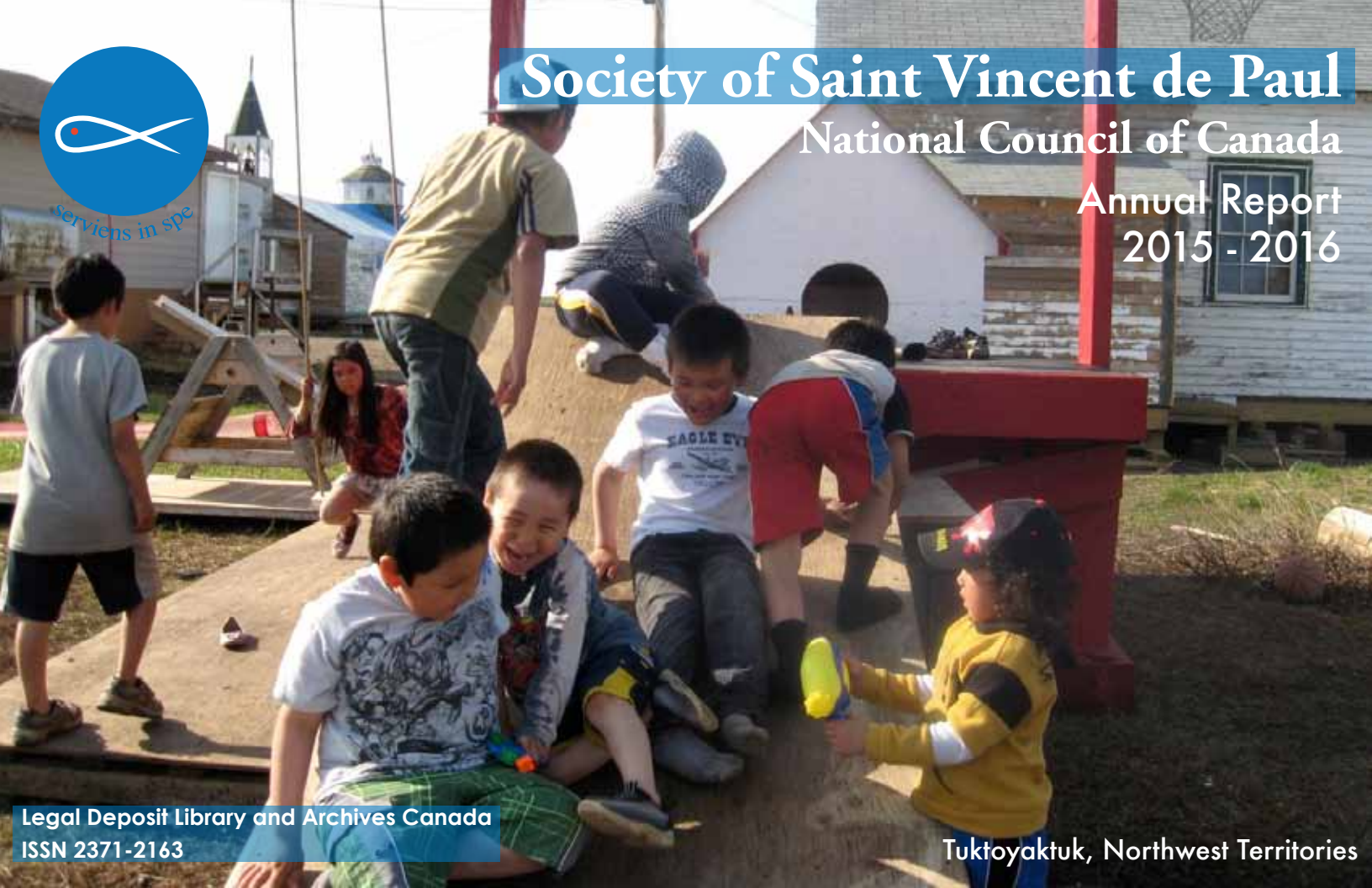




# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

National Council of Canada

Annual Report  
2015 - 2016



Legal Deposit Library and Archives Canada  
ISSN 2371-2163

Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories

# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

## *Mission*

*The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organisation whose mission is:*

*To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.*

## *Values*

*The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians we:*

- *see Christ is anyone who suffers*
- *come together as a family*
- *have personal contact with the poor*
- *help in all possible ways*

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a worldwide Christian community, founded in Paris in 1833, by a group of young Catholic lay people.

