

# CanadaWatch

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## Helping youth grow godly gifts to bless Canada

By Joel Gordon, director, *Love is Moving*

**D**id you know that, with your help, the EFC supports a growing community of young-adult writers, artists, leaders, and video-makers? Creative individuals and youth groups share their talent, stories, and Bible-based teaching through *Love Is Moving*, a magazine, website and group of related EFC initiatives for young adults and their leaders.

While *Love Is Moving* is designed by young adults and youth leaders, many parents and grandparents use the magazine to connect with their children and grandchildren. One grandparent told us that as they read, they highlight ideas in the magazine they can use to strike up faith-based conversations with their teenaged grandchildren. While the magazine is being used by

adults to get a pulse on the insights and struggles of the next generation, some youth are seeing a dream come true through *Love Is Moving*.

### I'd like to tell you about Joseph.

I presented how students can use the arts to glorify God at a presentation in Oakville, Ont. earlier this year, part of the Today's Teens conference put on by Youth Unlimited, an EFC affiliate. Joseph listened from the back. *Love Is Moving* has been involved with the



conference for several years, and this year we were happy to be a sponsor. The tone in the room changed when I mentioned that



any student artist or writer could have the opportunity to share their work in *Love Is Moving* magazine, even if they were a beginner.

Immediately after I mentioned this, a young man popped his head up from the back. I could see how curious he was. His eyes gave it away. It was Joseph. As a budding photographer, this was the first time that he was presented with an opportunity to share his God-given talents in a public way. He contacted me the following day, still amazed that his photos could be published in *Love Is Moving* and reach thousands of readers across Canada. In addition, he was elated he could be one of four contributors to be compensated for their work in the magazine.

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## How you can be involved:

- Visit [www.LovelsMoving.ca/Our-Story](http://www.LovelsMoving.ca/Our-Story) to find out more.
- Download the new *Love Is Moving* app on your smartphone or device to keep up to date on the latest resources.
- Subscribe to the magazine, and gift a subscription to the young people in your life. Call us toll-free 1-866-302-3362.

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Most likely you've heard about Renegotiating Faith, the national research project conducted by the EFC and its partners to shed light on faith and identity formation in young adults ([www.RenegotiatingFaith.ca](http://www.RenegotiatingFaith.ca)). What happened with Joseph is an example of what that research report says: "In our interviews with young adults, it was clear that the simple act of recognizing a young adult's giftings and talents and encouraging them to consider a career that made use of these gifts had often set the trajectory of their life."

We are seeing that truth come to life in the pages of *Love Is Moving* magazine. We are praying God will continue to align Joseph's heart, and all the youth who contribute to *Love Is Moving*, with His will. A selection of Joseph's photos are published in Issue 33 (May/June 2019), and he is very grateful for this opportunity. In an enthusiastic email to us he described this as a "big step" for him. We extend his thanks forward to you, our supporters who make this life-changing work possible.

With support from the EFC's generous donors, *Love Is Moving* has built a Christ-centred communication platform that encourages youth to fully participate, not just as readers and consumers, but as artists and contributors.

Remember, *Love Is Moving* is our name for a variety of youth and young adult initiatives, including the magazine (six issues per year), a related TV series and a Take Action video series that encourages youth to serve their communities. All of these initiatives are part of the EFC's mission to bless Canada in the name of Jesus.



EFC 2019 Election Kits now available  
[www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019)

"We anticipate Canadians using the kit our team has put together to engage even more proactively and from an even more informed place this fall."

## EFC election resources are ready

**T**he EFC team has prepared resources for the federal election this fall. Our 2019 Election Kit is now ready online and includes summaries of key national issues, an important description of what churches can and cannot do during an election, tips on holding an all-candidates meeting, sample questions for candidates on key issues, and other helpful material. You can access the resources at [www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Election2019).

"These resources are a great example of the kind of practical tools the EFC can provide to the Canadian Church and beyond, because of the consistent support of the donors who join with us in our mission," says Julia Beazley, director of public policy for the EFC. "We anticipate Canadians using the kit our team has put together to engage even more proactively and from an even more informed place this fall."

Here is an example from the Questions for Candidates section of the kit, which the EFC expects to be especially useful for voters. Each topic features a short explanation of the issue, three good questions to ask someone running in the next election, and then a link to more information for anyone wishing to be more fully informed on the issue.

### Religious Freedom in Canada

Religious freedom is a fundamental human freedom, one that is protected in Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Many faith communities share concern about a growing anti-religious bias in Canada. Religious freedom in Canada is being challenged more regularly.

- Do you believe that people of faith have a right to express their religious viewpoints regarding public policy?
- Can you share your opinion on some of the recent developments in Canada viewed by many as challenges to religious freedom, such as the Canada Summer Jobs attestation requirement and that Ontario doctors must participate in euthanasia by making effective referrals, even against their deeply held beliefs?
- How will you work to prevent attacks against religious Canadians, such as the Quebec mosque shooting, instances of anti-Semitism across the country, or any other violent act targeting members of faith or belief communities?



