

The eReview provides analysis on public policy relating to Canadian families and marriage.



2009 in review and looking forward to 2010

By Dave Quist, Executive Director, Institute of Marriage and Family Canada

Year end is a reflective time for many. I'm one of those people. Looking back on the various activities of the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada, we have had a productive, busy year. We would not be successful without your partnership – through feedback, ideas, questions, passing along our research and your donations. For all of these things we thank you.

One of the key components of actively participating in the public square is ensuring that our message moves beyond our office and is discussed through the media, around the water coolers and coffee rooms and, of course, by Canada's elected officials and bureaucrats. I'm pleased to report that as I write this IMFC research has generated over 430 media responses this year alone. We've been on your television, in your newspaper, on the radio and on many blogs. Through this we are a part of the debate on social policy.

Without a doubt, one of the highlights this past year was our [2009 Family Policy Conference](#). Each year seems to raise the bar a little higher and this past year was no exception. From the welcome by Monte Solberg to the keynote speech by the Right Honourable Iain Duncan Smith and everyone in between, we presented solid research regarding the benefits of strong families to an audience of politicians, reporters, fellow researchers and interested individuals.

Throughout the year we have been a part of the debate in the public square regarding child care and full-day kindergarten, the cost of family breakdown, the move to legalize euthanasia, the changing needs of elders, the important role of parents in their children's lives regarding sex-ed and a host of other topics.

We have already begun the research for many topics in 2010. We will continue to bring forward credible research that shows why the institutions of marriage and family are vital to the well being of Canadian society. Preparations are well underway for our [2010 Family Policy Conference](#), with three terrific speakers already lined up. Once again this year, we are coordinating our conference with the [Manning Centre Networking Conference](#).

In these closing days of 2009, I would like to thank each person that has partnered with us to contribute their insights, time, comments and financial donations. It is only with your support and assistance that we can make this research available. If you would like to partner with us financially before year end, please click [here](#).

May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours truly,

Dave Quist

Executive Director,
Institute of Marriage and Family Canada