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argue that churches have the right to determine and maintain their religious identity. The court affirmed that religious groups are free to decide their own membership and rules. www.TheEFC.ca/WallCase

■ **Palliative Care** The EFC is participating in a Health Canada consultation on palliative care to help inform the federal government's framework on palliative care, which is intended to improve data collection, training and access to high quality palliative care across Canada. The EFC has also released a new resource, *The Palliative Care Toolkit*. www.TheEFC.ca/Palliative

■ **Conscience Protection** The EFC will ask to be an intervener in the Ontario Court of Appeal hearing of the physicians' conscience case. A group of Christian doctors and organizations launched a challenge of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's policies that require doctors to make referrals for euthanasia and assisted suicide. The lower court ruled those forced referral policies can continue, but the decision has been appealed. www.TheEFC.ca/Conscience

■ **Human Trafficking** See the EFC's brief and an updated sample letter to MPs on our website, as we anticipate the House of Commons' justice committee's report on human trafficking in Canada this fall. www.TheEFC.ca/HumanTrafficking

Join us in the Air Miles program

Would you help the EFC reduce travel costs? Just use this Air Miles card when you are shopping to gather free Air Miles on our behalf. Simply cut out the card, tuck it in your wallet and use it when you have the opportunity. If you have access to a laminator, you can make it last even longer. To order additional cards or learn more about the program, visit www.TheEFC.ca/AirMiles.

Since 2009, EFC friends have helped our team visit churches and organizations across Canada, attend important conferences and meetings and arrange for the right people to appear in court interventions when they are needed. Thank you!



FT The Faith Today blog posts exclusive new material several times per week, following up on important issues raised in Canada's Christian magazine. Blog.FaithToday.ca

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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.



CanadaWatch

UPDATING YOU

on Canada's most immediate issues. (Page 3)

SPOTLIGHT

Our Common Calling and the Language of Mission. (Page 2)

YOUR SUMMER PROJECT

Now is the time to challenge the Canada Summer Jobs attestation. (Page 3)

The TWU decision and the big picture of our witness in Canada

Bruce Clemenger, president of the EFC, shares his perspective on religious freedom in Canada.

CW: Evangelicals who donated to the Trinity Western University law school cause might be wondering if their sacrifices made a difference. Did they?

BC: When challenges to religious freedom come before the Supreme Court of Canada, it is vitally important that we be part of the debate.

The decision in TWU should be seen in light of the Supreme Court's decision in the *Wall* case released on May 31, in which the EFC also intervened. In that case, all nine justices agreed courts have no jurisdiction or competence to weigh into the internal decisions of religious organizations, specifically on matters of membership and discipline. This is a significant and positive decision that impacts all Christian churches and organizations.

Following the logic of the *Wall* decision, the TWU decision was not about the legality of the internal policies of TWU. The lawfulness of TWU's covenant and more broadly the freedom of TWU to have a Christian university was not in dispute or challenged by the court. Further, the majority made it clear they were not addressing the broader issue of whether TWU could have a law school. At issue was the mandatory covenant TWU requires all students to sign.

The Court found that the mandatory community covenant would pose a barrier to prospective gay and lesbian law students. The Court made it clear that their decision was based on the facts of the case, including the unique



profession of law plays in society and the specific role of law societies. However, the reasoning employed may result in other government agencies refuse to accredit programs of faith based organizations that dissent from what the Court calls Charter "values."

CW: Why is it so important for the EFC to show up in these cases, even when we don't get the outcome we want?

BC: When courts grant the EFC intervener status, they are giving us the opportunity to help them think through the issue because they believe we have something important to contribute to their deliberations. We have built a reputation for providing reasoned and focused arguments, and being advocates for religious freedom.

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What you can do:

- Read up on our list of resources at www.TheEFC.ca/TWULaw.
- Exercise your religious freedom in your community. Talk about your faith. Love your neighbour. Think creatively with your church and community about how you can be a light in your neighbourhood.
- Continue to pray for and donate to cases involving religious freedom in Canada.

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Decisions are focused on the fact of the case. Even when the decision is not what we hoped for, sometimes there are reasons the court uses that may help us in future cases. **It is important that we be there, and our donors make that possible for us. It's a very important part of the work that we do together.**

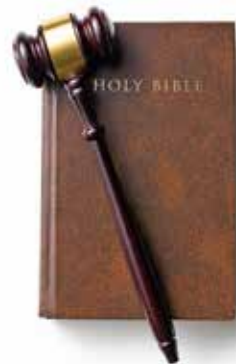
CW: Are you concerned about religious freedom in our country?

BC: This decision is of great concern, particularly since the Federation of Law Societies approved the law school (with only three law societies dissenting), and two of three provincial appeal courts sided with TWU. Some of the arguments made by the majority in reaching their decision are deeply troubling, and we will need to address those in future cases.

