



WHAT IS TRUTH? TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY AND THE LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA

On June 29th, 2016 the Ontario Court of Appeal released a decision which upheld the vote by the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) to deny accreditation to Trinity Western University’s (TWU) proposed Law School.

The Court stated that there was a collision between freedom of religion and equality rights in the context of sexual orientation in this case for which a balance must be found.

TWU is an Evangelical Christian university that requires all students to abide by the terms of a Community Covenant which stipulates that the students must abstain from various activities, including sexual intimacy whether heterosexual or same-sex, except within a male-female marriage. This is a belief that is basic to Evangelical Christians as well as to people of many other faiths. The Community Covenant was not making a statement about the LGBTQ community, but rather, was expressing a core Christian belief which is protected under S.2 and S.15 of the Charter of Rights.

The LSUC has authority over the admission to the legal profession pursuant to which it is required to consider the “public interest”. The Court of Appeal concluded that LSUC had engaged in a proportionate balancing of freedom of religion and equality in the context of sexual orientation and had made a reasonable decision to refuse to accredit TWU’s proposed Law School in the public interest.

The court relied heavily on the concept that freedom of religion cannot infringe on the rights of others. But what about the reverse? Why are the rights of the LGBTQ community permitted to infringe on religious freedom? There appears to be a remarkable lack of balance in the court’s interpretations of this concept.

It is noteworthy that the Court did acknowledge that the LSUC decision was an infringement in the Charter rights of freedom of religion of TWU, but nonetheless, reasonable.

It is disturbing that in supporting the LSUC decision, the Court provided shockingly thin reasons for doing so, which lacked substance and credibility.

The court stated that the LSUC must ensure equality of admission to the legal profession and that TWU’s Community Covenant was discriminating against and hateful to

members of the LGBTQ community. The Court, however, failed to consider the fact that the Community Covenant also equally prohibits heterosexual couples from entering into sexual relationships outside of opposite sex marriage. The Court also based its decision on international treaties that bind Canada, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Court failed to acknowledge that the latter treaty, and, for that matter, all human rights treaties, do not provide protection for homosexual rights.

The Court’s conclusions raise questions as to what, in truth, was the reason behind its decision to support the LSUC’s refusal to provide TWU’s accreditation. Is it because the Court believes that LGBTQ rights trump religious rights, even though the Supreme Court of Canada has, many times, asserted that there is no hierarchy of rights under the Charter? Is it because the Court believes that same-sex marriage is sacrosanct and its acceptance must be relentlessly upheld? Or, is it because the Court of Appeal believes that the Christian faith should not be acted upon in the public sphere?

What is the truth behind this decision? It fundamentally affects all Canadians, whether religious or not, who are supposed to live together peacefully in a pluralistic society. Instead, the decision creates division and disrespect for the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. †

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THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLICY CONVENTION VANCOUVER MAY, 2016

BY: CECILIA FORSYTH

The 2016 national Conservative Party Convention held at the end of May is now history, but it is useful to assess the results to plan for the future.

According to a news report, the 2016 Conservative Convention was the largest since the formation of the merged party (2004) with almost 2,500 voting delegates. A large contingent of the delegates, some say up to 400, were organized by the LGBTories. This Convention, also, had the largest number of youth (age 23 or younger) delegates ever. This may have been due to a last minute reduction of registration fees to zero dollars for youth delegates.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS

These resolutions must first be approved at an Electoral District Association (EDA) (formerly called Ridings Association), provincial or regional meeting prior to final vetting by the respective national committees to determine which items will proceed to the Convention.

The National Policy Committee received a total of 378 policy resolutions. Subject to the discretion of the Policy Committee, 60 of the highest ranking proposals would go to the Convention. Six of the seven pro-life submitted policy resolutions were in the top ranking and should have moved forward. However, that did not happen. The guidelines for ranking kept changing, and the Committee meeting had visitors.

According to "The Interim" newspaper (May, 2016), Calgary MP Michelle Rempel and Party Leader Rona Ambrose advised the National Committee to nix the proposal to remove the article on abortion, which states, "A Conservative government will not support any legislation to regulate abortion." Deleting the article would have meant 'no policy on abortion' making the party neutral on the matter. Consequently, the majority of the Policy Committee agreed to

nix this proposal to delete the article on abortion.

The other three resolutions that were dropped by the National Policy Committee would have:

1. protected the privacy and security of women and girls by opposing legislation on gender identity or gender expression which would allow biological males to enter female only facilities.
2. protected the rights of workers who believe in traditional marriage from employment discrimination.
3. protected preborn children by supporting the Born Alive Infant Protection Act.

