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Curriculum Supplement For Schools

The *Interim Plus* is a periodical dedicated to educational matters and specifically designed to assist teachers in integrating relevant life issues in their lesson planning.

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Contents:

Does the "Emperor" Have Any Clothes?

A really current topic has been in the news that pertains to the work of *The Interim* newspaper which sponsors these free curriculum resources. This month we are publishing a second edition, in anticipation of February because the topic may be of importance to young people directly. Students in history, law, politics or religion and philosophy classes could gain new insights and a fuller understanding of Canadian politics and ethics, and perhaps be encouraged to engage in a broader and more active discussion of public affairs through this learning resource. Some students may have a personal interest if they are of working age and considering summer employment with organizations or companies that apply for the Canada Summer Job program. Their employment possibilities may be affected in the short or long term by a recent policy announced by the federal Liberal government led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: namely, the requirement of a written at-



testation by potential employers. By the attestation the applicant company declares that it is in agreement with and supportive of Charter Rights as interpreted by the Liberal to include "reproductive rights and the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression". Essentially the applicants cannot be pro-life, oppose that interpretation if they wish to access government funds to help hire youths through the Canada Summer Job program. There is great controversy and charges of discrimination, inequality and denial of Charter Rights.

There are four articles covering this issue and its ramifications. The first is a speech in which Trudeau outlined his ideas of liberty and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and how various traits of Canada stands her well in the world. The second article is a report found in *The Interim* pro-life monthly newspaper that explains the concerns being expressed by many non-profit and faith-based organizations that are being targeted by the new policy. The third article includes an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from Jim Hughes, the president of the most important grassroots pro-life organization in Canada, *Campaign Life Coalition*. The letter originally sent to the prime minister in September calls out the prime minister for some public statements he continues to make on the subject of abortion and the Charter. It reveals that Trudeau seems to deliberately utter falsehoods even when corrected and is made aware of the truth regarding certain matters. The fourth article appeared in January 19 edition of The National Post. In it Rex Murphy offers his opinion piece on what is at the bottom of this new Trudeau policy.

Canadian Liberty and the Politics of Fear

In a 45-minute speech to the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, on March 9, 2015 Justin Trudeau talked about the genius of Canada, its many virtues, source of strength and the liberty that is its hallmark and which he believes is widely recognized and esteemed by other nations around the world. The occasion was prior to the election which his party won with a majority. He spoke of feminism, political correctness, pluralism, leadership,



fears, inclusiveness, multiculturalism, Charter Rights and Charter values. How does his speech hold up in the context of his many actions as Prime Minister? The speech can be heard or read in full at https://www.liberal.ca/canadian-liberty-and-the-politics-of-fear/ The extracts below give a flavour of what he shared with his audience and what his true priorities may be.

To me pluralism means diversity. And diversity is at the very heart of Canada. It is who we are and what we do.

So let's remind ourselves: Canada is the only country in the world that is strong not in spite of our differences, but because of them.

There are a lot of reasons for this, but I believe the root cause of our success is a uniquely Canadian idea of freedom, of liberty.

... I want to argue that Canadian Liberty is all about inclusion.

....I have an old-fashioned view. I think policies are concrete expressions of values. Priorities are important. Specific commitments are important.....So Canadians ought to know what core values will motivate their leaders' decisions, whatever events may throw at them.

... I believe that one of the highest aims of Canadian political leadership is to protect and expand freedom for Canadians.

...And I also think it's time Liberals took back liberty. These Conservatives pretend to talk a good game about freedom, but look at what they've done with it.

... Their instincts are now to be suspicious of people who do not share their beliefs, to harden divisions with people whose views differ from their own.

Mr Harper and I disagree fundamentally about many things. None perhaps more so than this: leading this country should mean you bring Canadians together. You do not divide them against one another.

Fear is a dangerous thing. Once it is sanctioned by the state, there is no telling where it might lead. It is always a short path to walk from being suspicious of our fellow citizens to taking actions to restrict their liberty.

