



Catholic Civil Rights League

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League to intervene in Loyola SCC appeal

TORONTO, ON January 17, 2014 – The Catholic Civil Rights League is pleased to announce that its application to intervene in the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) appeal of Montreal's Loyola High School has been accepted. The hearing is scheduled for March 24. The school is seeking to cover Quebec's Ethics and Religious Culture (ECR) course content from a Catholic standpoint.

The League will intervene jointly with the Association of Catholic Parents of Quebec, Faith and Freedom Alliance and The Association of Coptic Christians of Montreal. The intervention will emphasize the religious freedom rights of religious institutions, and multiculturalism, support for which can be found in the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms.

A total of 10 interveners were approved by the Supreme Court, including a separate intervention from His Grace, Archbishop Christian Lépine of Montreal.

The League was an intervener at the SCC in the case of SL and DJ vs. Commission scolaire des Chênes, in which parents had sought unsuccessfully to exempt their children from the ECR course.

Loyola High School had asked to cover the ECR material in a world religions' course based on its Catholic perspective, which it had already been offering for a number of years, a request which was upheld by the Quebec Superior Court but appealed by the province.

The Court of Appeal decision, issued December 4, 2012, declared that because Loyola's course is Catholic in orientation, it could not be considered equivalent to the ECR program, because the ECR course was specifically designed to be religiously "neutral."

The school took the case to Quebec's Superior Court. In June 2010, the Superior Court reversed the decision of the minister and the school was allowed to teach its substitute program as equivalent. The Court of Appeal has overturned that decision and upheld the original decision of the Minister of Education.

That decision created a dilemma for Catholic parents in Quebec, who may seek to send their children to a private Catholic school to avail their children of an authentic moral and religious upbringing in accordance with their faith, a right recognized and guaranteed by several international treaties to which Canada is a party, and which a robust understanding of the Charter of Rights would normally recognize.

CCRL congratulates Cardinal Lacroix

QUEBEC CITY, QC, January 13, 2014 — The Catholic Civil Rights League congratulates Archbishop Gérard Cyprien Lacroix of Quebec City on his elevation by Pope Francis to the College of Cardinals and wishes him many years of continued service. Archbishop Lacroix was one of 19 men named cardinal by Pope Francis in an announce-

ment made January 12 to the crowd in St. Peter's Square.

"We have always appreciated Cardinal-designate Lacroix's leadership on matters of religious freedom, especially during the recent debates on Quebec's proposed Charter of Values," said League President Phil Horgan. "We wish him many years of leadership and service to the Church."

Archbishop Lacroix is the only Canadian among those named in the Pope's first selection of cardinals, which includes churchmen from Asia, Africa and Latin America. The ceremony to formally install the men as cardinals will be Feb. 22 at the Vatican.

He will become Canada's third cardinal, joining Toronto's Cardinal Thomas Collins and Montreal's Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte. Canadian-born Cardinal Marc Ouellet, who was formerly the Archbishop of Quebec, now serves in the Vatican.

Update on prostitution case

As we reported last month, December's Supreme Court of Canada ruling ends most legal sanctions against prostitution-related activities and gives Parliament a year to propose a new prostitution law. The League thanks the many members who have already written to Justice Minister Peter MacKay and to their own MPs to state that a new law is needed and must reflect the moral values of Canadians.

You can contact Mr. MacKay at peter.mackay@parl.gc.ca. Contact information for all MPs can be found on the parliamentary website, www.parl.gc.ca.

MP Joy Smith is circulating a petition calling on Parliament to consider the Nordic Model of legislation and education programs to curb prostitution. Among the key features of this model is that the purchasers of sexual services, rather than the prostitutes themselves, are the ones who face criminal sanction. If you think this model is worth pursuing, the petition can be downloaded through the website www.joysmith.ca.

Quebec's Bill 52 moves closer

Quebec's Bill 52, which would legalize euthanasia in the province in some circumstances, has completed review and study by a National Assembly committee and is expected to be re-introduced for final vote soon after the legislature resumes sitting February 11. Opposition should be expressed to MLAs as well as through letters to the editor if possible.

League News

Mark your calendars: Please plan to join us Thursday, May 22 in Toronto for our annual dinner and presentation of the Archbishop Adam Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life. Guest speaker will be Brian Lilley, columnist and broadcaster with Sun News Media.

Chapter contacts

For information about our *Windsor-Essex* chapter contact Bob Baksi at robert@baksi.com.

Antigonish chapter: Contact Don Maclellan, chapter president, at maclellan_donald@yahoo.ca for details. From September to June the chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month.

St. Catharines chapter: Contact Justin O'Donnell at justinodonnell@cogeco.ca.

For information about forming a new chapter in your area, contact Joanne at 416-466-8244 or cctl@cctl.ca. The League is pleased to address parish and school groups in regions where we have a director available. We also have information and membership brochures available for parish events and literature racks. We would be happy to send you some upon request.

Our work is sustained exclusively by your donations. All donors will receive a copy of "*An Anthology of Witness*" by Tom Langan. For your convenience, you can [donate online](#) by credit card, or by mail to the address below.

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