Membership is open to men and women, young and old. The SSVP asks that members accept fully the Christian ethos and are committed to express their love of God through personal service to their neighbours in need. The service provided by a conference is usually concentrated on home visits, the person-to-person contact with the needy. This is a fundamental part of the Society's mission. However, activities may include "Special Works", which serve people in a wider area or provide specialized service to those living in poverty.

In Canada, more than 14,200 volunteers are serving about 400,000 people each year. Where appropriate, members offer material or other type of assistance to serve those in need overcome crises, and develop with them long-term solutions to their problems.

# Message from the President

The past year has been a hectic one for most Vincentians across the country. The rather unstable economy and the arrival of more than 25,000 refugees have boosted assistance requests in an alarming way. Fortunately, the Canadian population has been very generous, allowing us to respond to all those requests positively.

Once again this year, our North of 60 project, which helps people who live in the Canadian Great North, has benefitted from an increase in contributions. Not only were we able to send more foodstuffs, but we also increased the number of locations where we sent assistance.

As Vincentians, we must bring assistance to those people forgotten by everyone. We were able to do much in very little time, thanks to our devoted members, but there is still much to be done. Sending food and supplies to those northern regions is a complicated and costly endeavour. We must find carriers willing to transport the supplies without charge. With your prayers, I am certain that our friend Frederic will help us find those people. If you wish to participate in the project, we invite you to contact the National office by email at [national@ssvp.ca](mailto:national@ssvp.ca)

As for external twinning, that is assistance to less fortunate countries, the number of Conferences and Councils twinning with a Conference or Council in another country has increased substantially. We can be proud of such a success. As you know, world hunger is far from being eradicated, and every gesture counts. The more Conferences will be twinning, the more people will have food to eat. If we continue along that path, in very little time the majority of our Conferences will be twinning, thus allowing more Vincentians to participate in a brotherly sharing with Vincentians all over the world.

Also, you have been very generous in helping Christians in Iraq and in Syria, as well as earthquake victims in Nepal. Major sums of money were collected and sent to the Council General International, who manages assistance projects following disasters. We thank you for your generosity towards the people who are going through great difficulties.

As a whole, the year was very busy, but you were able to meet the many challenges and continue serving people in need, with love, respect, justice and joy.

Thank you to everyone and may God bless you.

*Jean-Noël Cormier, National President*



# 2015 - 2016 in Numbers

## Financial Regional Contributions

		# central councils	# particular councils	# active conferences
BC & Yukon Regional Council	\$ 14,245	1	6	45
Western Regional Council	\$ 14,000	2	6	56
Ontario Regional Council	\$ 120,000	5	38	339
Quebec Regional Council	\$ 65,850	5	38	296
Atlantic Regional Council	\$ 13,250	0	5	55

Number of volunteer hours



Number of members



Number of people served



# 2015 - 2016 in Numbers



# Vincentian Activities across Canada

	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
<b>Home Visitations</b>				
Number of homes visited	2,252	4,416	8,731	12,234
Number of visits to these homes	2,316	7,483	12,820	13,384
Number of adults served	4,966	8,489	16,444	18,543
Number of children served	3,276	9,118	13,570	17,584
Total of persons served	8,242	17,607	30,014	36,127
<b>Other visits</b>				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hospitals)	902	3,937	87	113
Number of friendly visits to persons	436	1,527	77	54
Number of inmates visited in prison	30	20	203	0
<b>Activities</b>				
Number of stores	10	10	0	0
Number of outlets	8	10	2	2
Number of soup kitchens	3	2	3	3
Number of food banks	3	5	7	7
Number of shelters	1	0	0	0
Number of drop-in-centers	1	0	0	0
Number of low cost housing units	43	95	0	0
Number of children attending summer camps	20	16	0	0

