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Last updated at 11:10 AM on 28/07/08

Activist says his money will not pay for abortion

LATEST NEWS 

BY ERIC MCCARTHY
Transcontinental Media

ALBERTON — David Little hasn't filed a tax return since 1999 and said he will not file again as long as there's tax-funded abortion in this country. Even if it means going to jail.

Little was convicted in a Fredericton courtroom last November but has subsequently appealed that conviction. His appeal before New Brunswick's Court of Queens Bench has been adjourned until Oct. 24.

"This is a constitutional case," explained Little. "My constitutional defence arguments radiate around freedom of religion and conscience and freedom from discrimination."

Little recently moved with his wife and family to Alberton, preferring, he said, to live in the only province where abortions are not performed. It is from here that he plans to mount a nationwide political movement to have the Canada Health Act amended to prohibit funding for abortion and to have an unborn child declared a legal "person."

He argues that allowing abortions to be performed defies God's laws, and he notes the very first line of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms reads: "Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law."

"God will judge us on the choices we make," said the devout Roman Catholic. Despite advising the federal tax department annually of his reason for not filing, Little said Revenue Canada ignored him until after he wrote a scathing letter in July 2003 to then prime minister Jean Chrétien.

"Here is the simple unvarnished truth, Mr. Jean Chretien. You sir, are quite certainly not even Christian, let alone a Catholic. Please abandon the gross hypocrisy of calling yourself a Catholic for it is a most apparent lie. As a leader, you have done incalculable harm to the souls of not only Canadians but humanity at large. You sadden and sicken me. You are a disgrace to simple decency and I fear for your soul. You try to clothe yourself with the sanctity of Catholicism while your words and deeds reek with the stench of evil."

— **Excerpt from Little's July 8, 2003, letter to Chretien**

Official demands for tax returns for the years 1999 to 2003 were issued six weeks later.

Legal action was set in motion against him soon after he mailed a critically-worded letter to then prime minister Paul Martin in 2004.

Little doesn't expect his case to end at appeal.

"I'm convinced," he said, "whoever wins at this level, it's going to be appealed."

He expects the case to eventually make it to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Little says he will continue his fight even if it means going to jail.

His loss, he posted in blogs, would be small compared to the loss suffered by victims of abortion.

28/07/08

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Politico from Charlottetown, PE writes: WOW!

Posted 28/07/2008 at 10:58 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Red Necks all around me from PEI writes: BOB DOLE from PEI ..Your a funny man, and I totally agree with you.

I dont think govt should give my money to satisfy Indian Land Claims, ..So i'm not going to pay any more taxes.
Thanks, Mr Little for showing me the light!!

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:18 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Trevor Leclerc from Charlottetown, PEI writes: Personal beliefs cannot override the law of the land.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:19 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Bill from NS writes: I think Mr. Little is going to the extreme. Everyone is entitled to their opinion and their beliefs, but to be willing to go to jail where it is beyond his control is a little pathetic. Live your life, express your opinions, and accept some things can't change and accept that. Being pro life or pro choice is not going to change anything or anyone getting an abortion anytime soon. Just another thing you have to live with and accept, or let it pick at you for the rest of your life. Me, I prefer to life my life as stress free as possible accepting things I can't change.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:27 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Eager Beaver2 from Charlottetown, PE writes: How about from now on, we Canadians pay taxes for the causes we support. This case is ridiculous. Everyone has the right to their opinion, but also, we have to obey the law and pay our taxes even if we don't agree with what our tax dollars are being spent. I do not believe that this man has a valid case here. Not every Canadian is Catholic in Canada. I believe every woman should have the right to choose whether or not they want to keep the child. You never know the circumstances that she may be in.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:29 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

manny manny from Charlottetown, PEI writes: I find it funny that Mr Little moved to PEI because abortions are not performed on the Island. However, is Mr Little aware that the PEI government funds women to have the procedure done in Halifax?

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:35 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Red Necks all around me from PEI writes: The Guardian, is one of the most censored newspapers in Atlantic Canada
I will not be reading it any more...

I cant believe some of the stuff, you do not print or remove at will..

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:38 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

No taxes = no services from PEI writes: Does this mean he's not going to use any other services that our taxes provide as well?

If he's not paying, then he shouldn't get those either.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:42 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

frank from summerside, pe writes: Many things defy God's law, not just abortion. Abortion is no worse than coveting thy neighbour though. Everyone's a sinner, but as long as you believe in Jesus and ask for forgiveness, you'll find a spot in heaven.

And while the Charter does refer to God, it is really irrelevant. If we based our laws on laws and commandments from the bible, everyone would be in prison (because everyone is a sinner)!

Interesting way to protest, but I don't think he has any chance of winning his

case. I wonder if he also doesn't buy any products or services since he would have to pay PST and GST on them (which are also used to fund abortion).

