



CanadaWatch

CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE

The EFC in the courts and on Parliament Hill.

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Love Is Moving – an innovative, Canadian, youth-focused initiative.

EFC RESOURCES

Faith Today Contest for Canadian Pastors.



The EFC Fights Sexual Exploitation – With Your Help

In the last several years, the EFC has prioritized fighting sexual exploitation. With the help of our friends and donors, we have researched, collaborated and worked extensively to see better, stronger laws and policies to address prostitution and human trafficking. We have listened to survivors.

The best way to stem commercial sexual exploitation is to address the demand for paid sex. If we can reduce that, we can reduce the need for a supply of women, girls and boys who are for sale.

It can help to imagine the big picture of sexual exploitation as a wheel. The spokes are many, and include prostitution, human trafficking, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape culture and more. Pornography, because of how it shapes sexual norms, preferences and behaviours in our society, is the hub.

We have turned our attention to the issue of pornography and how we can most effectively take back the ground stolen by the pornography industry.

Pornography has moved well beyond what most of us might imagine. It is violent, degrading and – for the woman – profoundly body punishing. It blurs the lines of consent in dangerous ways. Pornography is exploitation and violence against women.

Pornography has never been so accessible. And kids know better how to navigate the online world than their parents.

The average youth today is first exposed to online pornography between ages 10 and 12. The exposure is often accidental: an ad or pop-up appears while the child is online. Many youth do seek out sexual content online out of curiosity. And when a young boy types "porn" into Google, he is cast into a world of sexual violence and dangerous lies about sexuality.

Kids exposed to pornography grow up with unhealthy and unrealistic expectations of themselves and their sexual partners. The pornography that young boys are accessing in their formative years teaches them that women are little more than objects for sexual pleasure.

How you can help

- **Continue to support the work of the EFC**, both prayerfully and financially on this issue and more.
- **Get educated on the issues** surrounding pornography, and do not be afraid to bring up the subject with the young people in your life.
- **Ask your pastor to consider preaching on this topic.** Some experts think of pornography as the hidden addiction in the Church. It impacts many people. Let's help bring it to the light.

UPDATES ON THE ISSUES

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

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This is the same thinking that justifies the use of prostituted women. Dehumanization spills over into real life, influencing the attitudes and behaviours boys and men hold about women. It is safe to say that young girls are internalizing those very same messages.

For the developing mind, this legitimizes and normalizes extreme forms of objectification and extreme forms of violence against women. All of this creates the demand for paid sex, which funnels women into prostitution and fuels sex trafficking.

As a friend of the EFC who has made our continued work in this arena possible, you can see the deep network of interconnected problems.

There is a growing body of evidence that paints a picture of the serious social, psychological and physiological effects of pornography on the developing brain, on the ability to form healthy emotional and sexual relationships, and on the ways we think about and relate to the opposite sex.

Pornography is, as Boston academic expert Gail Dines says, the public health crisis of the digital age. A public health issue is one that affects individuals or societies beyond their capacity to change or correct. And once we recognize something as a social or public issue (smoking for example), the responsibility shifts from merely the affected individual to society as a whole. This is our problem to solve.

The EFC has begun researching, educating, working with existing partnerships and building new ones that will help us work to address the broad social, spiritual, physical and relational harms of pornography. You, our friends who make our work possible, need to know just how imperative our work on this issue is, and the difference you make when you support this work. Thank you. There is a long road ahead, but together we will make a difference.

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Spotlight on Love Is Moving

In November the EFC announced a new partnership with Love Is Moving (LIM), an innovative, Canadian, youth-focused initiative.

Conceived in 2010 by co-founders Joel Gordon and Ben Porter, this is a media-rich movement that uses television, print, social media and smartphone technology to teach young adults about a biblical understanding of love. Youth are mobilized to live out their faith through acts of love and service.

We asked Joel Gordon to tell us how we can all help.

LOVE IS MOVING

Q What is the most important thing for donors of the EFC to know about Love Is Moving?

We have a crisis in Canada where young adults are becoming increasingly disengaged in their faith. As a result, they often leave their churches. Research spearheaded by the EFC indicates that one of the keys to re-engaging youth is to provide memorable experiences that draw young adults deeper into loving God.

Love Is Moving offers innovative media designed to engage today's youth in the building of their faith in the most effective ways. We need the support of donors to build these innovative tools.

Q What excites you the most about the new printed magazine, available now with *Faith Today*?