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
43,131	36,257	148,551	169,479	7,029	7,055	209,694	229,441
69,050	68,228	148,551	169,479	7,029	7,055	239,766	265,629
87,850	75,273	111,528	120,841	14,359	14,369	235,147	237,515
66,641	58,797	55,281	57,878	8,015	8,010	146,783	151,387
154,491	134,070	166,809	178,719	22,374	22,379	381,930	388,902
3,507	3,531	0	0	607	593	5,103	8,174
6,315	2,372	0	40	203	198	7,031	4,191
2,480	1,767	0	0	0	0	2,713	1,787
31	32	90	86	2	2	133	130
26	30	0	0	1	1	37	43
15	15	4	4	0	1	25	25
57	37	2	2	6	6	75	57
5	6	0	0	0	0	6	6
1	0	0	0	2	2	4	2
121	121	0	27	0	0	164	243
2,436	2,489	447	489	0	0	2,903	2,994

# Vincentian Activities across Canada

Financial operations	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
Receipts	\$ 6,226,200	\$ 8,068,403	\$ 2,115,847	\$ 3,148,889
Expenditures	\$ 5,415,828	\$ 7,834,406	\$ 2,004,941	\$ 2,610,090
<b>Members</b>				
Number of full members (age 36+)	436	594	1,020	984
Number of young adult members (18-35)	8	25	105	89
Number of youth members (under 18)	0	10	93	97
Number of auxiliary members	269	218	215	304
Total members	713	847	1,433	1,474
Spiritual advisors	17	26	41	27
Number of volunteer hours	n/a	107,077	n/a	149,024
<b># of councils and conferences included in report</b>				
Central councils included in this report	1/1	1/1	2/2	2/2
Particular councils included in this report	6/6	5/6	6/6	6/6
Aggregated conferences	44	43	53	55
Non-aggregated conferences	2	2	1	1
Inactive conferences	20	20	6	6
Total number of conferences	66	65	60	62
Conferences included in this report	46/46	45/45	47/54	54/56



ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016
\$ 21,431,273	\$ 21,886,434	\$ 21,791,710	\$ 22,829,642	\$ 1,410,501	\$ 1,450,312	\$ 52,975,531	\$ 57,383,680
\$18,588,078	\$ 23,143,986	\$ 19,903,546	\$ 24,728,422	\$ 1,387,339	\$ 1,427,325	\$ 47,299,732	\$ 59,744,229
4,444	4,333	3,107	3,245	982	975	9,989	10,131
175	127	45	34	18	22	351	297
92	111	0	0	0	0	185	218
652	573	2,126	3,147	409	405	3,671	4,647
5,363	5,144	5,278	6,426	1,409	1,402	14,196	15,293
196	201	250	267	n/a	n/a	504	521
n/a	389,168	n/a	636,961	n/a	126,180	n/a	1,408,410
5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	0/0	0/0	13/13	13/13
38/38	38/38	37/38	37/38	5/5	5/5	92/93	91/93
324	324	273	272	52	52	746	746
15	15	28	24	2	3	48	45
21	22	28	23	2	2	77	73
360	361	329	319	56	57	871	864
303/339	307/339	267/301	267/296	46/54	46/55	709/794	719/791

# Twinning



Twinning is a fundamental Special Work of mutual assistance of the Society within Canada and with Conferences and Councils of developing countries.

Activities promoting the program continued throughout the fiscal year, particularly by an invitation to twinning to all Central and Particular Councils not already twinning. A workshop was presented at the 2015 AGA and at the General Assembly of the Quebec Regional Council last October.

Articles on the various aspects of twinning were published in the VincenPaul-Canada magazine, on the web site of the National Council and of some Regional Councils. Several reports/photos about twinning experiences and celebrating new twinning were posted on the group Facebook page SSVV Canada Twinning-Jumelage. All Vincentians are encouraged to subscribe to this social network.

All these activities resulted in a significant increase of the number of twinning.

The tri-partite agreement USA-Haiti-Canada, signed in April 2013, aims to twin 22 Haitian Conferences and Councils in the 4 years ending in 2017. Seven (7) new partnerships with Haiti were approved this fiscal year for a total of 18 twinning so far (18/22).

Several twinning applications from Designated Countries are awaiting a partner from Canada.

I thank the Twinning Regional Coordinators and Nicole Schryburt, Administrative Assistant Twinning, for their commitment to the program.