...But when you take the long view, it is impossible to be anything but awestruck by the progress we have made in creating a society where women are not just included, but vital to our economic and social progress.

The instructive point here is obvious, but often overlooked. One set of policies in postwar Canada generated more liberty for more people than any other. It was the decadeslong effort of the women's movement to gain control over reproductive health and rights.



Indeed, let me be perfectly clear on this point. The Canada we know today is unimaginable without widely available birth-control and the legalization of choice.

Every conceivable measure of inclusion and progress has moved in the right direction since women gained legally protected reproductive freedom in Canada. From workforce participation to educational attainment to representation in the corridors of economic and political power.

That's why I took such a strong stand in favour of a woman's right to choose when I sought the leadership of my party. It's why I implemented a strong new policy soon after being elected, a few years back.

You see, I have this notion that the Liberal Party ought to be a liberal party. It ought to stand for the policy that created an unprecedented expansion of liberty for half the population of the country.

The criticism that followed my decision from many quarters shows you how badly we need to restate and defend a clear idea of Canadian Liberty. Indeed, most of my critics argued that this new policy represented a restriction of freedom – the freedom of Liberal MPs to vote their conscience.

This is an important point, because when different notions of liberty come into conflict it helps clarify our thinking.

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Their argument went like this: forcing a Liberal MP to vote against their conscience on a matter of morality is an unjust restriction of their liberty. It sounds like a reasonable argument. However, it is easily dismissed when you realize it is based on a value judgment about whose freedom is more important: that of an MP elected as a Liberal, or that of Canadian women.

Let's be clear on this. For Liberals, the right of a woman to control her body is more important than the right of a legislator to restrict her freedom with their vote. MPs who disagree with that have other choices. They can sit as independents, or as Conservatives.

But for me, Canadian Liberty is not about the freedom of powerful people to exercise that freedom according to the dictates of their conscience. It is about Canadians' rights not to have their freedom unduly restricted, especially by the state.

As my second favourite Prime Minister, Wilfrid Laurier, once said: "Canada is free, and freedom is its nationality."

That is why efforts of one group to restrict the liberty of another are so very dangerous to this country, especially when the agencies of the state are used to do it.

...Places as diverse as Israel, South Africa and Australia have consciously emulated our Charter of Rights and Freedoms in an effort to tackle some of the problems that we have dealt with better than any country on Earth.

...And let there be no doubt, the Charter certainly expanded freedom for all Canadians.

We are all now free to marry whom we love, women are free to control their reproductive rights, and soon we will be free to choose to die with dignity.

It is also important to understand that the Charter might protect us from our government, but it doesn't always protect us from each other. Canadian Liberty might be protected by the Constitution, but it must be promoted by political leadership.



Rania El-Alloul... just endured something that no Canadian ought to be put through.

Rania arrived in court in Quebec last month on a routine property matter. She is a single mom who is working hard to raise her kids. Like millions of women who face similar circumstances, she has a hard time making ends meet. She was petitioning the court for help.

Like a million other Canadians, Rania professes the Muslim faith. She presented herself to the court wearing a hijab, a headscarf very commonly worn by Muslim women — and women of other faiths I might add. For her, it is an important part of her personal identity, and an expression of her religious liberty.

Imagine her shock when the presiding judge refused to hear her case unless she removed her headscarf. Not without reason, she said that order made her feel as if she were not Canadian.

...As I said earlier, my friends, fear is a dangerous thing. Once stoked, whether by a judge from the bench or a Prime Minister with a dogwhistle, there is no way to predict where it will end.



...For me, this is both unconscionable and a real threat to Canadian Liberty. For me, it is basic truth that Prime Ministers of liberal democracies ought not to be in the business of telling women what they can and cannot wear on their head during public ceremonies.

You can dislike the niqab. You can hold it up that it is a symbol of oppression. You can try to convince your fellow citizens that it is a choice they ought not to make.

This is a free country. Those are your rights.

But those who would use the state's power to restrict women's religious freedom and freedom of expression indulge the very same repressive impulse that they profess to condemn.

