

Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) Canada: November – 2016

Quick Updates:

- ◆ C-225 (Cassie and Molly's Law) was defeated at the second reading of the bill by a vote of 209-78 on October 19. Visit weneedalaw.ca to see how your MP voted and send them a note expressing your thanks or your disappointment. Please remember to keep communications respectful.
- ◆ TWU Victory: The BC Court of Appeal ruled strongly in favour of Trinity Western's proposed law school, and outlined a robust defence of religious freedom. Praise God! Check ARPACanada.ca for an analysis.

C-277: Palliative care bill before Parliament

In the months since MP Marilyn Gladu introduced her private members bill, C-277: “an act providing for the development of a framework on palliative care in Canada”, she has received support from dozens of groups, including the *Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition* (consisting of 38 different organizations and hospices).

The bill must now be read a second time in the House of Commons and then pass a first vote to allow it to move to the committee stage for further review. It is imperative that each of us continue to interact with our MPs and ask them to support this important bill.

Please consider taking action on one or more of the following items:

- Choose and edit an EasyMail letter at easy.arpacanada.ca
- Sign petition e-425 available at petitions.parl.gc.ca (available until November 9)
- Write a handwritten letter to your MP – *If you do this and send us a photo of the letter and the envelope you are sending it in to info@ARPACanada.ca you will be entered to win \$25 to your local Dutch or candy store!* (Deadline: November 15)

More information about this bill is available at arpacanada.ca/palliative-care

We have been working on a video series to highlight the importance of palliative care as a more dignified, compassionate and moral response to end-of-life care in the face of legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide. We hope to release these videos online over the coming weeks and months and will be looking to you to help us get the powerful messages from individuals impacted by palliative care to as many Canadians as possible. Please stay tuned!

C-16: A redundant law moving swiftly through Parliament

Bill C-16, “An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code” proposes to add the words “gender expression” and “gender identity” to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act. This would enshrine in law the concept that there are more than two sexes (male or female), that “gender” is a subjective reality, and that the rest of society must embrace and even celebrate the new gender ideology.

On October 18th, MPs voted 248-40 to pass the bill on to the Justice and Human Rights Committee. Sadly, the Justice Committee decided to rush their study of the bill and has refused to hear from witnesses or the general public.

For those who do not have a Biblical view of sexuality, this bill may appear to be a noble one. After all, it purports to protect Canadians from discrimination. However, the bill is redundant because transgendered people are already protected by the Criminal Code and the Human Rights Act through specific prohibitions against discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and disability. More fundamentally, it promotes a false understanding of how God has created humanity.

You can hear more of ARPA's analysis on this issue on the October 25 episode of Lighthouse News or by requesting a copy of our latest policy report: *Respectfully Submitted: Gender Identity*.

Ready, set, ACTION!

Write a handwritten letter to your MP asking them to support C-277 (palliative care), then send us a photo of your letter and envelope. You could win \$25 to your local Dutch or candy store.

Deadline: Nov. 15

M-47: Combatting online pornography receives cross-party support

MP Arnold Viersen's motion, which asks the Health Committee to study the effects of porn, will be up for its first hour of debate on the morning of **November 14th**. The second hour of debate should be the second week of December, followed by a vote one week later. We are thankful to report that MP Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party, has agreed to second the motion, as have MPs Robert-Falcon Ouellette of the Liberal party, Christine Moore of the NDP and Michelle Rempel from the Conservatives, demonstrating lots of cross partisan support for this motion.

The documentary, *Over 18*, follows the story of a 13-year-old who is a recovering porn addict. He became addicted in 3rd grade. The documentary also features interviews with experts and those involved in the porn industry. The film is currently on a Canadian tour and you can view dates, or help set up a screening locally by visiting www.over18doc.com. The film creators recently did a screening in Parliament for MPs and staffers. Thanks to those of you who encouraged your MP to attend! The Parliamentary screening was supported by a member of each political party and demonstrates strong cross-partisan support.

Please take action on one or more of the following items:

- Send an EasyMail to ask your MP to support M-47
- Download and share the briefing document on M-47 with your friends and family – available at arpacanada.ca/m47-briefing
- Collect signatures on the written petition and send to MP Arnold Viersen – print free copies at arpacanada.ca/m47-petition

Bill 28 rejects the natural family

The philosophy underlying Bill 28 is that a family is whatever the government says it is, rather than the natural building block of society that precedes the state. It rejects the very idea of a natural family.

Bill 28 creates “families” without committed relationships, by design. The bill removes all references in law to “natural parents” and to people being related “by blood”. It also removes the terms “mother” and “father” from the law, replacing them simply with “parent”.

Bill 28 removes the presumption in law that a child has only two parents. It allows up to four unmarried, unrelated adults to agree to be parents to a child yet to be conceived, simply by signing a contract that says so. The bill denies the reality of sexual difference by eliminating the terms mother and father, and undermines committed relationships between two would-be parents as the natural foundation for families.

Bill 28 separates kids from their natural parents, by design. The bill says that children's natural parents don't matter and gives a child no right to know who they are and where they came from. It facilitates the separation of children from their biological parents, not by accident or tragedy, but by *design*.

Bill 28 disrupts children's lives and weakens family ties, by design.

By making children the shared objects of up to four unmarried and unrelated adult cosigners of a contract, Bill 28 would make children the likely objects of litigation before and after birth and throughout their childhoods. The bill divorces law from reality, which is a dangerous game. It's a radical bill. And it's being rushed through the legislative process. Please be in prayer for faithful witness on the part of Christian families who can demonstrate a much better view of family.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ~ 1 Peter 2:9 ~

Praise & Prayer

Everything we do is to be done to the honour and glory of God. We encourage you to join us in prayer as we carry out our mission.

PRAISE:

- For a solid win for TWU and religious freedom in the B.C. Court of Appeal.
- For the expansion of our Ottawa office and the donations that made this possible.
- For the safety of the staff and their families when they were on fall tour.
- For obtaining cross-partisan support of M-47, and for its ongoing progress so children and youth will be protected online.

PRAYER:

- For travelling mercies and wisdom for our volunteer Board members at their upcoming annual meeting.
- For our elected leaders, that they would fear God and make decisions that would honour his name.
- That the work of ARPA Canada would continue to enable individuals to be an effective salt and light in their communities.

Contact Us: 1-866-691-2772 | info@arpacanada.ca

Donations can be directed to: **ARPA Canada** PO Box 1377 STN B, Ottawa Ontario K1P 5R4