses concerns raised by most witnesses that the scope for continued criminal-

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ization of prostituted women under section 213 of the bill was too broad. This amendment narrows the scope to better align that section with the intent of the legislation to criminalize mainly the activities of sex buyers and pimps. The committee also adopted an amendment that allows for a comprehensive review of the legislation within five years of it coming into force. When Parliament resumes in mid-September, the bill will return to the House of Commons, where it will go through Report Stage and Third Reading.

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**You can help reduce our travel costs just by using an EFC Air Miles card!**

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or call toll-free 1-866-302-3362



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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## Meet Your EFC Team

PROFILE: KATHY BOOKER

### Kathy Booker – Finance Department

*Hi, my name is Kathy Brooker. I've worked for the EFC for over 17 years. I work mostly behind the scenes in the finance department. Sometimes I feel like I'm the finger or the toe in the body of Christ. But the Lord reminds me that all the parts of the body of Christ are important. So whether we speak at an EFC event or we work behind the scenes, everyone at the EFC is important and needed. So I'm happy to serve the Lord with so many talented and dedicated co-workers who have truly become family.*



### Canada Watch ON-LINE SURVEY



Please go to our on-line *Canada Watch* survey and let us know how we are doing.

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



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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.*