I'm excited that for God's glory, youth and young adults have the opportunity to have their voices, artistry and stories heard from coast to coast.

With the print version of *Love Is Moving* magazine, youth have a tangible tool they can use as a daily devotional with a reflection journal embedded in the middle of the magazine. We hope youth engage more with Scripture and delve deeper into the love of Christ.



Q Why do you think this is an important movement for Canadian youth?

It unites youth and young adults and gives them a sustained national picture of who they are. Teens want to belong to something meaningful, and they want to take action in community to make a difference.

With stories in print and on screen, Love Is Moving compels youth to know how amazing it is to be known by God and marked by His love. This movement shows the next generation of the Church in Canada how God is uniting them to love others in the name of Jesus.

Q How can someone who might be older, reading this *Canada Watch*, best tell the young people in their lives about LIM?

The best way for a reader to share LIM is to give a magazine subscription to a young person. Such youth might keep *Love Is Moving* magazine for themselves and perhaps give the bundled copy of *Faith Today* that comes with it to their parents or their pastor. Or perhaps the young person would like to read both magazines. Bulk orders for an entire youth group are also available at a great discount.



You can also encourage young people to get connected with LIM on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. They can find links to those on our website, www.loveismoving.ca.



A Special Update for EFC donors on Assisted-Suicide Legislation in Canada

The government has established a Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying. It will review federal options in response to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling that the blanket prohibition against assisted death was in violation of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In the ruling, the Supreme Court suspended its decision for one year to give Parliament time to respond. The government asked for a six-month extension beyond the deadline of Feb 6, 2016. The Court unanimously agreed to give them four more months.

The EFC believes this extension is barely enough time for the government to meet its own schedule. The EFC has argued consistently that the issue deserves a broad and comprehensive review including substantive consultations with Canadians.

A majority of the Supreme Court also excused Quebec from the extension, clarifying the province can provide what it refers to as

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Faith Today Contest for Canadian Pastors

Canadian pastors work very hard in often challenging circumstances. They may not always take the time they need to rest and replenish.



Faith Today is partnering with Christian retreat centres to change that for pastors from coast to coast. In every province and territory, a spiritual retreat centre is opening its doors for one deserving pastor to come and take an expense-free break.

Faith Today invites Canadian congregations to email the name of their hardworking pastor – along with 75 words about why they deserve a break and what a great job they do – to contest@faithtoday.ca. Pastors who do not win their regional draw (to be held in early March) will receive a social media salute. Every pastor whose name is entered will receive a two-year complimentary subscription to *Faith Today*. The contest closes on February 29. Please nominate your pastor today!

NOMINATE YOUR PASTOR BY FEB. 29!



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“medical aid in dying” in accordance with legislation passed last year. The Supreme Court also granted an exemption to those who meet criteria it established, allowing them to seek assisted suicide during the four month period with the approval of a judge.

The special joint committee, made up of Members of Parliament and Senators, has been asked to report back with recommendations to the minister of justice by the end of February. The government plans to introduce legislation and have it passed by summer.



The EFC has asked to appear before the special joint committee and is meeting with MPs and Senators who will be voting on the issue. It is important for all Canadians to contact their MP and Senators about the issue – it is literally a matter of life and death.

The EFC and other religious and secular organizations are also pressing for better accessibility to palliative care in Canada.



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



Join the conversation and like us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/theEFC

A word from the President, Bruce J. Clemenger



It’s been a few months since we introduced our new mission statement, “uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.” On Parliament Hill and before the Courts, we bless Canada by demonstrating the wisdom of biblical principles and promoting the sanctity of human life, care for the vulnerable, and

religious freedom. When these are affirmed in laws and government policy all Canadians are blessed. And we have never been busier: interacting with the issue of physician-assisted suicide – literally a life and death issue for Canadians – as well as the other ongoing challenges that come our way, like the Trinity Western University cases, for example. If anyone thought 2016 was going to be quieter, they were mistaken. We are glad you are along with us, blessing Canada in the name of Jesus. It’s essential.

Warm words from donors

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



Just a note to congratulate you on EFC’s new mission statement. It is so well worded to state clearly and concisely why you (and we) are here. We are especially glad you included the phrase ‘in the name of Jesus,’ gently bringing attention to Him as our source and motivation. Thank you for your work and leadership.



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The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (Alliance évangélique du Canada) is the national association “uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.” Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals, fostered ministry partnerships, conducted research on religious and social trends and provided a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society.