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Prostitution laws and MAiD are EFC focus this fall

The EFC will be in court arguing in support of Canada's prostitution laws this fall.

The current laws, which the EFC supports, are based on the foundational idea that prostitution is inherently exploitative. Our laws, known as the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* or PCEPA, aim to end the marketplace demand for paid sex.

The EFC advocated extensively for this kind of approach to prostitution when new laws were being considered. We support the law and its penalties targetted at pimps and buyers of sex, not those who are being prostituted.

"This law is an essential tool in the fight against sexual exploitation," says Julia Beazley, EFC director of public policy.

However, a group of sex worker advocacy organizations have launched a court challenge of PCEPA. They argue the laws violate their constitutional rights, such as security and freedom of association, and should be struck down.

With your support, the EFC will be able to argue that the current laws should remain in place. Parliament passed these laws because it understood prostitution is inherently exploitative. The objective of the laws, as the government has noted, is to "discourage entry into prostitution and ultimately abolish it to the greatest extent possible, in order to protect communities, human dignity and equality."

We believe in the dignity of each person, created and loved by God. Not only does prostitution exploit those who



are prostituted, but it treats a person as an object to be used for another's gratification, and turns sexual activity into a commodity.

The EFC's legal argument (*factum*) reminds the court that, in passing this law, Parliament sought to protect the dignity and equality of vulnerable populations who are disproportionately prostituted or impacted by prostitution.

The EFC *factum* goes on to say: "Parliament reasonably concluded that prostitution is not an issue of merely personal, private choices between consenting adults with which the law need not be concerned. Rather, it raises fundamental questions of dignity and equality, and is inseparably tied up with such consequential issues as abuse, coercion, manipulation, assault, traffick-

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How you can help

- Fill out and mail the enclosed postcard to your MP. No postage is required. Follow up your postcard with a phone call to the MP's office. Find your MP's contact information at OurCommons.ca
- Download the EFC's Action Kit on MAiD for mental illness to learn and to act at www.TheEFC.ca/MaidActionKit.
- Please continue to pray for those vulnerable to MAiD in our country, that they would know they have options for living.



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SANCTITY OF LIFE



CHURCH & MISSION



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CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE

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ing, physical and emotional trauma, harmful beliefs and attitudes about sex and gender, inequality, and more."

Prostitution is a threat to dignity and equality and is inherently exploitative. The EFC has supported law and policy on prostitution derived from this foundational idea at every opportunity and will support and defend this essential legislation again in court this fall, thanks to your prayer and financial support.

The EFC also continues to be engaged in the discussion around medical assistance in dying in Canada and its planned expansion in the spring of 2023. As of next March, people with mental illness alone will become eligible for assisted dying. We are gravely concerned about this change, and our work is focusing on how it will especially impact people with mental health concerns and those who love them.

As MAiD expands to include mental illness alone, it is increasingly clear that the supports and treatment options for Canadians living with mental health challenges are severely limited – even as the Canadian Mental Health Association reports that by age 40, half of Canadians will have had or still have a mental illness.

This significant expansion of access to MAiD is being introduced into a health care system that is already under extreme stress and underserving the populations that need it the most. Waiting lists are sometimes years long, and treatment options can be expensive. We believe there is significant risk of Canadians dying from MAiD because they feel they have no other options.

There is time now for one final push to reach our Members of Parliament with our concerns before this change takes effect. Ask your MP to reconsider this harmful expansion. Please join us as we stand with Canadians who will be even more vulnerable to MAiD as it grows increasingly common in our country.



Listen to the All Things Reconciled Podcast at www.TheEFC.ca/Podcasts

All Things Reconciled Podcast well received

The All Things Reconciled Podcast is the newest EFC-produced podcast, in partnership with the World Evangelical Alliance's Peace and Reconciliation Network.

The well received podcast tells stories of reconciliation from around the world to inspire listeners to become active reconcilers and peacemakers in our local community.

How do we rebuild healthy communities that are fractured? How can the ministry of reconciliation become the work and mission of everyday Christians everywhere? This is what we explore in All Things Reconciled.

Our first series focuses on the war in Ukraine. Through conversations with Ukrainians and Russians in Eastern and Western Europe and Canada, we learned that reconciliation is no quick fix. Instead, as we dove into the ongoing war in

Ukraine, we learned that choosing to persevere in the hope and witness of Jesus in a context that seems hopelessly trapped in violence and death is a deep commitment to a different and courageous way. As your podcast hosts, we were challenged many times to re-evaluate our own perspectives and be present in the lamentable realities, rather than rush for solutions.

All Things Reconciled will continue to share stories of reconciliation from a global perspective, inspiring you by the lives of everyday reconcilers who are following Jesus to bring peace and flourishing into their everyday complexities. We believe you can become a peacemaker and reconciler in your community, where God's shalom is desperately desired too.

– Phil Wagler, global director, Peace and Reconciliation Network



TheEFC.ca/Podcasts

From strength to strength

Unfolding the new statesman role for Bruce J. Clemenger and new CEO and presidential role for David Guretzki



Bruce J. Clemenger, the EFC's longstanding CEO and president, will be appointed to the position of Senior Ambassador and President Emeritus of the EFC, and David Guretzki, the EFC's current executive vice-president and resident theologian, will become the EFC's CEO and president in January 2023.

Five years ago, Bruce expressed his personal desire with the Board to develop a well thought-through executive leadership transition plan for the EFC. The Board and Bruce wanted to maximize Bruce's unique skills, experience and expertise that would allow him to continue to serve in a statesman capacity and tell the story of the EFC's public engagement. The future needs listening circle was established to help guide this process.

