



# CanadaWatch

### CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE

The EFC in the courts and on Parliament Hill.

### SPOTLIGHT

Your gifts help churches deal with the Syrian refugee crisis.

### EFC RESOURCES

What *Faith Today*, Canada's Christian magazine, offers you in Nov/Dec.



How you can help

Your gifts enable the EFC to unite Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.

Tell us how you and your church bless Canada in the name of Jesus. We will print your answers and inspiring ideas in future issues of *Canada Watch*. Here's how you are making a difference already:

- You help us bless Canada when you pray for our country, for the EFC and for the initiatives we are involved in, like meeting with MPs to discuss crucial issues and standing in the Supreme Court speaking for compassion, truth and mercy.
- You help us bless Canada when you make financial gifts – we know, often sacrificially – that enable us to be a voice for biblical principles in our country.

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## Join us to bless Canada in the name of Jesus

Thanks to our donors, the EFC is uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus. In fact, that's our new mission statement. We spoke with EFC President Bruce J. Clemenger to understand more.

**The EFC recently changed its mission statement, that important direction-setting phrase that tries to capture the heart of what the EFC does. Can you explain why you felt the change was necessary?**

We wanted a compelling and focused statement that communicates the mission of the EFC. We wanted to bring more precision to our old statement of "Together for influence, impact and identity." Having influence and impact are still priorities for the EFC. Fostering an engaging and compelling evangelical identity is what we are about. The new statement sharpens our purpose and focuses our energy on bringing Evangelicals together to positively impact Canada as disciples of Jesus, whether in mobilizing for service to others or in bringing the wisdom of Scripture to debates on law and public policy.

**The mission statement is: "Uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus." What is at its heart?**

We are to love God and our neighbour as ourselves, and to make disciples of all nations – the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Our statement gives expression to how The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, an association of Evangelicals, can respond to these two biblical mandates.

**Why was it so important to say "in the name of Jesus" at the end of it?**

As followers of Jesus, we are under His Lordship. All that we do, we do in service to Him, empowered by the Holy Spirit and as an expression of our love for God. You could make the comparison in politics to ambassadors. They act and speak in the name of their government, just as we speak and act in the name of our Lord. We bless others. We speak the truth in love. When we bless others, it is not when we *feel* like being nice, but is for us a life of service to others. "In the name of Jesus" reminds us of that, and is a testimony to others.

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## What is the most important thing you want supporters and partners to the EFC to know about this new mission statement?

We bless others individually, but we can also do it collectively both in word and deed: as small groups; as congregations; as groups of churches and as ministries. The EFC wants to highlight the collective dimension of blessing others, of expressing God's love. We want to explore ways in which together we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbours and in Canada.

## What action role do you want Canadian Evangelicals to step into in the country and in their communities?

We want to foster a culture among Evangelicals that actively looks to see what the needs are in our communities, in our provinces and in our country and explore what we might do to respond with compassion and love as we bring the truths of Scripture and live out God's call to love and justice in our service to all – this is our witness.

## What lies ahead in the remaining months in 2015 for the EFC?

We are working on collaborative initiatives to mobilize Evangelicals to get involved strategically to address some critical issues facing our country: issues like palliative care, refugee settlement, and caring for children and youth. These are issues that require engagement in law and public policy and also the participation of local congregations in caring for our neighbours in the name of Jesus. We will continue to be strong advocates for religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and justice and compassion in the courts as on Parliament Hill.

## YOUR Gifts Help Churches Deal With the Syrian Refugee Crisis

"The Church provides a ready-made community of support for families struggling to begin new lives."



**T**he EFC is facilitating a new denominational Middle East Refugees Resettlement Initiative that offers settlement assistance to displaced families, mainly from Syria and Iraq.

The initiative provides a platform and guidance to churches wanting to offer help to refugees settling into Canadian life. A list of participating denominations is available at [www.theEFC.ca/MiddleEastRefugees](http://www.theEFC.ca/MiddleEastRefugees). Resources like *Finding Our Way: Immigrants, Refugees and Canadian Churches*, also on the site, will assist you and your congregation to help refugees and displaced persons in the most effective and compassionate ways.



Bruce Clemenger, president of the EFC, is often asked by media and key leaders about how Evangelicals are responding to the Syrian refugee crisis. "I am able to communicate that the evangelical Church has always been active on this issue and will continue to be long after media attention has passed," says Clemenger. "The Church provides a ready-made community of support for families struggling to begin new lives. I am proud to share with others, particularly those unfamiliar with the work of local congregations, about the power of the Church in situations like these."

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



**I** am writing this note to you *before* the federal election. It is possible that you are reading it after. Whatever happens on Oct.19, whether familiar faces return or not, be assured the EFC will not waver from its course. No matter who is in government, the EFC will be there on Parliament Hill, meeting with MPs on matters of crucial importance, and standing tall in Canada's highest courts speaking compassionately and strategically about how biblical principles can shape our country. Our path is straight ahead – to unite Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus. Thank you for enabling us to be the voice in Ottawa that does not come and go.



# Your Support Helped Create the 2015 EFC Federal Election Kit



Canadian voters have been downloading the EFC Federal Election Kit at [www.theEFC.ca/election](http://www.theEFC.ca/election), created to equip voters to ask the right questions of the right people.

Available in both official languages, the kit calls Canadians to prayer and offers important guidelines for churches about the activities they can engage in during an election that do not contravene the restrictions put upon them as charities.