Of the 66 policy resolutions discussed in the three breakout sessions, 32 passed to go to the Convention plenary. The proposal to delete the existing policy defining marriage passed 279 to 143 at the breakout session which was packed with delegates, mostly young men, standing along the walls and moving in and out of the room. Later in that session, we handily defeated by a vote of 213 to 94 a resolution to delete the existing policy opposing the legalization of euthanasia or assisted suicide. Note the difference in total vote numbers — 422 on the marriage policy down to 307 on the euthanasia proposal. Delegates do move around depending on the issues they want to win or defeat.

At the policy plenary, we won the vote on the following resolutions:

1. To support conscience rights for doctors, nurses, and others to refuse to participate in or refer their patients for abortion, assisted suicide, or euthanasia.
2. To condemn discrimination against girls through gender selection abortions.
3. To support maternal and child health care initiatives designed to improve and protect women's and children's health and to reduce maternal death during pregnancy and delivery.

There were a couple of significant plenary losses. In a vote of 1,036 to 462, delegates voted to take a neutral position on the definition of marriage by deleting the long-standing definition as "the union of one man and one woman". This also deleted the statement, "Parliament, through a free vote, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage". MP Brad Trost, Saskatoon-University, was a strong voice against the proposal. After the vote, Trost noted, the Conservative Party has "not endorsed same-sex marriage". "It just has not endorsed traditional marriage", either.

The debate on decriminalization of marijuana was another hot-button issue. The majority of delegates agreed that possession of small quantities of marijuana should be treated as a misdemeanour, as a ticketable offence rather than as a criminal offence. It was accepted that law enforce-



ment resources should be focussed on drug dealers and organized crime rather than the occasional pot smoker.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

The Constitution breakout session was poorly managed with numerous interruptions, a coffee break and people coming and going, so it barely discussed even half of its 88 amendment submissions. This may have been intentional as many of the proposals left untouched would have moved some responsibilities from the Party Leader to National Council.

We supported the “Free Your Policy” campaign headed by Jim Karahalios of Ontario to amend the Constitution to allow signatures of 100 delegates from 100 different EDAs to advance a policy proposal that had been turned down by the national policy committee to be considered at plenary of a national convention. It was defeated by 50 votes when a flood of delegates suddenly entered the room to vote against that particular amendment. This crucial amendment would have allowed pro-life delegates to bring policies directly to convention, bypassing the problematic National Policy Committee which has been filtering social conservative policies which passed with broad, grassroots support in regional meetings and on the Ideas Lab. Hopefully, this battle can be fought again in 2018, with stronger mobilization by our side.

Only six Constitution amendments were forwarded to the plenary session. Two were of particular interest to us and did pass.

A strong pro-life statement was added to the founding ‘Principles’ of the Constitution. Calgary MP Michelle Rempel spoke in favour of this amendment which states: “A belief in the value and dignity of all human life.”

Another positive amendment appoints the National Pol-

icy Committee instead of the Parliamentary caucus to clean up the Policy Declaration after every 4th convention, subject to the approval of delegates at the next convention. This gives members the last word in removing a policy from the document, not the Parliamentary caucus

FINAL ANALYSIS

The final analysis of the 2016 Convention indicates the Conservative Party Policy Declaration is more pro-life than previously. It recognizes the value and dignity of all human life. It condemns sex-selection abortion. It upholds conscience rights for doctors and other health care workers. It does not support euthanasia or assisted suicide. It does not endorse same-sex marriage (or the traditional marriage of a man and a woman). It is the only federal party with these policies. As MP Brad Trost said, “it is the most conservative of the three major parties”.

This convention should give us a target for 2018 in terms of the number of delegates we need to recruit over the next 2 years, leading up to the next policy convention, rumoured to be set for Halifax. The LGBTory resolution was passed 1036 Yays to 462 Nays. What do these figures tell us? Well, it says we lost by 574 votes. This means for the next convention, to ensure we have the necessary number to achieve a crushing socon victory, we need to ensure there are at least 1000 new, pro-life/family delegates at the convention, well beyond the 574 loss margin. Is this achievable? It represents 3 new delegates in each of Canada’s 338 electoral district associations. This is no doubt an ambitious target, but certainly within the realm of feasibility. Let’s start talking to people in our own EDAs, and allies in others, to begin delegate recruiting for 2018. †

LEADERSHIP RACE FOR CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

BY: CATHY SMITH, MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA, REAL WOMEN BOARD MEMBER

As REAL Women we believe the family is the ideal model to nurture the young, protect the vulnerable and care for the elderly. That being said, we see the current Liberal government trying to undermine that ideal. We need political leaders who stand up for the family.