During his 20-year tenure as CEO and president, Clemenger has grown the organization. He recently shepherded the development of two new strategic centres to function alongside the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life in Ottawa. He has personally supervised over 60 court interventions, including 30 before the Supreme Court, engaging strategically on behalf of the evangelical community he has served these 30 plus years.

"Part of Bruce's task as Senior Ambassador, will now be to tell that story of faith and public engagement to the next generation of Evangelicals in Canada," says Adam Driscoll, EFC board chair.



David Guretzki joined the staff of the EFC in 2017. Prior to joining the organization as executive vice-president and resident theologian, Guretzki served on the EFC board for nine years. He has served as professor, dean and VP of external relations of Briercrest College & Seminary and holds a PhD in Western Christian thought from McGill University, with several published books and numerous articles in systematic and historical theology and ethics. He brings

his own unique expertise to his new role in January 2023 as CEO and President.

"We believe these two new appointments will elevate the skills, experiences and callings of Bruce and David, and will expand the ways in which the EFC responds to the ever-widening emerging opportunities and challenges," says Driscoll. "We are grateful to God to have two exemplary leaders who are committed to stewarding the EFC with grace and wisdom."

SEND A
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TO YOUR
MP

FOLLOW UP
YOUR POSTCARD
WITH A PHONE CALL
TO THE MP'S OFFICE.



Updating you on Canada's most immediate issues

■ **Prostitution court challenge:** The EFC will argue in support of the prostitution laws in a lower court in Ontario this fall. The EFC will argue that, in passing a law against buying sexual services, Parliament intended to discourage entry into prostitution, deter participation in it and ultimately abolish it to the greatest extent possible. Parliament's objective was to protect communities, human dignity and equality, and current law remains better than any alternatives.

■ **Pornography sites to verify age and consent:** The EFC supports a private member's bill by MP Arnold Viersen that would require commercial pornography sites to verify the age and consent of people before posting their images or videos. Join the EFC and ask your MP to support Bill C-270. Learn more and find a sample letter you can use to write your MP at [TheEFC.ca/C-270](https://www.TheEFC.ca/C-270).

■ **Protecting children:** A private member's bill sponsored by MP Mel Arnold, Bill C-291, would change the wording from "child pornography" to "child sexual abuse materials" in the *Criminal Code*. The EFC agrees with child protection experts that use of the term child pornography is not just incorrect

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but harmful. The EFC sent a letter of support for Bill C-291 and offers a sample MP letter at [TheEFC.ca/C-291](https://www.TheEFC.ca/C-291).

■ **Religious freedom:** The EFC is concerned charities may be subject to greater scrutiny on the basis of their underlying beliefs about abortion and when life begins. The prime minister has instructed the finance minister to make "anti-abortion organizations that provide dishonest counseling to pregnant women" ineligible for charitable status. The EFC's most recent letter to the finance minister and sample MP communications are online at [TheEFC.ca/CharitableProLife](https://www.TheEFC.ca/CharitableProLife).

■ **Assisted dying for mental illness alone:** In March 2023 a law will take effect that allows people with mental illness alone to be eligible for medical assistance in dying (MAID). The EFC is urging MPs to stop this expansion. Please join the EFC and ask your local MP to stop the expansion of MAID for mental illness alone. See [TheEFC.ca/MaidActionKit](https://www.TheEFC.ca/MaidActionKit).

■ **International advocacy:** The EFC is preparing a brief to a UN council on Canada's human rights record. The brief will discuss issues related to religious freedom and human dignity, including the impact of MAID on people with disabilities, the need to uphold the prostitution laws, and the need for conscience protection related to MAID.

Reconciliation Through Relationships continues to grow

Sharing stories is part of "breaking the cycle of Indigenous people's voices being silent to now being heard loud and clear," says Andrew Russell, project manager for Reconciliation Through Relationships, an EFC partnership initiative that connects Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together to grow in crosscultural understanding and build friendships.

Russell, who is from the Wood Mountain Lakota Nation, says Reconciliation Through Relationships creates opportunities for Indigenous people "to share your stories and knowledge with others who are seeking to listen. It gives you a chance to verbalize your experiences – positive or negative – to someone else and see it be used as a tool that will bring awareness, but also possibly healing to yourself."

Indigenous leaders Jimmy Thunder and Ji-gaabiikwe (Diane Campeau) in partnership with Joel Gordon, a non-Indigenous convenor from the EFC, began envisioning Reconciliation Through Relationships in 2021 and the first cohort of pairs was launched in the fall of this year. The program matches applicants based on factors such as sharing the same gender, faith background, interests and location. Using resources on Indigenous history in Canada as jumping-off points, the pairs meet every few weeks (either in person or virtually) over four months.

To encourage a spirit of curiosity and learning, participants in the program receive a free six-month subscription to APTN lumi (Aboriginal Peoples Television Network). Please visit rightrelationship.ca to access the program's growing list of resources, including five short videos where participants from the pilot phase reflect on their learnings. You can also learn more and discover how to participate.

PLEASE CALL YOUR MP TODAY AND ASK THEM TO STOP THE EXPANSION OF MAID TO INCLUDE MENTAL ILLNESS.

STOP THE EXPANSION OF MAID

Time is of the essence as medical assistance in dying continues to expand in Canada.

SEND A POSTCARD TO YOUR MP

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 [TheEFC.ca/Podcasts](https://www.TheEFC.ca/Podcasts)

 [Instagram.com/FaithTodayEFC](https://www.instagram.com/FaithTodayEFC)

 [LinkedIn.com/company/The-Evangelical-Fellowship-of-Canada](https://www.linkedin.com/company/The-Evangelical-Fellowship-of-Canada)

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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.



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