Clear lists of “*what you can do*” and “*what you cannot do*” have helped Canadian congregations navigate this campaign within safe parameters. Brief overviews of issues of concern for compassionate Canadians concerned about biblical principles of mercy, compassion and sanctity of life are a popular element in the kit. These overviews also offer direct, pointed questions that voters can ask their candidates.

The topics included in the kit are: children and youth in government care; the environment; family integrity; Indigenous Peoples; palliative care, poverty and homelessness; prostitution; religious freedom in Canada; reproductive and genetic technologies; global poverty reduction; religious freedom internationally; abortion; euthanasia and assisted suicide, and of course, refugees.

The kit is available online at [www.theEFC.ca/election](http://www.theEFC.ca/election) or by calling toll-free 1-866-302-3362.

Nov/Dec  
Issue

## Coming up in the next *Faith Today*

Canada's Christian magazine just keeps growing. In recent weeks, *Faith Today* was distributed

at the Willow Creek Canada Leadership Summit events, held in August and October. The magazine was also given to friends, students and alumni of Crandall University in Moncton, as they welcomed professor (and *Faith Today* writer) John G. Stackhouse Jr. to their faculty. These recipients also received a warm invitation to subscribe. *Faith Today* will also make its way to Urbana 2015, the largest student mission conference in North America, held in December. *The Faith Today team is always happy to provide complimentary copies of the magazine to introduce it to new readers. If you would like to request copies for an event, please don't hesitate! Email us at [editor@faithtoday.ca](mailto:editor@faithtoday.ca), or call 1-866-302-3362.*

Here's some of what you can look forward to in the next issue:

- A cover story that might change how you define poverty, and how you fight it
- Your guide to becoming an effective advocate
- How churches can help refugees
- And an essay on...How James Bond is different from Jesus Christ.

There will be lots more to equip and inform you in the Nov/Dec *Faith Today*. If you don't actually subscribe, please do that today at [www.faithtoday.ca/subscriptions](http://www.faithtoday.ca/subscriptions).

CANADA'S CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE

# FAITH TODAY

On Parliament Hill



## Updating you on Canada's most immediate issues

◆ The EFC's Election Kit attracted a lot of attention and was used by Evangelicals to ask questions on key issues of candidates looking for their vote. After the election, consider writing your Member of Parliament, whether they were newly elected or re-elected, and congratulate them. Whether you voted for them or not, they are your elected representative and have an important task, one that is challenging and complex. The Apostle Peter encourages us to show proper respect to those who are in authority. Tell them you will be praying for them and commit to do so on a regular basis. Consider writing to the candidates who lost in your riding, thanking them for their willingness to run for office and contribute to the democratic process.

◆ Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia: The EFC made a submission to the Canadian Provincial/Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician-Assisted Dying in September and is working collaboratively with evangelical leaders and leaders of other faith groups leaders to express our deep

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concern over the movement towards assisted suicide and promote good quality palliative care. We believe the proper response is that of compassion and care for those who are dying and their families.

Immediately after the election, the Federal Government's External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to *Carter v. Canada* will begin to hold consultations exploring the ways in which the Federal Government can respond to the Supreme Court's decision allowing assisted suicide in certain circumstances. The Panel is to report back to the government later this year. As one of the interveners in the case, the EFC is one of the stakeholder groups that will be consulted. We have begun preparing our submission.

◆ Trinity Western University's legal challenge of the BC Law Society's decision not to accredit TWU's proposed law was heard late in August. The EFC intervened and at the time of writing this, a decision has not been handed down. Trinity Western lost a similar case in Ontario and the Ontario Court of Appeal has agreed to hear TWU's appeal. The EFC is seeking intervener status in this case along with Christian Higher Education Canada. The EFC has been granted intervener status in the appeal in Nova Scotia. In that province the court sided with TWU but that decision was appealed and we are preparing our intervention.

 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](http://blog.faithtoday.ca)

 Join the conversation and like us on Facebook. [www.facebook.com/theEFC](http://www.facebook.com/theEFC)

## Making a Difference Through Your Legacy



**H**ave you considered making a commitment to helping The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada fulfil its mission to "Unite Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus" through a future gift in your will? Your gift can impact future generations as we work to facilitate compassionate responses to those in need, and continue to be an unwavering voice of life-giving principles and biblical truths in the public arena.

**Legacy EFC** is a planned gift registry of supporters who have committed a legacy gift to the EFC. If you have made provisions for the EFC in your will, we would like to recognize and thank you now for your generosity.

To ask for a complimentary, no-obligation Will Planning Worksheet to help you with your estate planning, or to let us know about your future gift to the EFC, please send us a note at [LegacyGiving@theEFC.ca](mailto:LegacyGiving@theEFC.ca), or contact EFC's Director of Development toll-free at 1-866-302-3362 x227. All information is kept confidential.

## Warm Words From Donors



*We truly appreciate all that The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has done and is doing to further the Kingdom and protect the interest of Christians and our beliefs, in Canada. We know that many souls will be in heaven because you have been faithful. May God continue to abundantly bless all the members of your team. Because of Him, we have a fantastic eternal future assured. God is so good."*



– a recent letter from an EFC donor

**Thank you for believing in the importance of the work of the EFC, to unite Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.** Is your church a current EFC affiliate? Check at [www.theEFC.ca/affiliate](http://www.theEFC.ca/affiliate) or call toll-free 1-866-302-3362. If not, we would love to invite them! Just let us know by calling the number above.



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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.*