



TOGETHER FOR INFLUENCE, IMPACT AND IDENTITY • FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014



CanadaWatch

CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE:

The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill.

MINISTRY SERVICES:

Spotlight on what others are saying about The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

MEET YOUR EFC TEAM:

Introducing...the Centre for Faith and Public Life team in Ottawa.

Celebrating 50 years of IMPACT!



Here's how you can be involved

- **VISIT** www.theEFC.ca often for updates on cases the EFC is involved with. While you are there, consider signing up for our weekly *EFC Update* newsletter.
- **SUBSCRIBE** to *Faith Today*, the EFC's news and features magazine where we go deep behind the issues the EFC is involved with.
- **GIVE OFTEN.** Our involvement in pressing social justice and policy issues depends entirely on the generosity of our donors. We thank you!

Happy 50th Birthday to the EFC!

Fifty is the new 30, so the pundits say. But we relish every year that we have been in existence in Canada. In 2014, we are celebrating 50 years of impact. Each year has been a foundation block, building us into the strong and unique public witness we are today.

That witness includes communicating and expressing the wisdom Scripture offers, and importing it into public policy. Truth, justice and mercy are the three broad areas we focus on.

"We are called to be practitioners, not just opinion givers," says Bill Fietje, chair of the EFC board. "The EFC could be reduced to just giving opinions if it wasn't for the Church who works together for biblical outcomes in areas of justice and human rights. Getting involved is a way of life today, *it's not just seen as an option to be considered, as it often was 50 years ago.*"

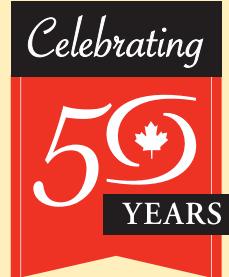
The EFC's longstanding voice in Ottawa continues to grow in strength. In 24 cases the EFC has not yet been denied intervener status by the Supreme Court of Canada. "You can't take for granted a seat at the table just because you represent a certain faith-based population," says Bruce Clemenger, president of the EFC. "It's increasingly important that we can point to a record of having actually contributed to the conversation." The EFC has that record, and it grows longer with each passing year.

The EFC has succeeded in being actively involved in public policy discussions in Canada without being drawn into partisan politics, no small feat in the raucous world of politics.

Fietje predicts there will be more times when the EFC will have the ability and the mandate to be a prophetic voice. "We can say, 'Here's where the future lies, and here's how we can change it, challenge it.' Not in a mystical way, but a collaborative voice that comes from observing what's going on around us. If the EFC speaks, it never does so on its own behalf, but on behalf of its moral owners, the Canadian Evangelical Church. We endeavour to be their voice." A voice for the evangelical Christian faith in Canada.

"The EFC is highly respected on Parliament Hill, whether the MPs agree with them or not," says John Pellowe, chief executive officer of the EFC affiliate Canadian Council of Christian Charities.

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The EFC, with the partnership of its donors and friends, is making a significant difference in our country. It is essential that Evangelicals be part of the national dialogue. Our country needs us to bring recommendations based on our biblical vision of life to the table. That's part of what it means to be a faithful witness and to bring faith into the public life of the nation. Over just the past 12 months, for example, that's what the EFC did on issues including:

- Prostitution
- Religious freedom across the country
- Euthanasia
- The proposed Quebec Charter of Values

We expect the next 50 years to be busier than the first 50. The EFC has earned its place at the table of influence where Canada's public policy is being discussed and decided. So, Happy Birthday to us, and to you. The best is definitely yet to come.

Celebrating
50 years
of IMPACT!



Meet Your EFC Team

PROFILE:
CENTRE FOR FAITH
AND PUBLIC LIFE

INTRODUCING...the Centre for Faith and Public Life team in Ottawa

At the CFPL, our days are spent networking, researching, writing and speaking on a range of issues that matter to Evangelicals in a variety of settings, both to inform and represent. We might be preparing to speak to Parliamentarians, or before the Supreme Court of Canada, or to the national media – bringing biblical principles to bear in public policy and dialogue. We are mentoring interns, helping to shape some of our country's future leaders and change-makers. We are monitoring and responding to religious persecution around the globe, and defending religious freedoms here at home. **Thank you for helping to make our work possible!**



The CFPL Ottawa Team:
(left to right) Anita Levesque,
Rick Hiemstra, Don Hutchinson,
Julia Beazley, and Faye Sonier.

Spotlight on what others are saying



Every 50th birthday has a chance for others to say nice things.

THE EFC'S IS NO DIFFERENT.

“ “ I felt not so alone with the EFC in our corner. It’s a huge benefit being able to collaborate with them.”

– Larry Worthen, executive director of the Christian Medical and Dental Society

“ “ Negative secular perspective on the place of religion in society, and especially evangelical Christianity, [influences] Canadian policy and perspectives. No other organization has the same potential [to respond with such] national breadth and perspective.”

– Bob Kuhn, interim president at Trinity Western University

“ “ They’ve been a tremendous influence with good action, positive action.”

– Joy Smith, MP for the Manitoba riding of Kildonan-St. Paul

“ “ I’m not sure we could do what we do effectively without the EFC.”