We had a unanimous victory with the *Wall* case, now with TWU a loss in a split decision. We need to be good stewards of the religious freedom we enjoy, and be persistent in its defense. **That mandate has not changed with this decision.**

CW: What encouragement can you offer local churches and Christian organizations in Canada?

BC: By bearing faithful witness in our communities we are exercising our religious freedom that many Christians in other countries do not have. It is important that we steward our freedom and exercise it. We enjoy the freedom to do what God has called us to do – so let's do it, and those who are blessed by our witness in word and deed will see the value of religious freedom.



We've always said that TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER, and that has never been truer.



Our Common Calling and the Language of Mission

The EFC hosted a consultation recently to help clarify areas of convergence and divergence in how Canadian Evangelicals talk about mission engagement both locally and globally. The dialogue, held in Toronto, was facilitated by Matthew Gibbins, executive director of the EFC's Global Mission Roundtable, and Aileen van Ginkel, vice-president, ministry services of the EFC.

"Thirty-eight leaders gathered to talk about how we talk about mission – not as an end in itself but as a way to inspire others to engage in mission," explains van Ginkel. The consultation was prompted by the recent Canadian Evangelical Missions Engagement Study, a multi-phase research project that examined the missions engagement of Canadian Evangelicals and local congregations. The study, a partnership between the Canadian Missions Research Forum and the EFC that began in the fall of 2014, revealed different ways of speaking about mission that invited clarification and reflection

Some of the questions considered during the one-day consultation Our Common Calling were:

- What theological starting points will help us in developing common understanding into how God is calling us?
- Can we find language that unites and inspires rather than divides?

- What impact has the need for things like fundraising had on our language and understanding of mission?

"We were deeply encouraged by the major convergence that was identified," says van Ginkel. "We are called into God's Mission; God is the Sender, and we are all sent by God into the world."

Many of the participants at the Our Common Calling consultation met soon after at another conference, Future Fit, which examined the Western missionary movement from a Canadian perspective.

"These events remind us again the importance of gathering Canadian Evangelicals together to discuss our common callings, and explore together our common challenges," says van Ginkel.

"We are called into God's Mission; God is the Sender, and we are all sent by God into the world."



Message from the President, Bruce J. Clemenger

Thank you. We can't say that enough. You stand by the EFC, and together we are stronger in our mission to bless Canada in the name of Jesus and be a compassionate and unwavering voice for – in these days in particular – religious freedom in our country. The combination of the Canada Summer Jobs situation and the TWU decision could discourage even the most optimistic Evangelical. Let me offer you some assurance. The *Wall* case that preceded the TWU decision was a boost to religious freedom, even as the TWU one was a blow. Canada Summer Jobs is a story still being written. Now is the time to stand stronger than ever. That's what we are doing. Thank you for being with us.

Now is the time to challenge the Canada Summer Jobs attestation

The summer and early fall is the perfect time to contact your MP about the Canada Summer Jobs attestation. It's one of the easiest times to make the extra step of meeting up with them in person. Whether you write, call or meet, we encourage you to politely request that they push for changes in the coming weeks. You could ask them: **"What steps will you take, as my elected representative, to protect freedom of conscience and religion, and to ensure this policy is changed for next year?"**



YOU CAN ALSO POINT OUT:

- The problematic attestation of respect for rights and values could be deleted.
- It could be replaced with a statement of compliance with the law, such as: *Our policies and practices respect all applicable human rights. We comply with all existing laws, including applicable human rights laws and labour/employment laws to which we are subject*
- The program guidelines could specify that a job undertaking political activity is not eligible for funding under the program. This would limit the kind of activity, without imposing a values test.



The EFC website has a list of resources, including talking points like these ones, to help you engage with this issue at www.TheEFC.ca/SummerJobs



Updating you on Canada's most immediate issues

■ **Canada Summer Jobs** The EFC has written to Minister Hajdu and all MPs to propose solutions for the new attestation. MPs are in their ridings over the summer, a good time to speak with them. For talking points and a sample letter visit www.TheEFC.ca/SummerJobs. The EFC is collaborating with the Canadian Council of Christian Charities and Christian Legal Fellowship on a legal strategy and plans to intervene in legal challenges of the attestation.

■ **Trinity Western University decision** The majority of the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of two provincial law societies who had denied accreditation to TWU's proposed law school. See EFC resources, including a recent webinar, at www.TheEFC.ca/TWULaw.

■ **Wall decision** The Supreme Court of Canada gave a unanimous ruling that the courts do not have the jurisdiction to make decisions about church membership or doctrine in the case of *Wall v. Judicial Committee of the Highwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses*. The EFC had co-intervened with the Catholic Civil Rights League to

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