It is a cruel joke to claim you are liberating people from oppression by dictating in law what they can and cannot wear.



Whatever happened to a free society's requirement that we can disagree with a person's choices, but must defend their right to make them?

But what's even worse than what they're saying is what they really mean. We all know what is going on here. It is nothing less than an attempt to play on people's fears and foster prejudice, directly toward the Muslim faith.

....What we cannot ever do is blur the line between a real security threat and simple prejudice, as this government has done. I believe they have done it deliberately, and I believe what they have done is deeply wrong.

... *Ultimately, my friends, the antidote to repression is liberty.*

It is this idea that will defeat terrorism and totalitarianism in the long run. It always has. The lethal enemies of terrorists and dictators are societies that are open, thriving, and free. Not just on paper, but in the streets.

Inclusive Freedom. Expansive Freedom. That is the Canadian idea of Liberty. The idea that the liberty of all is enhanced when new freedoms are granted to individuals.

Canadian Liberty compels us to resist the urge to impose our personal beliefs upon our fellow citizens, but it is worth it because of what we get back in return.

Because what we get back in return is Canada.

https://www.liberal.ca/canadian-liberty-and-the-politics-of-fear/

Questions for reflection and discussion

- 1. What did he criticize Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservatives for?
- 2. According to Justin Trudeau what has been the greatest achievement in Canadian history? Has there been any social cost to any of this? What does he mean by the "legalization of choice"?
- 3. How does Justin Trudeau define freedom? How has he promoted his interpretation of the belief in liberty?
- 4. How did he justify restricting the freedom of his own party members in the House of Commons?
- 5. Is the freedom of choice to kill an unborn child, of greater importance than a Member of Parliament to vote according to their conscience in representing their constituents? Why would Justin Trudeau's wishes trump the rights of a democratically elected Member of Parliament?
- 6. Has Justin Trudeau created an unnecessary dilemma for himself? Judge his most recent actions against these sentences from his speech in 2015: As my second favourite Prime Minister, Wilfrid Laurier, once said: "Canada is free, and freedom is its nationality." That is why efforts of one group to restrict the liberty of another are so very dangerous to this country, especially when the agencies of the state are used to do it. Is he making a hypocritical mockery of his own words?
- 7. Does his defense of the Muslim woman sound hollow in retrospect? Why or why not?
- 8. Suppose one were to rephrase this sentence: But those who would use the state's power to restrict women's religious freedom and freedom of expression indulge the very same repressive impulse that they profess to condemn... in the following way But those who would use the state's power to restrict pro-lifers and people of faith's freedom and freedom of expression indulge the very same repressive impulse that they profess to condemn, would Prime Minister Justin Trudeau not be condemning himself?
- 9. How is this prime minister himself playing on people's fears and fostering prejudice, directly toward people of faith? [including Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Sikks, Orthodox, Protestants, Evangelicals, etc., etc.]
- 10. What core values are the real priority for Justin Trudeau based on his current policy regarding employer eligibility for the government's Canada Summer Job program?
- 11. Is he imposing his own personal ideological agenda on the country?

Ottawa won't fund students summer jobs unless employers support abortion

The Interim, December, 2017

The Liberal government of Justin Trudeau will ban any employer from receiving summer job grants for students if the employer doesn't first sign an "attestation" that they agree with abortion and transgender "rights."

The new criteria were sent to all MPs and was made public when the Canada Summer Jobs Program opens December 19, 2017.

In order to receive federal Canada job grants, employers must attest that: "both the job and the organization's core mandate respect individual human rights in Canada, including the values underlying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as other rights.



These include reproductive rights and the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. "



Conservative MP Brad Trost

Conservative MP Brad Trost was first to publicly raise the alarm in a twitter and Facebook video in which he denounces the Liberals for discrimination. "In practical terms, this means you have to be with the Liberal Party position on abortion, gay marriage, transgendered rights, all sorts of legislation in the House of Commons, otherwise you will be an ineligible employer for this program," Trost said. "That's wrong, that's discrimination."