– Justin Cooper, executive director of the Christian Higher Education Association (CHEC)

“ “ The EFC has set an example of how member bodies and affiliates can collaborate and partner with us in pursuing the grand vision and laudable ideals in the WEA mission statement.”

– Ndaba Mazabane,

international council chair of
the World Evangelical Alliance



Do you speak EFC?

Every culture has a language. The EFC's 50th anniversary is a good time to brush up on some EFC-speak.

AFFILIATE: an organization, denomination, school or congregation that formally signs up as a partner institution of the EFC, indicating its willingness to stand officially with Canada's Evangelicals as a voice for the Christian faith. Together, we are a stronger voice as the EFC intervenes before the courts, builds relationships with MPs, Senators and other government leaders, monitors and addresses religious freedom issues in Canada, among many other initiatives.

CFPL: The Centre for Faith and Public Life, established in Ottawa in 1996. The heartbeat of all the public policy and research work done by the EFC. Located blocks from Parliament Hill and the Supreme Court of Canada.

INTERVENER: Intervention allows another party to join ongoing litigation, because they or those they represent may be impacted by the outcome of the case. Permitted at the discretion of the court, without needing the permission of the original litigants. The EFC has been an intervener in 24 cases in the Supreme Court of Canada.

EFC UPDATE: The weekly electronic newsletter sent out to EFC donors, friends and media interested in regular updates of EFC news and activities. Subscribe for free at www.theEFC.ca/Update with the click of a button.

MINISTRY ROUNDTABLES: Imagine a group of friends sitting at a round table, where every face can be seen and every voice heard. The EFC provides this kind of platform for ministry organizations and educational institutions. Peer-learning. Action-orientated. For more effective ministry and witness.

WEA: The World Evangelical Alliance, a group like the EFC but on a global scale! The international gathering place for 127 national evangelical associations including the EFC that represent the 600 million (and counting) Evangelicals around the world. Currently headed by Canadian Geoff Tunnicliffe, with other Canadians sprinkled throughout the leadership structure.

What's coming up with *Faith Today*?

Quebec is *la belle province*. It's also a very unique place to live and worship as an Evangelical. The March/April cover story of *Faith Today* investigates what it means to be an Evangelical in Quebec. We also explore how Canadian Christians are caring for the dying; a moving and amazing story of forgiveness that bridges between Africa and Canada's west coast; plus the latest Hollywood movies about biblical stories. Noah, anyone? Check out our Mother's Day subscription offer online.

For more information, visit www.faithtoday.ca



On Parliament Hill



◆ On December 9 the EFC issued its report to Parliament titled *Out of Business: Prostitution in Canada – Putting an End to Demand* in which it proposes a Canadian version of the Nordic model of prostitution law. It proposes criminalizing pimps and johns, offering exit strategies and opportunities for the prostituted, and initiating a public awareness campaign to accompany a change in the law. Eleven days later, the Supreme Court of Canada found the existing prostitution laws unconstitutional and gave the government one year to change them in its decision in *Canada (Attorney General) v. Bedford*, a case in which the EFC intervened. For more please see www.theEFC.ca/bedford. EFC staff has had a number of conversations with Parliamentarians on this issue.



◆ The EFC will appear in the Supreme Court of Canada on March 24 on *Loyola High School v. Attorney General of Quebec*, a case about the government requiring a Catholic high school to teach ethics and religion from a neutral and non-religious perspective. The case has potential implications for

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all faith-based education, including home schooling, across the country. For more please see www.theEFC.ca/loyola.

◆ The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear an appeal in *Carter v. Canada*, a case in which the British Columbia Court of Appeal upheld the law prohibiting assisted suicide and affirming the EFC's position on the dignity of all human life. The EFC successfully intervened in the case and will apply to do so again. For more please see www.theEFC.ca/carter.

◆ EFC vice-president Don Hutchinson was part of the Canadian delegation that accompanied Prime Minister Harper on his first visit to the State of Israel. In addition to delegation activities, Hutchinson attended meetings with leaders in Israel to discuss matters of law and religious freedom, including the World Evangelical Alliance Ambassador to the Holy Land and representatives from the Evangelical Alliance Israel and the Council of Local Evangelical Churches in the Holy Land.

UPDATES ON THE ISSUES

that the EFC is currently involved with are always available at www.theEFC.ca.



"Like" us

on Facebook and receive instant connection to breaking news and resources to help Evangelicals impact Canada.



Activate CFPL is the EFC's law and public policy blog – Visit www.theEFC.ca/activateCFPL



Message from the President, Bruce J. Clemenger

In The Message version of Luke 10, when Jesus sends out the 72, he advises them to "travel light." In John 21, he tells his closest followers to "shepherd

my sheep." The EFC does both of these things. We travel light – with the minimum administrative structure as possible that allows us to do as much as possible – and with a mandate to be a speaking shepherd to and for God's people in Canada. And at 50, our voice is stronger than ever. In those passages in Luke and John, Jesus tells his disciples to step forward in peace, continue in fellowship, and focus on healing and restoration, meeting a wide spectrum of people's needs – always bearing witness to Jesus and the Kingdom of God. That's exactly what the EFC strives to do, and will continue to do for the next 50 years. You are an indispensable part of that vision and movement. Thank you.

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**Celebrating 50 years of IMPACT!
For the good of Canada**



Visit 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.

 **EFC** The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

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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.