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:46 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Don't believe the Hype from PE writes: I certainly hope he loses this case, all the way to the Supreme Court. If ever there was an argument for the separation of Church and State, this is it.

While I have no problem with his beliefs regarding abortion, after all, they are his beliefs, and as he states, he is entitled and in fact guaranteed the right to them. However, that should not preclude him from the obligation of paying taxes.

After all, I am sure he doesn't mind the access to free healthcare for himself. Does he plan on giving up his rights to access CPP and OAS. All of these are tax funded programs as well. If Mr Little were robbed or assaulted, would he call the RCMP?

Furthermore, there are a lot of programs that the government must support, that various religions are opposed to. Imagine what would happen to Canada if people could just opt out of paying taxes due to a religious objection to government policy. Many religions are against war and killing. Therefore, people should be able to refuse to pay taxes as some of this money goes to our military? Imagine the lost revenue if every Catholic chose not to pay taxes on the same grounds as Mr Little. Jehovah's Witness are against blood transfusions. Do they get a pass on taxes?

We must be careful here. Mr Little's rights are not being trampled. He has the freedom to choose his religion, and to choose his beliefs. Discrimination would require that he is being treated differently than all other citizens. This is also not the case. With all due respect to Mr Little's beliefs, we must all hope the Supreme Court, as well as all lower courts, can show the wisdom, and interpret the charter with the proper intent, and not allow this abuse of the freedoms we all benefit from.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:51 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

You still have to obey the rules of our country from pe writes: While I admire this man's stand (and agree with his views) I also know the bible says we are to obey those in charge and give on to caesar what is caesars and unto God what is Gods so not paying his taxes is disobeying God.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 12:00 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

John from PEI writes: Mr. Little is certainly entitled to his own views, beliefs and opinions.

If he is willing to go to jail for them so be it. However he should realize that not all Canadians share his views. I don't believe in God as portrayed by the Catholic Church. Big deal. If he chooses to flagrantly break the law he will have to suffer the consequences.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 12:12 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

CJ from PEI writes: Well, I'm not going to file a tax return anymore either because my tax dollars go to pay medical care and I don't have a family doctor and haven't had one for about 10 years. Why should I pay taxes for a service I am not entitled to. If he gets away with it anyone else who doesn't like something about the system should get away with it as well.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 12:17 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

really? from PEI writes: Using Mr Littles rationale one could justify the 'eye for an eye approach if ones religion were that way.

Fortunately religion doesn't enter into our laws. He will pay one way or the other.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 12:57 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

melanie from pe writes: Lock him up.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 1:08 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

dummy from PEI writes: this man is obviously passionate about what he believes in... good for him. But what he seems to believe in is LIFE. Well what i don't undersdand is, why doesn't he live his life and enjoy his family. Yes fight for what you believe in, but to go to jail and not be able to live life with your family seems really dumb to me. Kinda selfish actually. There are better ways to fight than going to jail over taxes.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 2:03 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Adam from Charlottetown, PE writes: Wow. Talk about someone who should be locked up.

If he appeals and for some stupid reason, wins..that leaves the door WIDE open for nobody to pay taxes. I don't have to pay taxes because I don't agree with using money for military/free health care/environment/indian/women/oceans/pick whatever department that gets money. Weither you believe in abortions or not, what he's doing is hurting everything.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 2:47 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

garry from pe writes: I wonder how much he owes?

Posted 28/07/2008 at 5:07 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

A.L. from PEI writes: Ridiculous. I agree with all of the above, but with one more comment...he may as well give it up as there is a basic flaw in his premise- not everybody is a Christian!! I am but I don't think the atheists, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, or what have you would appreciate his zeal.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 5:50 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Wide Belly from Charlottetown, PEI writes: I sincerely hope Mr. Little is not partaking of any federal government services. If in all good conscience he cannot pay taxes to a government that provides abortion then in all good conscience he should not use those services that taxes pay for such as medicare, EI (if he needs it) or any programs that Ottawa offers. What about the hidden federal taxes everyone pays. Is he also refusing to pay those? I am willing to bet he is using federal services on one had and on the other he is refusing to pay taxes that pay for those services.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 6:15 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Chester Field from PEI writes: This has got to be one of most far out excuses I have ever seen because buddy doesn't want to pay taxes, he only came here because if he tryed to pull this crap in Ontario they would fire him in jail, Also, I get a kick out of how he states that Canada is a christian country, since when, we have a wide range of regilions here, not just Christian.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 6:47 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

cruxoftheissue from pei writes: Jesus advised us to Render unto Ceasar what is Ceasar's and also to Judge Not, Lest ye be judged yourself.

Certainly we were not told to turn a Blind Eye to sin and corruption, but Vengeance, sayeth the Lord, is Mine.

So, it may be that Mr. Little is, at best confused, or at worse, an unwitting hypocrite--at least according to my understanding of Christ's teachings.