Canadians "are allowed to have different political beliefs than the government of the day and they shouldn't have their funding be cut off because they disagree with the government," he added.

"The second problem with this is it automatically excludes all faith-based organizations that are traditional on their values of human

life and sexual morality. That includes millions and millions of Canadians," Trost said.

Conservative MP Bev Shipley (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex) issued a video statement saying: "Simply put, it would appear that if your organization has a pro-life belief contrary to the Liberal government's mandate, you would not be approved for funding under this year's Canada Summer Jobs program. This is wrong."

Shipley said Canadians "have always had the privilege of holding a different political view than that of the government of the day. This new requirement will directly affect all program applicants who do have a different core value than the Trudeau government."

Conservative leader Andrew Scheer's spokesman Jake Enwright said the opposition is concerned about infringing the basic rights of Canadians and the Trudeau's heavy-handedness in dealing with those that disagree with his government. "Canadians should be very concerned that the government of Canada is basing its funding decisions on whether or not you hold a certain belief," Enwright told LifeSiteNews. The Charter "exists to ensure that the government does not discriminate against you based on your beliefs," he added. "It's not the government's tool for protecting itself, it's your tool to protect you from the government."

Campaign Life Coalition condemned the new policy, saying it will be a problem for "organizations, non-profits, and small business owners whose core values include a traditional view of sexual morality and the sanctity of human life." CLC national president Jim Hughes said, "The Trudeau government is engaging in ideological coercion by demanding that employers who believe killing children before birth is wrong, attest that they support

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so-called 'reproductive rights.' For the government to deny federal funds to pro-life employers for their summer students, while encouraging grants for pro-abortion organizations, is directly discriminating against millions of Canadians."

CLC charges the Liberal government with "compelling and coercing Canadians to renounce their deeply held religious and moral beliefs" with power of the purse.

CLC said it hopes "the voices of opposition will grow to bring unbearable pressure to bear on the government

to repeal this discriminatory and coercive policy." It also launched a petition against the policy, calling for its reversal.

Jack Fonseca, senior political strategist for Campaign Life Coalition, excoriated the Trudeau Liberals for their blatant anti-Christian bias. "This is a jaw-dropping act of discrimination against faith-based employers and non-profits. Although the Trudeau Liberals have signaled many times they have special contempt for Christians, this new policy requires a massive negative reaction from all faith-based communities in Canada – Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh," he told LifeSiteNews.

Non-profit groups, small businesses, and public sector employers can apply for funding through Canada Summer Jobs program to create jobs for students from 15 to 30 years of age.

Formerly, it was up to individual MPs to assess and approve funding applications from groups in their ridings.

The Trudeau government already decreed last year no Liberal MP could approve Canada Summer Job funding for pro-life groups. Moreover, Liberal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Patty Hajdu said at the time through spokesman Matt Pascuzzo that she would change the program to make sure no prolife group would be approved in the future. "We have been unequivocal in our support for a woman's fundamental right to choose," Pascuzzo said then.

Alliance for Life Ontario and the Canadian Center for Bioethical Reform were among pro-life groups cut off from Canada Student Job funding in 2017. Campaign Life Coalition also receives funding and *The Interim* has benefited from the program in the past, also.

-With files from LifeSiteNews

Pro-life leader tells Trudeau to stop lying about abortion

Contra Justin Trudeau, Pierre Trudeau insisted that abortion was not a 'Charter right'

In view of the ongoing Canada Summer Jobs Program controversy, Campaign Life Coalition (CLC) reiterates that Justin Trudeau continues to be at odds with his late father, author of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, by insisting that abortion is a right.

On Sept 29th, 2017, Jim Hughes, president of CLC sent a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, urging him to stop claiming that abortion was a 'Charter right'. Because the Prime Minister continues to repeat this allegation in town halls and in the Canada Summer Jobs attestation, CLC is today, January15, re-releasing the letter to provide the public with the truth:

September 29, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau Office of the Prime Minister 80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, I expect you will appreciate my bringing to your attention, some very serious allegations you are frequently making, in regard to abortion. Campaign Life Coalition

Abortion is not a 'Charter right', and it is not a 'human right'.

