

Keeping up-to-date with the IMFC

Stay in touch with the latest in family-friendly policy and research through the IMFC's various publications. Receive the IMFC's bi-annual print magazine, the *IMFC Review*, delivered right to your doorstep, or sign up for the IMFC's online newsletter, the *eReview*, sent every two weeks to your email inbox. To subscribe to these publications or to read past issues of the *eReview* online, visit Imfcanada.org today.



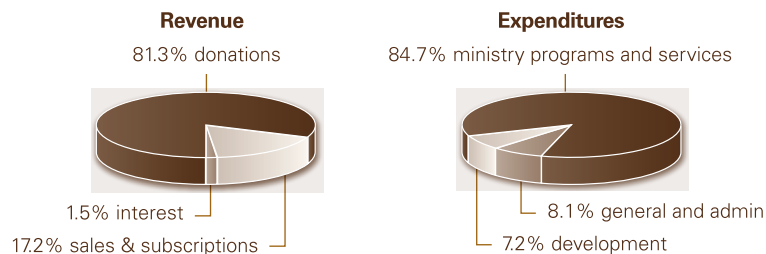
How is my gift making a difference?

Your gifts to the IMFC are:

- Delivering the informative and educational *IMFC Review* print magazine and the online newsletter, the *eReview*, regularly into the hands of our nation's decision makers.
- Hosting policy conferences and briefing seminars that give MPs, senators and government workers the opportunity to hear from distinguished speakers on a broad range of family-related policy issues.
- Making the best social policy research available to the public, anytime and anywhere, through the online database **FamilyIndex.net**.
- Helping to develop and conduct new research on the state of the Canadian family.

We are stewards

Our programs and services are supported entirely by our donors in Canada. We are committed to keeping our donors informed of our progress and are members of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). We are stewards of all the resources God entrusts to us and we are accountable to our ministry partners, and to God, for how we use all that we receive.



Stewardship Update

Focus on the Family Canada

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Investing in families across Canada • Spring 2008

Social issues in Canada

Playing our part

Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Esther and Paul are some of the most notable examples of godly men and women who faithfully addressed the issues of the day with their rulers.



STANDING FIRM FOR GOD'S TRUTHS
IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

Following in their footsteps, we as believers are charged with being salt and light in the world to uphold God's truths. It is therefore our responsibility to stand firm and speak out in support of God's design for marriage and family, in the hope that we will make a positive impact on our nation today, just as these men and women of God did in their time.

There is a desperate cry for a collective and Biblically motivated voice in our nation's capital. Even as the institutions of marriage and family face growing opposition, there are many positive ways to protect and strengthen these cornerstones of our society. One crucial way is by giving our nation's leaders access to solid and reliable family-friendly research upon which to base their decisions.

That's why Focus on the Family Canada established the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada/Institut du Mariage et de la Famille Canada (IMFC). This critical initiative is strategically located in Ottawa near Parliament Hill, where executive director Dave Quist and his staff conduct and compile the best social policy research from Canada and around the world. The IMFC's mission: to positively influence public opinion

and promote public policy that values human life, the pre-eminence of marriage and the institution of the family.

In this past year, the IMFC has been working to build strong relationships with Canada's decision makers – our nation's political, business, media, cultural and community leaders. IMFC staff members have met face-to-face with dozens of members of Parliament and senators, and have appeared three times before House of Commons and Senate committees.

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The IMFC's opinions have been sought after in interviews with various media outlets, resulting in over 470 media hits since the IMFC's doors opened on February 16, 2006. Newspaper editorials written by IMFC staff writers have been well-received by major papers such as the *National Post*, the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Calgary Herald*.

The topics of interest Quist and his team often tackle include euthanasia, abortion, divorce and remarriage, education, sexuality, crime, justice, youth and family relations.

Speaking out for God-honouring values in Canada is a priority at Focus on the Family Canada, and because of your support for the work of the IMFC, we are able to play our part in being the salt and the light of the world.

For more about the IMFC, visit www.imfcanada.org.

focusfamily CANADA

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The sign of good stewardship and sound management.



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The 2007 Family Policy Conference

Healthy Canadian families and good economic policies go hand-in-hand.

The creation of an enduring, family-friendly society within a healthy policy environment is the ultimate objective of the IMFC.