*Clermont Fortin, chair-twinning@ssvp.ca*



Twinning in Nicaragua

Join our Facebook group:  
SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage



# Twining

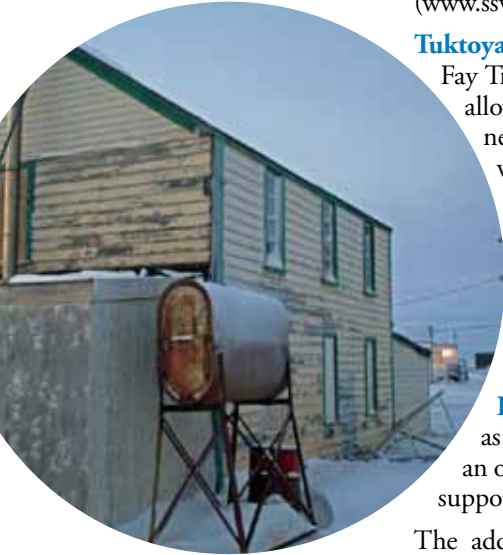
## Statistics

	2014/2015	2015/2016
Number of countries twinning with Canada: <i>historic twinning and designated countries</i>	21	22
Number of designated countries: Antigua, Colombia, Dominica, Guatemala, Haïti, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Trinidad & Tobago	9	10
Number of active external twinning on March 31	114	129
Total of funds sent by Canadian partners	\$ 95,791	\$ 125,577
Number of active internal twinning partnerships	12	16
New twinning partnerships	17	19
<b>Active external twinings by region:</b>		
BC & Yukon Regional Council	14	17
Western Regional Council	10	12
Ontario Regional Council	71	75
Quebec Regional Council	13	19
Atlantic Regional Council	6	6
<b>Active internal twinings by region (conferences donating):</b>		
BC & Yukon Regional Council	1	1
Western Regional Council	0	0
Ontario Regional Council	10	13
Quebec Regional Council	0	1
Atlantic Regional Council	1	1



Sewing lesson,  
Haïti

# North of 60



Mission House in Paulatuk to be restored and used for SSVF Distribution Centre and Community Warming House

Last year your National Council moved to have all Regions support the peoples of the Arctic and the North of 60 Project became a National initiative. An annual report on this project is available on National Council's website ([www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca)), in the Vincentian Life/Special Projects section. Highlights of the report are below.

**Tuktoyaktuk** was the first Northern Community that the Society started to support. The presence of Sister Fay Trombley at Our Lady of Grace Church, and her work with Community Leaders over several years, allowed for the start of a Saint Vincent de Paul Community food and clothing distribution centre. The next venture was with the help of Sister Dorica Sever in **Gjoa Haven**. Food is stored, repacked into weekly hampers and distributed to those in need in this Community. Clothing and household items are also distributed.

Three years ago we added **Paulatuk** to the list of communities supported by SSVF. We are supporting the Community in the restoration of the old mission house building (built in 1935) which once served as a small trading post and Paulatuk's religious Centre. This will demonstrate SSVF's plan for long term Community support.

In the same year as Paulatuk we began to support the soup kitchen at Our Lady of Victory Parish in **Inuvik**. The Society arranged for a sea container to deliver food products for their program, as well as further support for both the Community Food Bank and used clothing distribution. This was also an opportunity to work with **Tsiigehtchic**, a community that can be reached by road. Our program now supports both Communities with one sea container.

The addition of **Taloyoak** was relatively easy since Father Lukasz Zajac OMI, ministers to both this Community and Gjoa Haven. The organizers in Taloyoak have done a great job sorting and distributing sea container contents.

Early in the year we were fortunate to be introduced to Rev. Stuart Brown from the Anglican Diocese of the Arctic. He then introduced us to other Anglican Ministers which allows us to open conversation with representatives from **Sachs Harbour, Aklavik** and **Ulukhaktok**. Organization was rushed but sea cans were shipped to these Communities last year. The airlines have donated flights for our Vincentians to make a Community Visit to all three locations.

Most of our food is donated in smaller lots from Conferences, churches and community groups in Edmonton area. These donations are sorted in a warehouse, repackaged and allocated to sea containers. Whole powder milk is purchased directly from the processor in bulk. Suppliers of other bulk food products are being developed.

Clothing, bedding, household items and other necessities are also shipped, as well as other items specifically requested by our Arctic Community contacts. These items could include special project building materials, prefabricated sheds, handyman tools, hockey and other sports equipment, and many other products.

