

Formed in 1964, the EFC is a national association of Evangelicals – our affiliates include 43 denominations, 66 ministry organizations, 38 post-secondary schools, and more than 600 congregations across the country, united through a shared desire to bless Canada in the name of Jesus ([www.TheEFC.ca/About-us/Our-affiliates](http://www.TheEFC.ca/About-us/Our-affiliates)). Those associated with our affiliates represent over two million Canadians who hold the Bible as the final authority in life.

### **EFC'S CENTRE FOR FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE (CFPL)**

Through the CFPL in Ottawa, the EFC continues to be a strong advocate in the courts and on Parliament Hill for sanctity of human life, religious freedom, family and community and care for the vulnerable. The Ottawa office will be celebrating its 21<sup>st</sup> year in 2017.

#### **Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide** ([www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Euthanasia-Assisted-Suicide](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Euthanasia-Assisted-Suicide))

Even though Parliament enacted the Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) law in June 2016, the government did heed our strong recommendations to restrict accessibility only to competent, consenting adults whose deaths are reasonably foreseeable and who are in advanced states of irreversible decline. The EFC is preparing to fight against current challenges that threaten to remove these restrictions. We are also actively supporting a motion (M-46) which calls on the federal government to improve the availability of palliative care and to implement a national palliative and end-of-life care strategy.

As well, the EFC has joined an EFC affiliate, the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada, and two other physician groups to challenge a new policy that requires doctors in Ontario to either perform a medical service themselves or to refer the patient to someone who will. For conscientious objectors, providing direct referrals for procedures like abortion or doctor-assisted suicide is no different morally and ethically than committing the acts themselves.

The EFC is also urging the Ontario government to extend conscience protection to long-term care facilities and nursing homes in Ontario who may be compelled to facilitate or allow euthanasia and assisted suicide on their premises.

#### **Religious Freedom in Canada** ([www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Religious-Freedom-in-Canada](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Religious-Freedom-in-Canada))

Our courts are being asked to decide, with increasing frequency, the limits and protections afforded by the Canadian *Charter's* section 2(a) freedom of religion. In the past two decades alone, the EFC has intervened in more than twenty-five court cases to ensure strong protection for religious freedom.

The EFC is expecting to intervene before the Supreme Court of Canada in the Trinity Western University cases to defend our religious freedom. Three law societies had voted to bar the graduates of TWU's proposed law school from practicing law in their provinces. They argue that the school's community covenant, which includes the requirement to abstain from sexual intimacy outside of a heterosexual marriage, places restrictions on the LGBT+ community and deprives them of the chance to have equal access to educational opportunities at TWU. They demand that TWU redefine its definition of marriage and its expectations around sexual intimacy.

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## **Sexual Exploitation**

### Prostitution ([www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Prostitution](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Prostitution))

The EFC is urging the federal government to uphold the new prostitution laws which now punish the purchasers and purveyors of sexual services instead of those who are being sold. There are groups who want to decriminalize the purchasing of sexual services and are actively pressuring the government to scrap the new laws or to amend them substantially.

### Pornography ([www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Pornography](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Pornography))

The EFC has been working to raise awareness of public health impacts of pornography and to educate about pornography's impact on sexual, emotional, psychological and relational health, especially on children. We worked on a Parliamentary motion calling on the standing health committee to study the public health effects of easily accessible, violent and degrading sexually explicit material online.

## **COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY RESEARCH**

### **Canadian Evangelical Missions Engagement Study**

The EFC had partnered with a ministry affinity group, the Canadian Missions Research Forum, to understand how Canadian evangelical congregations are thinking about and practising missions ([www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Missions/Canadian-Missions-Research-Forum](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Topics/Missions/Canadian-Missions-Research-Forum)). Denominational leaders, Christian higher education leaders and mission agency leaders were asked about the changes and practices they were seeing in the local church. Pastors and laypeople were asked about their understanding of missions and what their churches were doing. We are now analyzing the national data and asking pastors and ministry leaders to help us develop ministry responses to what we are learning. These will help guide how Canadian churches understand and undertake missions in the years ahead.

### **Youth in Transition**

The Young Adult Transition Research (YATR) study is another collaborative ministry research initiative looking at the faith transitions of young adults from high school to the next phase in life. This research builds on the idea that there are significant declines in young adult religious participation/affiliation across major life transitions (this was a key finding of our 2012 study, *Hemorrhaging Faith*). We want to learn how parents and ministry leaders can support young adults through this transition so that they maintain a robust connection to their faith and their Christian communities.

## **LOVE IS MOVING (LIM)**

Love Is Moving ([www.loveismoving.ca/our-story](http://www.loveismoving.ca/our-story)) is a ministry of the EFC. An innovative youth initiative, its goal is to help youth understand and live out the biblical understanding of love in their communities in innovative ways. It uses television, print, social media, and smartphone technology to teach and connect young adults. The study curriculum was developed – and is constantly being revised – with contributions from youth ministry experts, pastors, academics, and youth from multiple denominations, reflecting Canada's diverse evangelical culture. Youth are encouraged to share on social media – through photos, testimonies, videos, posts, tweets and snapchats – what they have learned, how they have been impacted, and how their communities have benefitted from their inspired acts of service.

## **NEW EFC WEBSITE**

The EFC website ([www.TheEFC.ca](http://www.TheEFC.ca)) has become a crucial marketing tool. We launched a newly designed website in January 2017 to improve our branding and to encourage the repetitive engagement of our users. The website serves to clearly highlight the most up-to-the-moment work that we are doing. It aims to educate, equip, and mobilize the Church to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.