The question facing us: How can the vulnerable and the elderly be protected when there is a law in Canada that makes assisted suicide legal? How can we protect the unborn when there is NO LAW in Canada?

We must become involved in the political process by taking every advantage to elect persons who will support the family and who will provide dignity and protection for all human life.

It is important, therefore, at the local level, to become involved in nominations of candidates for the party to which you are attracted; which holds your values.

An opportunity for involvement in choosing the next

leader of the Conservative Party of Canada will occur on May 27, 2017, in your electoral district. This individual will replace Stephen Harper, who has stepped down as leader.

In order to be involved you must have a membership in the Conservative Party of Canada by March 28, 2017 as of 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

To become a member you must be 14 years of age, a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, and pay your membership fee and complete a membership form and support the principles of the Party.

You can purchase a membership on line at www.conservative.ca and click “join”. The membership fee is \$15.00 per year or \$25.00 for two years. If you do not have a computer ask a member of the party’s Electoral District Association (they used to be called Riding Associations) to give you a form and you can mail it in.

I encourage you to purchase a membership now to

avoid a mass rush in March.

Voting for the leader will occur in your electoral district on May 27, 2017. It is a “one member, one vote” system which I am proud to say came on a resolution from Medicine Hat, and I was the mover of that motion at the convention in Hull, Quebec. No other party has such a system!

If you want to be directly involved in choosing the next leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, this is your chance.

Voting will be by single secret ballot on which the member will indicate his or her preferred candidates by ranking the choices. Voting details are being finalized.

If you want changes, to keep this country of Canada strong and free, this is your opportunity. A strong leader with strong principles is our ideal. The freedoms of average Canadians and rights of parents are threatened at the present time. Please help to reverse this trend. †

A REPORT ON WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES X

BY: CECILIA FORSYTH & GAIL JOHNAS

The World Congress of Families X held in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia May 15–18, 2016 was attended by three REAL Women of Canada members — Gail Johnas, Manitoba, Peter Bradley, Ontario, and Cecilia Forsyth, Saskatchewan.

The World Congress of Families is a gathering of people from around the world to discuss challenges and solutions to the common problems facing families. One goal is to educate and inform the residents and politicians of the host country on the importance of pro-life, pro-family issues. A Congress is, also, an opportunity to meet new people, renew old friendships and to stand together as a voice to the world for faith, family and freedom.

The theme of the Tbilisi Congress was “Civilization at The Crossroads: The Natural Family as the Bulwark of Freedom and Human Values”. The opening speech by Georgian host, Levan Vasadze, set the tone for the remainder of the Congress. His passionate plea in defence of his country and its distinct culture reminded the rest of us to renew our efforts to protect and defend our children, our family, and our freedoms within our own countries.

The numerous presentations over the next two days showcased pro-family leaders from around the world. Most of the talks addressed the radical assaults on family, marriage, education, and culture. It seems no country is spared from the secular, relativism, sexual revolution that is exploding across the world. We are standing at the crossroads — will it be the culture of life or the culture of death?

The topic most addressed was the ideological reality of the ‘gender agenda’ — gender equality, gender identity, gender expression, transgenderism, and so on. The list is endless as are the consequences. The endgame is to destroy the family, religion, the concept of male/female, to sexualize children and to expand the control of the state.

Several speakers spoke on the education of children emphasizing home schooling or private schools as alternatives to state operated schools. A variety of topics were addressed including: abuse of language, the fatherless generation, surrogacy world trade of infant children, demographic winter, abortion and the link to breast cancer, and the United Nations push to declare comprehensive sex education for children and abortion on demand as universal rights.

More details and videos of the talks are on the World

Congress of Families website at: www.worldcongress.org.

On the afternoon of May 17th, the Congress attendees joined the people of Georgia in their traditional Family March in honor of Georgian Family Day Celebration. This day had been designated “A Day to Strengthen Families and Honor Parents” by His Holiness and Beatitude Catholicos Patriarch of All Georgia, Ilia II. It was a hot sunny day, but thousands of people of all ages endured the very long walk to the beautiful Holy Trinity Cathedral.