Many private donors, SSVP Conferences, CWL, and others provide cash donations for this program which helps with the last minute purchases of food items to assure that our food security program is balanced with the required products. Thanks to all who have helped.

*Peter Ouellette, President, Western Regional Council*

Ontario's new found journey of sharing with Nunavut began in October 2015. For 10 days conversations, food and laughter revealed how the Conferences in the South can rally together to bring hope and much needed supplies to our brothers and sisters in **Rankin Inlet** and **Whale Cove**.

Rankin Inlet will be forming its Conference this spring. Although SSVP materials were left in the fall, it would have been overwhelming to initiate a Conference then. Under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Marcin Rumik, a Conference will begin to form this spring.

Whale Cove, under the spiritual guidance of Sisters Dorica and Ferdinande, has had a Conference for over a year now.

For 2016, a second journey is planned to help Rankin Inlet with their Conference and the beginnings of setting up a Food Cupboard. Six pallets of food and clothing will arrive during that excursion. In early June, 2 sea containers filled with food and clothing are heading to both communities. Based on the sharing from our Ontario brothers and sisters, it is hoped that 2 more will make the last crossing in the fall.

*Pegg Leroux, North of 60, Ontario Regional Council*



# International Emergency Relief

The Committee is responsible for ensuring a response and follow-up to International Council General (ICG) and National Councils financial assistance requests as a result of natural disasters and humanitarian catastrophes.

## Haiti

The National Council continued sending funds to the National Council of Haiti to support victims of the January 2010 earthquake. When that disaster hit Haiti, the National President launched a fundraising campaign. That emergency fund had a balance of \$54,627.34 at March 31, 2016. A contribution in the amount of \$2,500 was forwarded to the National Council of Haiti this fiscal year. The funds are distributed equally between the National Council and the four regional councils in Haiti.

The National Council, with an Ontario Conference, is also involved in an education project since 2014, for a period of 5 years. The project aims to help school children in an isolated village on the southern coast of the country. The funds are used to provide clothing, school supplies and meals on school days. A \$2,500 contribution was transferred to Haiti for this project.

## Other Catastrophes and Humanitarian Aid

Several transfers of funds totalling \$124,168 were made to the Council General during the period for humanitarian aid to Syrian and Iraqi refugees relocated in camps in Jordan and Lebanon, and for natural disasters in Nepal and Africa. These transfers of funds were effected mostly as a result of decisions made by the Committee the preceding fiscal year.

*Clermont Fortin. Chair, International Emergency Relief*



Lebanon: SSVP  
sends aid to refugees

# Social Justice

Our national committee consists of the following members: Chair, Jim Paddon; National Council, Jean Noel Cormier, (ex-officio); Spiritual Advisor, Msgr Peter Schonenbach; Atlantic Region, Parnell Kelly; Quebec Region, Pierre Morissette; Ontario Region, Corry Wink; Western Region, Heather Schilling; BC/Yukon Region, Gord Stuart.

2015 was a year of change and renewal within our social justice committee. Claude Bedard has stepped down as national chair and we have new representatives in the Atlantic, Ontario, Western and BC/Yukon regions. I am honoured to be appointed as national chair and thank Claude Bedard for his support, as well as our previous committee members, Chris Ryan and Chris Gillen.

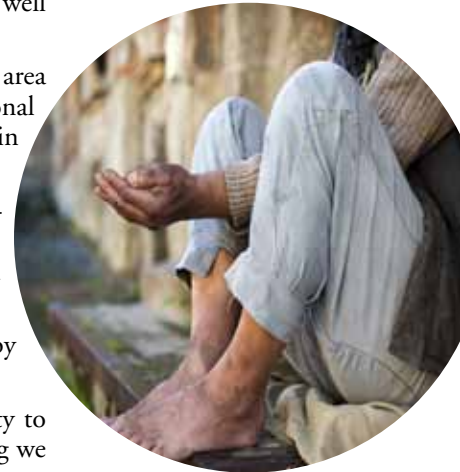
While there are many issues that need to be addressed under the heading of social justice, the one major area that we must address first is to educate fellow Vincentians about social justice and to develop informational materials which can help all of our social justice reps across Canada to be more informed and effective in their roles at the Council and Conference levels of the Society.

I strongly urge every Region, Council and even Conference to appoint a social justice rep. or committee to be the local contact as we work to enhance our network of social justice. It is also critical that we provide all of our members with both the proper education about social justice and to also create a structure that allows their input and comments on issues which need to be addressed.

