

PRAYER REQUESTS: CLF CASES*

As part of its mandate, the Christian Legal Fellowship (CLF) seeks to uphold within Canada's legal system Christian principles and values, particularly in the areas of religious freedom, the sanctity of life, the Biblical family, and expression. In order to do so, CLF often asks permission to present arguments before courts that are considering significant legal issues. Listed below are some of the important matters CLF is currently working on. CLF respectfully requests the Body of Christ to be vigilant in prayer over these matters and our legal system generally.

BEDFORD V. CANADA

In June, the Ontario Court of Appeal heard arguments in *Bedford v. Canada*, a case that will determine whether *Criminal Code* provisions outlawing the operating of a bawdy house, living on the avails of prostitution, and soliciting for the purposes of prostitution are constitutional. If the Court strikes down the provisions, CLF is concerned about the likely increase in prostitution, sex-trafficking, and sex-tourism. Research from other countries suggests that when prostitution is legal and easily accessible, it is more difficult for law enforcement to protect individuals coerced into it. For these and other reasons, CLF, in coalition with the Catholic Civil Rights League and REAL Women of Canada, intervened in the case and asked the Court to uphold the provisions and, thereby, protect all individuals engaged in or impacted by prostitution.

PRAYER POINTS: Please pray the Court of Appeal Justices and their clerks would have Divine wisdom when deciding this case and would uphold the provisions as well as Parliament's authority in making these laws. Please ask the Lord to reveal to them the consequences that will result by striking down the provisions. Please also pray for the Lord to give them strength to make a righteous and just decision, a decision that will protect the vulnerable and strengthen Canada's understanding of Biblical sexuality. Moreover, please pray for those individuals impacted by prostitution; intercede on their behalf that they may be able to leave the practice, be healed from all spiritual, emotional, and physical wounds, and most importantly find the Lord. Please pray for the Church to become active in helping prostitutes.

POLYGAMY REFERENCE

From November, 2010 until April, 2011, the B.C. Supreme Court heard presentations on the issue of polygamy. Although the matter is complex, at root the Court was asked to decide whether the laws should be upheld as constitutional or struck down for violating individual rights such as religious freedom and equality. The practice is contrary to Parliament's definition of marriage, which is limited to two persons, a definition upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. In making its arguments, CLF, as legal intervener in the case, sought to demonstrate the importance of the laws by introducing evidence that showed the harm polygamy inflicts on men, women, children, and society in general. The decision in this case has the potential to transform Canada's understanding of marriage and family, as well as the legal limits of religious freedom.

PRAYER POINTS: Please pray the judge will have supernatural wisdom in weighing all of the evidence and arguments, resulting in an opinion that protects religious freedom, Biblical marriage, and the vulnerable in Canada. If the decision is appealed to a higher court, please pray the government would maintain its commitment to uphold the law. Please also pray for those engaged in polygamy and for opportunities for the Church to minister to them.

SASKATCHEWAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION V. WILLIAM WHATCOTT

Ten years ago, William Whatcott distributed flyers on the topic of same-sex sexual behaviour. Some individuals who received the flyers filed a complaint against him before the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission on the basis of hate speech. The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal found that his statements were protected under the *Charter* provisions on free expression. The decision was appealed by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to the Supreme Court of Canada, which will hear the matter later this year. The decision of the Court may change the legal standard used for determining the boundaries for freedom of speech, religious expression, and the authority of Human Rights Commissions. CLF is one of several Christian organizations granted intervener status in this case; it seeks to uphold freedom of expression.

PRAYER POINTS: Please pray for the legal counsel presenting arguments in this case; ask the Lord to give them discernment and understanding as they prepare their legal documents and arguments. Please pray for the Court and its decision. Specifically, ask the Lord to ensure that freedom of expression is protected and bolstered. Please pray the Holy Spirit will use this case to increase conversation about the importance of Biblical marriage both within the Church and the greater society.

S.L. ET D.J. C. COMMISSION SCOLAIRE DES CHÊNES

In May, the Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments in *S.L. et D.J. c. Commission Scolaire Des Chênes*, a case considering the issues of parental rights and religious freedom with respect to education. The conflict centers around the Ethics and Religious Culture program, a course that all students in Québec are required to take. Parents had asked that their children be exempt from taking the course because the material presents views that are inconsistent with and undermine their religious beliefs, yet Québec refused to provide exemptions despite the fact that they are common in provinces across Canada. The stated goal of the course is to promote tolerance in a pluralistic society; however, those opposing the course argue it threatens the rights of parents to direct the religious upbringing of their children. CLF was one of several Christian organizations granted intervener status in this case; it argued to uphold freedom of religion and parental rights.

PRAYER POINTS: Please pray the judges will have wisdom when deciding this case, particularly as they examine notions of "tolerance". Pray the Court will uphold parental rights and religious freedom by either striking down the course or requiring exemptions.

* The above list of cases represent only a selection of ongoing matters the CLF is addressing. For details on other matters or to donate in support of CLF's efforts, please visit our website (www.christianlegalfellowship.org) or contact our office (519-641-8850; helen_clf@rogers.com).



The CLF is passionate about integrating God's Word into the legal system and thereby establishing a nation under His blessing.