In the early 1980's, Campaign Life Coalition worked very hard to have the right to life enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Prime Minister at the time, your father, assured us that the Charter would have no impact on the abortion question.



CLC's Jack Fonseca



Liberal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Patty Hajdu

In a letter regarding a suggested amendment, dated July 6, 1981, to Archbishop MacNeil of Edmonton, the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Prime Minister wrote: "The arguments advanced to show that the Charter will create an entitlement to abortion on demand have been clearly refuted in the opinion given by the Department of Justice. In my view, the need of an amendment has not been clearly demonstrated."

Earlier, in June 1981, the Prime Minister stated: "Because the public is evenly divided on the subject of abortion it was the government's 'considered view' that a position favouring one side should not be enshrined in the charter. The Government feels the issue is not one which should be defended by the Constitution."

Over the years, your father's words have proven to be true, as abortion has never been declared to be a 'Charter right' by the Supreme Court of Canada. In fact, the Court has specifically held that there is a legitimate right for Parliament to legislate on the issue, should it so choose.

Additionally, for as long as the United Nations has existed, consensus has never been reached on the issue of abortion as a human right. Where abortion is alluded to in agreed conclusions (non-binding normative documents which are adopted at various UN commissions), it is cast in a negative light. For example, states should discourage abortion, it should not be promoted as a method of birth control and it should be exclusively addressed in national legislation. Although several UN agencies may agree with you, the majority of the 193 member states that make up the United Nations do not share your

personal view that abortion is a human right.

It was quite clear by the authors of the Charter and continues to be clear by the United Nations that abortion isn't a 'right', and it is unbecoming for the Prime Minister of Canada today, to deliberately utter a falsebood and to keep repeating it.

In future, we respectfully request that you refrain from either stating or implying that abortion is a 'Charter right', a 'human right' and is synonymous with 'women's rights' as it is clearly not.

Regards,

Jam Hughes

Jim Hughes National President Campaign Life Coalition

Campaign Life Coalition
https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/hot-news/id/394



Jim Hughes National President Campaign Life Coalition

Questions

- 1. What is the difference between "values" and "rights"? How has Prime Minister Justin Trudeau conflated the two things?
- 2. Should Canadians be alarmed by such a government stance? Why or why not?
- 3. What prompted the Liberal government to take such a discriminatory action in the first place?
- 4. Did any non-government organizations pressure it to take that course of action? Who stands to benefit from this action?
- 5. What did Conservative MP Brad Trost and other Conservative critics of the policy have to say about it?
- 6. Are millions of Canadians being denied equal opportunity to Canada Summer Job program funding?
- 7. Is the Trudeau approach tyrannical or is it somehow justified in any legitimate way?
- 8. According to Matt Pascuzzo, the spokesperson for the Minister Patti Haydu responsible for introducing the new policy, what was the fundamental motivation behind the change in policy?
- 9. What actions are being taken by organizations threatened by the new policy to fight back at perceived unfair discrimination?
- 10. In the released letter, what does Jim Hughes of Campaign Life Coalition accuse the present prime minister of?



- 11. What evidence does he offer for the accusation?
- 12. Why does Justin Trudeau keep repeating the falsehood?
- 13. In light of his own previous statements about such "state" actions is he really being honest? Can one trust such a politician? How can he be held to account for his statements and actions?
- 14. What are the principal issues at stake in this situation?

The National Post, January 19, 2018

Rex Murphy: No summer jobs for you! And other decrees from Bishop Trudeau

Just because you vacation with an Aga Khan, however often, doesn't make you one. You leave the idyllic island with no more religious authority than when you arrived. Come as a secular politician, leave as one. I think we may begin to wonder if Justin Trudeau understands this point.

