



CanadaWatch

CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE

The EFC in the courts and on Parliament Hill.

SPOTLIGHT

The EFC leads religious leaders in calling for better palliative care, not euthanasia.

EFC RESOURCES

What *Faith Today*, Canada's Christian magazine, offers you in Jan/Feb.



What the Love Movement looks like

- Media-rich and responsive to new, fresh content pouring in from youth themselves who become co-creators of the program
- Available through a mobile app, online and in a hard copy booklet
- A network of Canadian youth encouraging and inspiring each other through their new connectivity with Love Movement
- *Love Is Moving* magazine, previously digital-only and now distributed in printed form along with *Faith Today*, Canada's Christian magazine published by the EFC
- A television program showing youth living out Love Movement across the country, available at www.lovemovement.org. More seasons to come

The EFC welcomes the Love Movement and ushers in a new era of youth engagement

In the last issue of *Canada Watch*, we introduced you to our new mission statement: "Uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus."

Now, we are happy to share a new partnership that unites Evangelicals to bless Canada by equipping and energizing youth across the country. The EFC welcomes the Love Movement, a Canadian-made resource for youth and youth groups across the country to explore – and then live out – the biblical understanding of love in their communities in innovative ways.

"It was clear to us that the Love Movement, created by two youth pastors, unleashes the natural energy and passion of youth to greater acts of service. That's something we can all get behind. The EFC's partnership will help more Canadians access these great resources," says Bruce J. Clemenger, president of the EFC.

Here's how it works.

A youth group in a Canadian church or school decides to work through the Love Movement curriculum. They engage with its mobile app, video or with a printed booklet. Youth dig into Bible studies, devotionals and discussion about how they can love in Jesus' name, today and in their own communities.

Then they spring into action. Coming up with unique and practical acts of service is at the heart of the Love Movement. And it doesn't stop with the doing. Youth are encouraged to share their experiences through photos, testimonies, videos, posts, tweets and snapchats (whatever platform they are using online!). That social media engagement connects them with other Love Movement youth across the country.

Ideas are shared. Inspiration sparks. The movement spreads.

"For EFC supporters, their children and grandchildren who participate will have a resource on their phones and devices that will connect them with Jesus in an intimate way and that will point them to churches and organizations near to them," says Joel Gordon, co-creator of the Love Movement.

"The Love Movement brings together the experiences, stories and creations from youth across the country showing them that they're part of a vibrant group of people who are

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passionate about Jesus and compassionate towards people. Youth want to feel like they're part of a large group that is making an impact to make their nation a better place."

And because the curriculum is constantly incorporating new contributions, the next version just might include their experiences – what they learned, how they changed and how their communities benefitted.

The curriculum is a live document shaped by the real-life, real-time experience of Canadian youth sharing God's love with their cities, towns, schools and universities. It is also constantly being revised with both written and video contributions from Canadian youth experts, pastors, academics and youth from multiple denominations to reflect the lively diversity of Canada's evangelical culture.

Within the study, youth learn about organizations affiliated with the EFC, which are already immersed in the missional expression of God's love in Canada. 'Take Action' challenges built into the curriculum move youth from thinking to acting, from feeling to sharing God's love in tangible, life-changing ways.

"Love Movement empowers Christian youth to live out their faith in their communities through a revived biblical understanding of love," says Benjamin Porter, co-founder of Love Movement. "We are excited to be part of the EFC family."

The EFC leads religious leaders in calling for better palliative care, not euthanasia

The EFC, along with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and other religious leaders, have called on Canadian lawmakers to improve palliative care in the wake of the Supreme Court of Canada dismantling of laws against physician-assisted suicide.

Religious leaders released a Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide on Oct. 29 on Parliament Hill. It's also available online, where all Canadians are invited to add a personal endorsement.

The statement calls for health care systems to "maintain a life-affirming ethos." In light of the Supreme Court decision, the religious leaders "urge federal, provincial and territorial legislators to enact and uphold laws that enhance human solidarity by promoting the rights to life and security for all people; to make good-quality home care and palliative care accessible in all jurisdictions."

The Declaration also calls for freedom of conscience for all health care workers and administrators.

"The EFC was happy to take a lead role in the creation of this Declaration," says Bruce Clemenger, president of the EFC. "Together with other leaders, we built a strategic partnership to speak firmly and compassionately into one of the most crucial life and death issues facing Canadians. This is an issue that will impact us all. We need to speak and act now."

The EFC is thankful for the faithfulness of the donors and partners who recognize the crucial nature of this issue, and empower the EFC to act through their prayers and their financial gifts. Read this Declaration and consider signing it at www.euthanasiadeclaration.ca. Catch up on the latest EFC work on this issue anytime at www.theEFC.ca/ResourcesOnEuthanasia.



"THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT WILL IMPACT US ALL. WE NEED TO SPEAK AND ACT NOW."

A word of thanks from the President, Bruce J. Clemenger



Evangelicals are indeed uniting to bless Canada in the name of Jesus; to be a voice for a biblical vision of life and to engage through local churches in their communities and minister to others. It is wonderful to be able to report to you, our EFC body of supporters, that the EFC is ending the year stronger than ever in intent and mission. That is because we are standing together with you and the thousands of churches across Canada who believe with us that our witness must be strong and that we are to be known by our love – blessing Canada in the name of Jesus. **Thank you for believing in that too.**



How you are helping the Church respond to the needs of Syrian refugees

Thanks to EFC supporters, the EFC-facilitated Middle East Refugees Resettlement Initiative has been in discussion with government leaders, networking with refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holders, developing an information web-hub for churches, and addressing political party leaders, notifying them that evangelical Churches stand ready to settle whoever is in need of protection.



- The EFC gathered signatories for a Refugee Statement of Intent, signed by 14 denominations representing 4,000 congregations, and presented it to the federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.
- EFC and other representatives have met numerous times with government leaders on this issue.
- The EFC has held meetings with refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holders to understand their challenges and to connect them with churches.
- The EFC created an informative “web-hub” to find information about refugee sponsorship (www.theEFC.ca/MiddleEastRefugees).

And as the crisis continues, so does the work. Thank you for empowering the EFC to be active on this crucial issue.

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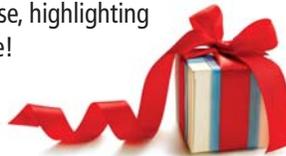
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- *Faith Today* provides a regular stream of specialized how-to articles such as how to build an inter-generational church service, how to keep your marriage strong and how your church can help refugees. You won't find articles like these, highlighting resources appropriate to the Canadian context, anywhere else!

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On Parliament Hill



Updating you on Canada's most immediate issues

◆ With the election of a new government, the EFC is already at work meeting with Parliamentarians. With 63% of Members of Parliament new to the Hill (and 84% of Liberal MPs are new), we have our work cut out for us. Our goal is to introduce them to the EFC and tell them about the broader evangelical community, who we are and how we serve. We will talk with them about some of the key issues the government will need to address in the weeks and months to come.

◆ Assisted Suicide: Early in November the EFC appeared before a federally appointed panel looking at legislative options in response to the Supreme Court decision that allows exceptions to the ban on assisted suicide and euthanasia in Canada. In contrast to other countries, it was the Supreme Court of Canada that ordered a change to the law, and not legislators. The Court gave Parliament one year to amend the Criminal Code and establish stringent safeguards to reduce the risk of abuse. The EFC is calling on the new government to ask the

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Supreme Court for an extension and to facilitate broad, meaningful and nationwide consultations on the issue that drives to the core of our society's understanding of the meaning of life and the duty of care we owe one another.

◆ Palliative Care: The EFC is working with other organizations to press for a national strategy and legislative measures that will increase access to palliative care across the country.

◆ Refugees: Many evangelical congregations have expressed their desire to settle refugees from Syria and Iraq. The EFC will continue to work with government officials to facilitate the work of churches in providing a welcoming community to those fleeing war and persecution.

◆ Children and Youth: The EFC will be pressing for national standards and co-ordination of national programs and services provided to children and youth.



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

www.theEFC.ca/airmiles
or call toll-free 1-866-302-3362



The Faith Today blog posts exclusive new material several times per week, following up on important issues raised in Canada's Christian magazine. Visit blog.faithtoday.ca



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www.facebook.com/theEFC

What donors would have enjoyed seeing at EFC Presidents Day

As director of marketing for the EFC, I had the opportunity to attend the recent EFC Presidents Day in Winnipeg. What a privilege to be part of a conference with denominational, Christian higher education and ministry organization leaders all gathered together. It was exciting to see them discuss and talk together about important issues that concern our country.

Those gathered heard reports on initiatives around refugees, palliative care and response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action. The Love Movement announced their new partnership with the EFC. We also had a post-election debrief.

Leaders discussed working together, how we can overcome our solitudes, and what practical next steps can we take together.

It was wonderful seeing leaders come together discussing, praying and having conversations with each other. Where else would such a gathering have taken place other than an EFC Presidents Day? My prayer is that each leader went away with a sense of how we are all working together to further God's kingdom. Because that was very clear at President's Day.

– GINA WAUGH, EFC DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Warm words from donors

We love to hear from you. Thank you for all you do and make possible!

“ Thank you for the good information in Canada Watch and Faith Today. Keep up the good work of relating with our Federal Government, and members of all parties. Your representation of and for Christians is of major importance. ”



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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.