Working towards this goal, the IMFC hosted their second annual Family Policy Conference on September 27, 2007.

On the table for discussion: Supporting the Canadian family with sound economic policy.

Over 80 delegates from government think tanks, social agencies and the public gathered at the Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa to hear presentations by several scholars on the subject.

The IMFC was pleased to have in attendance Hon. Jason Kenney, MP (Secretary of State, Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity), as well as a number of federal government policy analysts from the offices of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Finance and the Auditor General.

Guest speaker Dr. Jennifer Roback-Morse addressed the myth that marriage is just a contract or a piece of paper. "If you are going to make a business analogy for marriage," she said, "the business partnership is a better one. When you try to make marriage into a contract, saying 'I'll do this for you and you do that for me,' you undermine parental cooperation."

She cited studies to show that cohabitation prior to marriage has no positive effect on marriages, and that cohabitation takes a toll on children. Dr. Roback-Morse concluded

ed that for public policy debates, the state has no interest in sanctioning cohabitation, but should rather give preference and support to marriage.

Protecting marriage was the topic of the lunchtime keynote speaker, David Blankenhorn, who was visiting from New York City. His position was that support for the family and marriage, done with hope and optimism, is important, irrespective of the outcome.

Doug Allen, an economist with Simon Fraser University, addressed the negative incentives in Canada's child support laws after marital



FAMILY POLICY CONFERENCE SPEAKERS TAKING A BREATH. FROM LEFT: DR. DOUGLAS W. ALLEN, PATRICIA MORGAN, PETER SHAWN TAYLOR, DAVID BLANKENHORN AND DR. JENNIFER ROBACK-MORSE

dissolution. The amounts given create perverse incentives for parents faced with a troubled marriage – design flaws overcompensate for the "cost" of the children. "It encourages parents to divorce, under certain circumstances," he said.

Hailing from the United Kingdom, speaker Patricia Morgan shared her

Research at your fingertips

As part of their role, IMFC researchers carefully sift through thousands of journals, books and government surveys to select articles that highlight social science findings on family matters.

These articles are uploaded regularly to the IMFC-maintained online database, **FamilyIndex.net**. Currently, there are approximately 4,000 social science research articles available on the website.

Students, authors, researchers and parents from almost every continent have accessed the database for their research. The advantage of the online database is that it allows access to top-notch research from anywhere, at anytime.

Check out the breadth of social science articles by logging on to **FamilyIndex.net**. It's just a click away!

Developing a positive relationship with the media

Establishing contacts with key media personnel is critical to having a voice in the public square.

IMFC staff members build relationships with the national and regional media, provide media commentary on policy issues that impact families, and hold press conferences related to the IMFC's activities and research.



MEDIA COVERAGE PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN PROMOTING SOCIAL POLICY THAT BENEFITS THE CANADIAN FAMILY.

Mainstream media such as the *Globe and Mail*, *New York Times*, *CTV Newsnet* and many regional radio stations have asked for repeat interviews with the IMFC on current issues, a key indication of good relations with the media.

In its second year of operation, the IMFC has been referenced in approximately 324 known media stories, including national newspapers, national television, regional radio, web logs and other electronic web-based distribution centres.

thoughts about child care in Europe. "Where many Canadians believe the Swedish model has been a success," she explained, "socialized childcare in Sweden has turned out to be unimaginably expensive and ineffective."

Not everyone addressed government policy shortcomings, however.

Peter Shawn Taylor rounded out the conference by discussing Canadian government successes in helping low income families thrive in Canada today. "Canada has seen some remarkable reductions in poverty over the past decade. For many groups, low income rates are at or below the lowest rates ever recorded. Seniors' poverty has been largely

wiped out," Taylor emphasized. "But the issue of single parent poverty remains one of Canada's biggest obstacles. . . . The evidence suggests we should be encouraging greater employment rather than increases to welfare or other benefits."

IMFC executive director Dave Quist expressed his delight in the success of the conference. "It's inspiring to see so many experts gathered together, all concerned about the success of the family in Canada. We do need to address family issues with hope, optimism and good research. The IMFC is doing that."

Listen to audio recordings and download PowerPoint presentations used in the 2007 Family Policy Conference by visiting www.imfcana.org