The prime minister has recently, speaking as one should say **ex cathedra**, declared a doctrinal test for any who wish to make application for student summer job grants. If any church, charity or club wishes to

apply for one — successfully — it is insisted they endorse and declare in writing their agreement with the Liberal party's understanding on (a) abortion and (b) a whole raft of other progressive doctrines and dogmas on other sexual and gender issues.

It's a strange turn. How does one get from students trying to work off their education debts to a government insisting its citizens declare themselves on issues of the deepest moral and religious sensitivity? From student jobs to the roiling tumult of abortion politics? I guess there is more than one way to spin a handperson's tale:



Rex Murphy

"Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Roman Catholic Church?" "Yes."

"No summer jobs for you!"

We return to the Bishop of 24 Sussex for explication. Suppose some parish council wants to do a cleanup of the town stream, and figures with a grant it could help half a dozen debt-hounded students by giving

them summer jobs. Under the latest Trudeau encyclical, the town's priest, minister, imam, shaman or rabbi would have to publicly repudiate his faith on an official document and maul his conscience with a lie (thus playing roulette with their immortal souls; religious people actually believe they have them) if the poor students are to be helped by said grants.

Does anyone think Mr. Trudeau, more a stumbler than a specialist on the ethics front, is overreaching here? Just a jot or a tittle? Has he really not read the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a document on most occasions he treats as believers of old reverenced the Sinai tablets?

It has as central prime rights those of religion and conscience. Religion and conscience — rights that are as ancient as the concept of rights itself, the pivot on which all ancillary rights depend. They are not rights that depend on a calendar date, nor are they mere manifestations of a particular, transient political climate. In so far as any rights are eternal, these are.

What shallow hubris engenders the sense that Mr. Trudeau, as through this both petty and profound intrusion he has, has the authority to undo the balance of citizens' religious and moral beliefs and the political dispensations of a particular government? The Liberal platform of the day is not, as this government wildly seems to think, a synonym writ large for the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

But hey, it's only a jobs program. Well, once started, why stop? Why stop at the grant-applying organizations? Why not question the students who are to get the jobs? Why shouldn't they be asked to sign on the dotted line, tick the right boxes? Why shouldn't they be asked as well if they endorse the Liberal readings on abortion, the carbon tax, diversity, NAFTA, refugee intake, the return of ISIL fighters?



On the principle underwriting the summer jobs policy, there is absolutely no logical reason why they should not be so interrogated and obliged.

At the core of this affair is the blasé assumption of the secular progressive mind that religion, and most particularly the Christian religion, is "so over" so "not 2015" that the rights of the religious are not

of the same stamina, not of the same worth and "truth," as all our "modern" rights freshly blossomed out of fashionable ideological hothouses.

Traditional Christian rights are the rights of the backward part of the population, those who rarely make a noise, block a street, or besiege a parliamentary office. So fooling with them, forcing believers to make awkward or even impossible choices, is seen as either an amusing, politically costless game, or as a condescending prod towards their inevitable evolution to a higher plane. Their betters hurt them only to help them.

It's an act of arrogance that comes very glibly to a crowd that requires no exertion to feel pleased with themselves — the same arrogance that skips blithely over the stated ethical standards of Parliament and Prime Minister, but in lordly fashion riffs in town halls and cabinet rooms what is right for everyone else to believe and what is not.

As for those dissenting, who sense their deepest convictions are being outraged, their consciences mocked, why they are just stirring up a mere "kerfuffle." We will be long waiting for the day when an equal slur against a non-traditional religion or one on, say, gay rights, is so characterized.

Questions

- 1. Rex Murphy uses satire and irony with effect. Cite three examples of satire and/or irony in this article which appeared in the *National Post*.
- 2. What does Murphy believe lies at the core of this Trudeau policy?
- 3. How is Trudeau equating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms with the contemporary Liberal party platform? Why is this a dangerous precedent for the freedom of Canadians?
- 4. According to Rex Murphy how has Justin Trudeau foolishly arrogated to himself the authority of a despot by trying to impose his own secular ideology on people of faith?

