

# FCP participates in two important conferences

Phil Lees, Leader's Report excerpt, 20 March 2010

**March 11: Marriage and Family Conference, Ottawa.** This conference provided great research evidence to support traditional families and excellent evidence to include in constituency association advocacy campaigns.

Hopefully, a report will be written about the various presentations, or a link provided so that members will have access to the information. Check: <http://www.imfcanada.org/Default.aspx?cat=0>

## March 12 & 13: Manning Centre Networking Conference

This was a great opportunity for the FCP to network with organizations that share our principles. At the event, there were more than 450 delegates from across Canada.

I am very pleased to report that FCP purchased a table display and this provided an excellent opportunity to meet many people who share our principles and an opportunity to exchange information with individuals and other organizations.

The Manning Centre shared significant research that proves 89% of people in Canada believe that the family is most important issue, 67% believe marriage should be between a man and a woman, and 60% oppose abortion. Very encouraging! This conference provided a great deal of support for social conservative principles as presented by the FCP.



Lynne Scime (President), Connie McKenna (Communications Director), and Brian Rushfeldt (CFAC) at the FCP Display at Manning Centre.

Significant discussions took place with individuals from the Manning Centre's Interfaith Advisory network. The goal of this group is to connect all faith groups who share social and fiscal conservative issues.

An interesting side note about one of the discussions that took place at the table. There was significant discussion with the Libertarian party, and during one discussion about our similarities and differences, there was a heated debate between two libertarians, one who felt that abortion was wrong and maybe on that issue there should be legislation preventing the practise, and the other who felt it may be wrong but struggled with government intervention into any issue. Both of these individuals took information about the FCP and wanted to join – however, we made it very clear that it is illegal to be a member of more than one provincial political party – I don't think that would stop a libertarian that is, more than anything, opposed to any government intervention – including rules over the number of political parties you can be a member of.



It was very interesting that a couple of memberships came in right near the end of the conference, after Tim Hudak spoke. Their reason for joining – they had hoped the PC's would have heard the message about the importance of social conservative issues, but they said it is clear he continues to avoid it.

Once the links for the workshops are provided by the Manning Centre, we will post them. Also check: <http://www.manningcentre.ca/>



**Details from the Conference as written in Macleans.ca:**

## **Harper's hard right turn**

Social conservatism is on the rise in Ottawa, and across Canada  
by Paul Wells on Friday, March 19, 2010 Macleans.ca

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/03/19/harper%E2%80%99s-hard-right-turn/>

".... the Crowne Plaza hotel in downtown Ottawa played host to two consecutive conferences, a small one by the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada followed by a big one by the Manning Centre for Building Democracy. Both were well attended by current and former ministers, employees and strategists of the Harper government. Both drew energetic crowds of activists and ordinary people. Both gave free rein to an unabashed social conservatism that is rarely mentioned, and even less frequently championed, by even prominent fiscal conservatives in the big papers and magazines. And the mood at both gatherings was overwhelmingly optimistic, because the kind of conservatism that appeals to these organizations is demonstrably on the march in Ottawa and across Canada."

Photograph of the FCP Display at the Manning Centre Networking Conference appeared on page 2 of the Maclean's article.



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