

Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) Canada: June 2017

Quick Updates:

- ◆ Ontario's Bill 89 was scheduled to go for a vote between May 29 and June 3. At the time of this writing, we do not yet have the results of the vote. Should the vote be delayed, we ask that you continue to interact with your MPP and ask them to vote against this bill. Visit ARPACanada.ca/Bill89 for more information.
- ◆ We recently released the final installment of our "Ending Suffering: The Palliative Alternative" video series where our Grassroots Manager shares what we as Christians can do in light of the legalization of assisted suicide. You can view all 12 installments on our YouTube page (YouTube.com/ARPACanada) or on our website. Be informed and take action!

God and Government Youth

Twenty-nine Reformed youth from across the country gathered in Ottawa the week of the March for Life for training in politics, worldview, and apologetics. The conference was held at ARPA's Ottawa office where the students heard speeches on worldview, sphere sovereignty, transgenderism and family law, pornography, pro-life apologetics, grassroots activism and more. The afternoons were spent visiting with MPs and Senators, touring Parliament and the Supreme Court, attending committee meetings and engaging with the public through pro-life activism.

The night before the March for Life, Jonathon Van Maren delivered a powerful speech looking at Canada's legacy to see how we as Christians should respond to our secular culture and how we can make a difference going forward.



You can listen to this speech in full at LighthouseNews.ca. The week concluded with the March for Life prayer service followed by the annual March for Life on Parliament Hill. Before the students headed home we shot a video in our studio, asking them what the highlight of the conference was. You can view this video on our Facebook or YouTube page.

The conference was a huge success and the students provided very positive feedback. It is our prayer that these students can be a catalyst for Reformed political action in their communities for years to come!

ARPA applying to intervene in church discipline case

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear a case that has profound implications for the legal relationship between Church and State. A man named Mr. Wall, a real estate agent, was expelled from his Jehovah's Witness congregation for being unrepentantly drunk. As a result, he lost half of his income because his fellow Jehovah's Witnesses refused to do business with him. Mr. Wall took the congregation to court to challenge their decision.

ARPA is in the process of applying for intervener status for this case to bring the Reformed perspective on church discipline to the public and to the courts. It is so important that our judges hear that the keys of the kingdom of heaven, including church discipline, were given to the leaders of the church and not to Caesar (the civil judges). History has shown that when the relationship between church and state is not properly understood and the limit of state authority over the church not recognized, bad things can happen. Stay tuned for updates!

Ready, set, ACTION!

Looking for a friendly challenge? Take part in our East vs. West Letter to the Editor contest!

Submissions can be sent to info@ARPACanada.ca.

Visit ARPACanada.ca/L2E for more details.

Bible Project

This year marks the 150th birthday of Canada and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. To commemorate the special occasion, with your help, ARPA Canada is hoping to present a Bible to every one of our federal and provincial government officials. We plan to include a special card encouraging them to look to God's Word for life and wisdom.

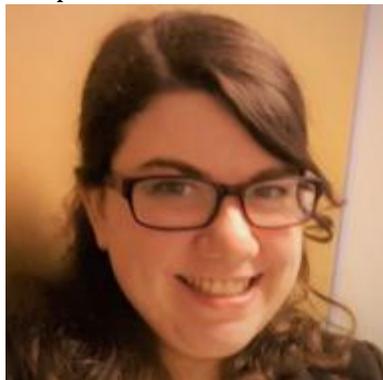
From the information we have so far, the estimated cost for sending 1,203 Bibles, including packaging, taxes, and shipping, is about \$20,000. The quality ESV Bibles are being made available to us with significant savings. **Our hope is to have funding in place by the end of July**, and to distribute the Bibles in September/October, when Parliament and the legislatures are back in session.

This could be a great opportunity to encourage your children, Bible study group, and others to join you in supporting this work. Each Bible, packaged and delivered, will cost approximately \$16.50. Consider challenging others to cover the cost of 1, 10, or even 100 Bibles!

Visit our website for more information and to make a donation!

Welcome to newest member of our law team!

Tabitha Ewert has just finished her law degree at the University of British Columbia and moved to Ottawa this past month to do a year of articling with our legal team. (Articling is basically co-op for lawyers, successful completion of which is necessary in order to become a lawyer.)



Tabitha will assist with the Trinity Western University and Wall (church discipline) cases should ARPA receive intervener status. She will also research international abortion laws and write on various pro-life matters (i.e. drafting a legal memo on pre-born human rights and drafting born-alive and sex-selective abortion laws). Send Tabitha a welcome at Tabitha@ARPACanada.ca.

Respectfully Submitted: Pre-born Children

ARPA has just released our latest *Respectfully Submitted* policy report, this one on pre-born human rights. The report pulls the reader through the science of biogenesis which proves that life begins at conception. It then relates the issue to human rights and how Canadian law is completely incompatible with both science and human rights. It also covers the issue in a legal and political context, takes public opinion into account, and lays out the consequences of having no law.

The policy report proposes reasonable first steps towards protecting the pre-born, including comparing the status quo of abortion legislation in Canada to that of other democratic countries in terms of gestational limits, and makes recommendations regarding informed consent and advance notice. Five thousand copies of the report have been printed; copies have been sent to every MP and Senator, and the entire ARPA donor base. You can view this report on the Publications tab of our website.



"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." ~ Colossians 3:23-24 ~

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 the success of the God and Government Youth conference!
- For the addition of Tabitha Ewert and summer intern Mark Luimes to our legal team.

PRAYER:

- For those voting on Ontario's Bill 89 – that their eyes may be open to the dangers of this legislation.
- For success in ARPA's applications to intervene in two Supreme Court cases on religious freedom