In closing, I want to share my impression of this beautiful country of Georgia nestled in the Caucasus Mountains between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. It is one of the earliest Christian countries in the world, and is famous for its wines. Old Tbilisi was bustling with tourists. The Christian Orthodox church plays a prominent role in the lives of the people who, in turn, have a great reverence and respect for the church. Orthodox churches were everywhere - ancient churches from the third century to the newer huge Church of the Holy Trinity on a hill overlooking the city.

We had the honor and the pleasure of attending special Georgian cultural events. We attended three different gala dinners, called a ‘supra’. Each meal was a feast of Georgian cuisine consisting of more food dishes than I could count, much less eat. A ‘supra’ has a Master of Ceremonies who, throughout the evening proposes toasts — to God, to our ancestors, to mothers, to peace, to the people in attendance and many others.

The closing ceremony of the World Congress included a magnificent music and dance performance by the ‘Georgian State Academic Folk Song and Dance ensemble Erisioni’. This was an enchanting evening with beautiful polyphonic singing and energetic dancing. As the host, Levan Vasadze, said, “once you experience this, your life will never be the same”. He was right. To hear the unique and beautiful singing: Google search “Erisioni” or “Georgian polyphonic singing.”

COMMENTS BY GAIL JOHNAS

It was a thrill for me to represent Real Women of Canada at the World Congress of Families X in Tbilisi, Georgia. I was so encouraged to meet people from many different countries of one mind and spirit for the purpose of promoting families as the foundation of all societies of the world.

Based on the truth and reality of Judeo-Christian beliefs, we can intentionally move forward with hope and love in our hearts. Living in these times of social and political upheaval is not permission for despair. Let us not forfeit our

rights as parents to provide safe passage for our children and grandchildren into adulthood.

As one of the speakers at the Congress stated, “We are living in the most exciting times in all of history.” I agree. †

GUEST SPEAKER: CHARLES LEWIS

At REAL Women’s Annual General Meeting in June, 2016, our speaker was journalist and anti-euthanasia crusader, Charles Lewis. He was a former columnist for the National Post.

For many years, Mr. Lewis has been in the forefront of those who oppose our increasingly utilitarian society’s tipping of the scales in favour of some of our least favourable, secular traits such as our allegiance to radical autonomy, our general fear of death and our selfishness. These societal deficits have now manifested themselves in our Supreme Court issuing a unanimous (9-0) decree, in February, 2015, that euthanasia is now legal in Canada. Lewis described this as “the worst decision in the world.” In 2010, the Canadian Parliament voted against euthanasia, but, only six short years later, in June, 2016, based on the controversial Supreme Court decision, the Liberals passed Bill C-14, thus allowing doctors across Canada, with the full approval of the Canadian Medical Association, to kill their patients. This altogether deficient bill, including no conscience protection for healthcare workers, ignored the reports against euthanasia from both Belgian and Dutch medical experts.

How did we get to this point? In addition to the above reasons, the answer seems to be a complacent and uninformed populace, a compliant media, and politicians wishing to pander to the voters’ wishes: 80% of Canadians now say they are in favour of euthanasia.

In 2010, Senator Sharon Carstairs in her Report, “Raising the Bar: A Roadmap for the Future of Palliative Care in Canada”, fully backed the palliative care option for Canadians—the opportunity to manage symptoms and provide emotional and spiritual support for the dying. At that time, only 30% of Canadians had access to such care. Parliament and the Canadian Medical Association were fully in favour of the palliative care option. Then what? The media ignored the report and there really wasn’t any strong support for palliative care from even the Harper Conservatives (who overlooked Quebec illegally going ahead with euthanasia) or the Catholic Church. (Evangelicals were more aware: 65% opposed euthanasia.) So the progressives, led by pro-euthanasia Quebec and a 100% compliant media, made serious legal and societal inroads, which no government authorities seriously challenged. The result is that the availability of palliative care has stalled—a main reason why people, afraid of death and pain, seem so willing to accept assisted suicide.

Lewis opined that the battle is lost, but not the war. He suggested four positive steps:

1. Get every church to talk about this issue. If people know the truth about euthanasia, there’s a chance they’ll change their minds.

2. Create groups of educators, who will be able to provide the facts to their friends, families and parishes.

3. Provide support, including monetary, to non-compliant doctors and nurses, who are in jeopardy of losing their livelihoods.