**Join us as we continue to EQUIP, EMPOWER and ENCOURAGE the next generation to share Jesus through the arts.**



## Message from the President, Bruce J. Clemenger

As you read this *Canada Watch*, I am in the first weeks of a sabbatical. I will be immersed in rest and study until December 1. I'd like you, our EFC donors, to know that we have a wonderful and supportive board of governors. We are in good hands. The board and I and our team have worked and planned together for this "break from the normal" for some months now. The work and mission of the EFC will continue uninterrupted with Dr. David Guretzki, our Executive VP and resident theologian, taking up the reins as acting president. We have a busy few months ahead and the team will keep you up to date, as always, on how your support makes it possible for the EFC to bless Canada in the name of Jesus, in all that we do with your help. Thank you.



## Developing resource on refugee neighbours

**C**anadian evangelical churches, including many EFC affiliate organizations, congregations and denominations, played a significant part in the expansion of refugee sponsorship in Canada, which we saw occur in the last couple of years.

Studies show that privately sponsored refugees fare better in Canada because of the high level of support and practical help they receive in that critical first year of life in Canada.

The EFC, along with its partners in the Refugees Resettlement Initiative ([www.TheEFC.ca/RefugeeInitiative](http://www.TheEFC.ca/RefugeeInitiative)), are now creating a practical resource to help private sponsors such as church groups do this important work even better in the future, as they welcome individuals and families into Canada.

"We are creating a resource geared specifically to Christian communities and sponsor groups who may want to sponsor refugees, but aren't quite sure how," says Anita Levesque, the EFC's Coordinator of Refugee Initiatives. "Beyond that though, this booklet will include practical tips, resources and best practices that our community learned, sometimes the hard way, through the last few years of sponsoring refugees and helping them settle into Canadian life."

The resource will also include guidance on how to minister to immigrants and newly arrived Canadians. Churches and individuals who don't actually sponsor refugees themselves will discover effective ways to still be involved and care for our newest neighbours.

As part of the research for this resource, the team welcomes your tips and stories – of success and also not-so-successful moments full of learning – to help them ensure the resource is as practical and helpful as possible.

Please contact Anita directly at [ottawa@TheEFC.ca](mailto:ottawa@TheEFC.ca)



## Updating you on Canada's most immediate issues

■ **Submission on charities:** The EFC submitted a written brief to the Senate committee studying the charitable sector, asking the government to be intentional about making room for religious Canadians to participate in public life. The EFC recommended that the 'advancement of religion' remain as a charitable purpose. [www.TheEFC.ca/Charitable-Sector](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Charitable-Sector)

■ **Online hate study:** The EFC made a written submission to the Justice Committee in its study of online hate. The proliferation of hate and misinformation online is a serious concern. The EFC underlined the importance of protecting fundamental freedoms while drawing a clear and careful line at speech that incites violence or is dehumanizing. The EFC encouraged the committee to recognize that dissent, disagreement and critique are not hatred. [www.TheEFC.ca/Online-Hate](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Online-Hate)

■ **Hybrid offences on human trafficking, assaulting clergy:** The EFC's written brief to the Senate committee studying Bill C-75 asked for changes to the bill so that offences relating to human trafficking, prostitution and assault of clergy would remain

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more serious indictable offences, rather than becoming hybrid offences, as the bill proposes. [www.TheEFC.ca/C75](http://www.TheEFC.ca/C75)

■ **Quebec Bill 21:** Quebec has introduced a bill that would prohibit government employees in positions of authority, such as police and school teachers, from wearing religious symbols. The EFC issued an official statement on Bill 21, expressing dismay at this violation of religious freedom and called on the government of Quebec to allow religious people to participate fully in Quebec society. [www.TheEFC.ca/QuebecBill21](http://www.TheEFC.ca/QuebecBill21)

■ **Canada Summer Jobs:** A federal court judge has granted the government's request that the court hear one group's challenge of the problematic attestation in the 2018 Canada Summer Jobs application and put the other challenges on hold. Seven other groups, including three EFC affiliates, must wait for their challenges of the attestation to be heard in court until the challenge by Toronto Right to Life is decided. [www.TheEFC.ca/SummerJobs](http://www.TheEFC.ca/SummerJobs)

■ **Condolences after attacks on churches:** The EFC sent a letter of condolence to the evangelical alliance in Sri Lanka after the attacks on Easter Sunday killed hundreds in evangelical and Catholic churches and other sites. [www.TheEFC.ca/Letters](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Letters)

## Join us for our next webinar: What churches can and cannot do during a federal election

Canada will soon be in election fever. There are ways for Canadian church congregations – even those registered as charities – to be active participants in this extremely important democratic process.

Join our free webinar on Wednesday, June 19 at noon EST to ask questions and learn more. Our expert guests are Deina Warren, legal counsel for the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, and Julia Beazley, director of public policy for the EFC. Register at [www.TheEFC.ca/Webinars](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Webinars)



to get a reminder email so you can watch and type in your questions live online. EFC webinars and podcasts are an effective way to provide information and often inspiration to a broader population of Canadian Christians who may not have access to EFC resources in other ways. Thank you for how your support makes this creative, practical and important work possible.

>> **WEBINAR: Wednesday, June 19 at noon EST**

### Warm words from donors


We pray for you regularly at our staff devotions, and we love to hear your encouraging words to us. Thank you.


***"Dear Friends at the EFC, Praise the Lord for the response of people. Enclosed is a small gift but one that comes with our love & prayers. We praise the Lord for the joy of sharing our five loaves and two fishes. God can and does multiply them. God bless each one of you who faithfully work at the EFC office. God sees your loving service!"***

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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.

