## **Children Must Take Interfaith Religion Class, Canada's Supreme Court Rules**

By <u>Michael Gryboski</u>, Christian Post Reporter February 20, 2012|4:48 pm

Canada's Supreme Court has recently ruled that children in Quebec cannot opt out of a public school religion class, even if their parents take issue with the curriculum.

In a *S.L. v. Commission scolaire des Chênes*, which was decided on Friday, the highest court in the country refused to hear an appeal from two Catholic parents who took issue with their child being enrolled in the



The flag of Quebec Province, Canada (Photo: Public Domain)

province's Ethics and Religious Culture program. The course teaches about the many religions in Canada and their contributions to the nation's <u>culture</u>. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, a national organization of evangelical Christians founded in 1964, was one of many organizations that intervened in the case on behalf of the parents.

"<u>Religious freedom</u> and the right to parental authority are robustly regarded and guaranteed in Canada," said Faye Sonier, legal counsel for the Centre for Faith and Public Life, the legal wing of EFC, in an interview with The Christian Post.

"If parents have sincerely held religious beliefs and do not wish to expose their children to certain programming ... that may conflict with their beliefs, their wishes should be honored..."

*To read this article in its entirety, go to*: <u>http://www.christianpost.com/news/children-must-take-interfaith-religion-class-canadian-court-rules-69880/</u>