

Anti-abortion protester must pay taxes, N.B. court rules

Last Updated: Friday, October 24, 2008 | 6:11 PM AT [Comments122Recommend38](#)

[CBC News](#)



David Little believes it is his right not to pay taxes. (CBC)

A man convicted last fall of not paying income tax because he refuses to be part of government funding for abortions has lost his appeal before the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench.

David Little, who now lives on Prince Edward Island, is a devout Roman Catholic and stopped filing tax returns and paying taxes years ago to protest against government-funded abortions.

Little represented himself in a Fredericton court on Friday where he argued his conviction last year on three counts of not paying his income taxes should be overturned because it violates his religious beliefs under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In his two-and-a-half hour submission before Judge Hugh McLellan, Little included quotes from the Bible and his strong belief that abortion is "an abomination."

Twice the judge interrupted, saying Little should stick to legal arguments, not moral, religious or political ones.

McLellan then ruled that despite Little's intense beliefs, he did not show any legal error by the judge who convicted him and dismissed the appeal.

When Little left the courtroom, he said he was not surprised by the ruling.

"The first time any court does something on such a precedent, it's of considerable importance. So we've always felt along the road it's going to end up in the Supreme Court," Little said.

Little said while he represented himself in court, he had pro bono help from a lawyer who believes in his cause. He did not identify the lawyer, saying only that he was from outside the country.

Little said he remains confident he will win his case, and that it will force the Canadian government to change its laws on abortion.

Even if he loses at Canada's top court, Little said he will not change his ways as long as the

government funds abortions.

"I'm gonna be in jail until I rot, because I'm never gonna file again until the law's changed," Little said.

It has been the 64-year-old's goal from the mid-1990s to be charged with tax evasion to raise the profile of his cause.

Little has set up a website to raise money for his defence. He also moved his family to Alberton in western P.E.I. in May of this year because abortions are not performed in Island hospitals. Little will not say what his income is, but says he is supported by several wealthy benefactors.

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[cait50](#) wrote:Posted 2008/11/26

at 12:25 AM ETPlease lock this crackpot up so he can stop wasting the time of the legal system.

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[searsha32](#) wrote:Posted 2008/11/05

at 6:00 PM ETI am not surprised that the individual holding this opinion is a man. It seems that so many of the active and radical pro-life activists are men. I just don't understand how this individual thinks he has the right to play "god" with my body. Who gives him the right to dictate what I do? Little should pay his taxes and keep his mouth shut. It is not shocking to me that someone from the religious right again uses god to justify misogynistic attitudes. Isn't it always the self-righteous that are most judgmental and critical?? Focus your energies on something worthwhile like stopping violence against women and leave the right to make choices about my body where it belongs- with me.

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[Mark Winn](#) wrote:Posted 2008/10/30

at 2:39 PM ETtumbles22,

I would stack my education and experience against yours without even knowing you because I am that confident that I am "reasonable and learned". Heck, I would even spot you a Masters.

Don't try and force your beliefs on others with this illusion that you are somehow more enlightened than the rest of us,

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[chmeee](#) wrote:Posted 2008/10/30

at 11:40 AM ETtumbles22 wrote: Posted 2008/10/26 at 5:56 AM ET

Reasonable and learned people don't believe in a God to begin with. This man is not reasonable apparently. Imagine if all of us who don't support our government didn't pay taxes. Catastrophe!

God and government don't belong together. Period!

I am a reasonable person. I have an education, and consider myself learned. I believe in God. Therefore, the first line of your post is incorrect. Unless of course, you define "reasonable" as always agreeing with you; "learned" as having been educated with no reference to religion, God (there is only one, no matter what religion you practice) or without ever examining your own life in terms of a larger context. If that's the case, then stay in the shallow end of the gene pool.

As for David Little, at least he has the courage of his convictions, unlike some people who have no convictions, except to belittle everyone else's. I may not agree with his method, but respect him for swimming against the current.

As for God and government not belonging together, well, I partially agree. Religion can be perverted to further earthly goals. But I try to elect people that have similar values to mine, and if that person can find a little inspiration in the Bible, or temper his judgement because of it, that's OK with me. There are few things worse than trying to deal with a soul-less, hard-hearted bureaucrat.

Also, thank you for capitalizing "God" in your post. It gives me a small amount of hope for your redemption. You may not believe in Him, but He believes in you.

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Never-Mind wrote: Posted 2008/10/30

at 10:51 AM ET This is only one of the instances where governments want to win, or have an upper hand on opposite sides of the issues!

On one side governments insist that people must provide for the necessities of life, while the other is that people must pay for doing the very opposite, namely deny the right to live to those who came into being to no own fault!

Governments and judiciary are hypocritical out of convenience so as not to expose their incompetence and inconsistency, liars of the worst category!

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