His letter to Chretien sounds pretty judgemental--I doubt it did Chretien any harm, but what about the harm this man did to himself? Where's Mr. Little's restraint when reminded of Christ's admonition of Let him that has not sinned cast the first stone?

Mr. Little, you may benefit from asking yourself whether or not you are SELECTIVELY conducting yourself according to those of Christ's teachings that suit your broader fiscal agenda, and perhaps simultaneously sidelining other teachings that don't further your goal. Not that we aren't all probably guilty of situational ethics from time to time, but I don't see how refusing to pay your taxes adds any more substance to your protest against abortion. As others have pointed out, taxes are used for many, many things that you directly benefit from,

in addition to those that you find objectionable. We have systems in place by which you can register your objection, and opting out of the system entirely is not a legal option at this time.

If I may try to help, Mr. Little, Chretien and abortionists, just like all the rest of us (you, and me included) will one day be judged according to their merits, but that task certainly will not be done by YOU, or I. Personally I'm grateful that I don't have the burden of the occupation of Judge--what earthly wisdom I have managed to collect amounts to very little when applied to men in whose shoes I have not walked a mile. I think I would make a great many mistakes, and I would hate to have to answer for them, when the time comes for me to meet my maker. Can you honestly say any differently?

For the 3 stone and 10 allotted YOU, I say, Render unto Ceasar what is his, continue to protest if you please against how Ceasar then chooses to spend what is HIS, and focus on your own salvation.

Once you are sin-free yourself, throw stones if you then feel entitled--but I sincerely doubt that should that day ever come, you will be any more inclined to cast the first stone than was Christ himself. Good luck and God Bless.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 6:58 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

heyhy from pe writes: I dread the idea that we might go backwards. I dread the idea that we might force women, against their moral views, into a possibility where they are forced to bear a child, to go through a pregnancy in a situation in which they might feel desperate.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 7:01 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Paying Yer Taxes from Charlottetown, PEI writes: Yes, he can wear his self-wrought crown of thorns in the name of civil disobedience.

A lot of people have in the name of standing firm on all kinds of issues.

Just don't expect much in the way of mercy when charges wind up in court.

Also, the people who go this route often only deduct from income taxes the amount they believe is their share in paying for, say, armaments, nuclear energy etc.

I don't think paying no income taxes since 1999 will register very high on the 'martyrdom' scale.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 7:17 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

cruxoftheissue from pei writes: Upon further contemplation, I'm not even sure Mr. Little's approach to the protest of government funded abortion (and presumeably abortion in general) is even effective!

Assuming Mr. Little has a job, he IS then paying income tax AT SOURCE. Then every time he buys something, again, taxes are paid at the time of each transaction. If he really wanted to stop paying taxes, he would have to do so at the supermarket, and get arrested there.

Also, the story does not say if Mr. Little's 1999 to 2007 income tax returns would have produced a tax burden to him, or a refund! If a refund, then Mr. Little is allowing the government to keep even MORE of his money with which to apply to it's objectionable programs, and if money was in fact owing, how much?

Could the amount he owes in the final accounting really be much, relative to that which he IS paying with each paycheque and store purchase?

So, Mr. Little is not really withholding his tax dollar against objectionable government programs, rather he is withholding the yearly ACCOUNTING of his finances, as required by law. They are getting his money, or most of what is owing at the very least, so what's the point of doing this?

Publicity, I should think. But even then--is this method effective, assuming that his end goal is the outlawing of abortion or at least government funding of abortion?

I think not. This method of protest is only in the news because it represents the extreme. The extreme or fringe elements of society have yet to achieve much of anything politically unless and until they manage to enlist the more moderate, main-stream sections of society in their cause, at least to my knowledge. Use of extreme tactics frankly tends to turn the Moderates off--which leads them to disengage from the debate, which leads to LESS support for your cause, which leads to NO CHANGE to the status quo. The extreme elements end up shooting themselves in the foot, simply by being soextreme.

Mr. Little, apart from the formidable theological arguments against your strategy, practically speaking, I think it is counter-productive to your larger goal. Time to Rethink and Regroup if you really want to accomplish anything more than your 15 minutes of fame.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 7:38 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Wallace W from Cornwall, pei writes: It's certainly unorthodox but all this aborting is pretty terrible for those who hold to the sanctity of all of life. That begins in mom's womb and lasts till we get to the tomb. For us folk, passions run pretty deep and while I'll pay me taxes out of fear as much as anything. I do have to tip my hat to this unorthodox man. Godspeed you sir.

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:25 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

me from pei writes: omg can't believe all of you ignorant people! don't say anything unless you have worked for government and have witnessed ALL the waste and ALL the abuse your tax dollars fund. get up off your duff and revolt against the facade of democracy!

Posted 28/07/2008 at 11:33 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

garry from pe writes: Religious organizations are tax exempt in Canada. The catholic church does not pay any taxes and therefore is not contributing to the funding of abortions.

Posted 29/07/2008 at 1:05 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

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