4. JOIN THE EUTHANASIA PREVENTION COALITION. This group, with Alex Schadenberg as its Executive Director, is an invaluable source of information and support. Contact information: Phone: 1-877-439-3348; Email: info@epcc.ca

Our society has come a long way—in the wrong direction. At the end of his talk, Charles Lewis quoted the German Jesuit priest, Alfred Delp, who was executed by the Nazis:

“A community that gets rid of someone, a community that is allowed to and can, and wants to get rid of someone when he no longer is able to run around as the same attractive or useful member [of society] has thoroughly misunderstood itself. Even if all of a person’s organs have given out, and he no longer can speak for himself, he, nevertheless, remains a human being. Moreover to those who live around him, he remains an ongoing appeal to their inner nobility, to their inner capacity to love and to their sacrificial strength. Take away people’s capacity to care for their sick and to heal them and you make the human being into a predator—an egotistical predator, that really only thinks of his own, nice existence.” †

MESSAGE BOARD

- Action Item: In this issue, we are encouraging members to take out a membership in the federal Conservative Party. We are a non-partisan organization. However, by joining the Party, you will be able to vote in May 2017, for a pro-life, pro-family leader who may eventually become the Prime Minister.
- Action Item: Please try to attend the rally at Queen’s Park, Toronto, September 21, 2016, 12 noon- 2pm, to oppose Kathleen Wynne’s radical sex-education curriculum. It is organized by Canadian Families Alliance, of which REAL Women is a member. <http://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/index.php?p=Events>
- Action Item: Consider the advice of our AGM guest speaker, Charles Lewis, and organize an information evening on euthanasia at your church or service club. There is a new documentary, The Euthanasia Deception, which can be ordered and shown. <http://www.epcc.ca/> †

REAL WOMEN OF CANADA RESOLUTIONS 2016

I. SUPREME COURT OF CANADA AS POLICY MAKERS

WHEREAS Canada is a democratic country;

AND WHEREAS a democracy is based on the equal worth and equal rights of its citizens;

AND WHEREAS citizens in a democracy vote for a representative in Parliament or the provincial or territorial legislatures in order that these bodies pass laws for the benefit of their citizens in accordance with the wishes of the citizens;

AND WHEREAS appointed, unaccountable judges have no obligation to make decisions in accordance with the views and expectations of the citizens;

AND WHEREAS judges are ill-positioned to make public policy, legislative decisions because of their limited access to research and social data, and their isolation from the perspectives of the voters;

AND WHEREAS the legislation passed by Parliament and provincial and territorial legislatures is frequently overturned by the unelected courts;

AND WHEREAS the Charter of Rights provides a solution to the problem of the courts usurping the role of Parliament by way of Section 33 of the Charter of Rights (the Notwithstanding Clause);

AND WHEREAS Section 33 of the Charter of Rights is a valid and operational provision.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Notwithstanding Clause be applied by the federal, provincial and territorial governments to overturn decisions by the courts when the court decisions are unacceptable. This allows the elected legislatures to continue to pass laws in which the public has a direct input, rather than the laws being made by appointed, unaccountable judges.

2. ASSISTED SUICIDE—FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE FOR HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

WHEREAS the Canadian House of Commons has passed legislation permitting the wrongful and immoral procedure of assisted suicide;

AND WHEREAS many health institutions, as well as health care providers, such as physicians, nurses and pharmacists, have conscientious objections to participating in assisted suicide, including the referral of patients for assisted suicide, which is to participate in the procedure;

AND WHEREAS Section 2 and Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms protect freedom of conscience and religion;

AND WHEREAS despite Section 2 and Section 15 of the Charter of Rights, some provincial Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons have passed regulations that require physicians to refer patients for the wrongful procedure of assisted suicide;

AND WHEREAS health institutions as well as health care professionals, such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists and others have a right to refuse to participate in assisted suicide;

AND WHEREAS the legislation on assisted suicide fails to explicitly protect health institutions as well as health care practitioners, such as physicians, nurses and pharmacists from conscientiously objecting to participating in the procedure of assisted suicide;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the law on assisted suicide be amended to provide legal protection for health care institutions, physicians, nurses, pharmacists and others, who object on grounds of conscience from participating in assisted suicide. †

REAL WOMEN OF CANADA BOARD MEMBERS 2016-2017

Our Annual General meeting was held on June 17, 2016.

Our 2016-2017 Board of Directors are as follows:

Pauline Guzik – North Bay, Ontario

Gwendolyn Landolt – Richmond Hill, Ontario

Doraine Wachniak – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Maeve Ryan – Ottawa, Ontario

Cecilia Sissy Von Dehn – Vancouver

Cathy Smith – Medicine Hat



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TO DEFEND & PROTECT LIFE & THE FAMILY

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Send online at www.realwomenofcanada.ca or by mail. Thank you.

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