An Update on CCCC's Legal Defence Fund

As Christian ministries come under increasing scrutiny in Canada, CCCC’s Legal Defence Fund (LDF) plays a vital role in supporting our members as they serve in obedience to their God-given calling. Through the LDF, the legal affairs team is equipped to take a stand on issues that are of the greatest importance to our members.

Established thirty-five years ago, the LDF exists, firstly, to sponsor and coordinate the defence of legal challenges confronting member organizations. Any such challenges must have significant, national ramifications and be approved by the CCCC’s board of directors. Should CCCCs intervene in litigation, maintaining in-house counsel allows us to steward our resources as responsibly as possible, keeping costs to a minimum. If other legal matters arise, such as bringing a court action, then we endeavour to work strategically with other religious organizations and law firms.

At present, we continue to monitor the Canada Summer Jobs cases that are ongoing – for more details, see a recent interview published by Canadian Catholic News (September 7, 2019). We are also watching with interest the issue of whether corporations have Charter rights. This is important for establishing the rights of religious organizations going forward under section 2(a) of the Charter (freedom of conscience and religion). In addition, we are aware that legal challenges might arise should the current government be re-elected and fulfil its promise to pass legislation criminalizing “conversion therapy”.

Secondly, while the name may suggest that we are “on the defensive”, we are intentional and proactive in communicating the public benefit of Christian charities. Under a broad mandate to educate the public and conduct research relevant to Christian organizations, the LDF covers the time our employees are engaged in researching, writing, and publishing op-eds, blogs, interviews, seminars, law review articles and books.

Again, the topics addressed are those which have a direct impact on Christian ministries. For instance, we are just concluding a project on the registered charitable status of religious organizations (see below), and we are also looking ahead to academic articles dealing with religious freedom – particularly, as noted above, the religious freedom rights of Christian charities. Our recent publications include:

- Law review articles:


- Op-ed pieces:
  - “With Ontario court’s ruling on doctors, the revolution continues,” National Post, May 17, 2019
  - “The Beam of Christian Schooling,” Convivium, March 15, 2019
  - “Stigma and Shame,” Convivium, May 22, 2019

By contributing to the LDF, you are helping to provide a strong, positive voice for Christian ministries today and tomorrow. Your gifts and prayers allow us to be vigilant in advocating for the sacrificial work of Christian churches and charities across the country. Thank you for your generosity!

Finally, we are most excited to announce that The Status of Religion and the Public Benefit in Charity Law, edited by Dr. Bussey, will be released by Anthem Press on January 15, 2020! The book is available for pre-order now. This interdisciplinary volume will be a valuable resource for religious organizations and individuals who need to know and understand the arguments for and against the “advancement of religion” as a charitable purpose. The book presents compelling legal and sociological research on the benefits of religion in society, which promises to encourage and motivate religious charities, while also contributing important information for policymakers and academics.

To contribute to the Legal Defence Fund, please go to www.cccc.org/sector_representation.

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Thank you for your continued support of the Legal Affairs team through 2020!