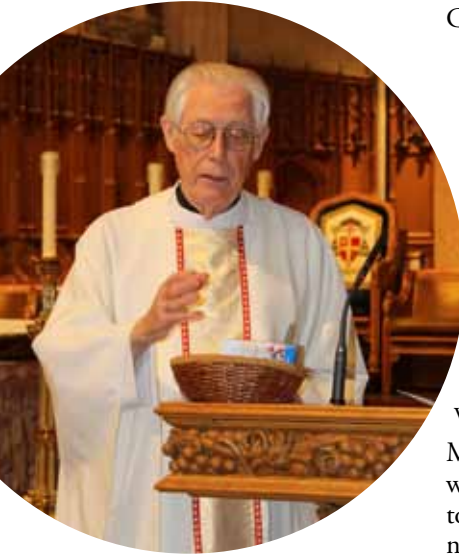
**Changing Times:** Is our national social justice online newsletter. You can subscribe to future editions by emailing me at [jpsvvp@hotmail.ca](mailto:jpsvvp@hotmail.ca). It will also be on our national website.

I encourage all Vincentians to support our efforts in your Region, Council or Conference. Our ability to make a difference in the lives of those we serve is based on the trusting relationship and understanding we have with our fellow citizens who are living poverty in Canada. We can give them HOPE for a better future for their families. Please join us in this new direction.

*Jim Paddon, Chair, Social Justice Committee.*



# Spirituality



Msgr. Peter Schonenbach,  
Spiritual Advisor  
National Council of Canada

It is my pleasure to present to you the spirituality committee report for the year 2016.

Currently the members of the committee are as follows:

- Msgr. Peter Schonenbach, Spiritual Advisor
- Ellen Schryburt, National Past President
- Sophia Mutuc, Youth Representative
- Joseph Tsui, Western Regional
- Maureen MacIsaac, Chair of the Committee

As Chair, I am very grateful that the members are very aware of how important it is to remember that as Vincentians God has called us to do His work. We cannot do this work without His help and we need to keep prayer uppermost in our thoughts.

Each month one of the members of the Spirituality committee is responsible for preparing spiritual writing that is placed on our web site for our members to reflect on. Some like to use the reflection as one of the prayers they read at their monthly meeting. There are also questions at the end of the reading which may generate some discussion with one another.

Members also submit reflections for our magazine. We are especially grateful for the wonderful words of wisdom and faith that we always find in the articles that are written by Msgr Peter. We are very blessed to have him to guide us on the right path. Every year the committee prepares a day of reflection for the national board. They have a big responsibility of looking after the work of the society throughout Canada and want God to help them carry out His wishes.

In closing our committee thanks Nicole Schryburt and Josee Lemieux for their hard work and their dedication to their God and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

May the Lord always keep you in the palm of His hand.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maureen MacIsaac, Chair, Spirituality Committee*



# Education/Formation

The members of this Committee are slowly and systematically reorganizing ourselves to executing our plans drawn up in November 2015 – to return to our regions and explore and assess existing regional training initiatives. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14 at the Vancouver AGA facilities. We will review regional results, discuss differences and why they exist, and brainstorm ways that the National Committee may interact with Regional committees to rejuvenate and support regional and local training initiatives.

Committee members are: Kathy Weswick – BC, Carol Attrux and Lynn L’Heureux – Western, Mary Grad – Ontario, Madeleine Lafrance – Quebec, and Judy Peddle - Atlantic.

We have been undergoing our own “Train the Trainer” exploration since adding some new members in November 2015. This is a challenging process as we are physically oceans and mountains apart, and only manage two face-to-face meetings a year. But we have regular email communication, and are exploring ways to meet electronically. You might say we are still working our way through the learning stages of “forming, storming, norming and performing”. We have passed through some forming and storming stages, now in June we will tackle norming and performing.

Our long term focus remains to ensure that any National education/training session emphasizes the Vincentian vision and mission values, and encourages spiritual enrichment, as well as delivering practical information. We will respect the rights of regions to adapt training initiatives to local conditions, as long as our inherent Vincentian values and Rules are maintained.

We offer Regions, Councils, and Conferences our support and expertise if they are looking for clarifications to any existing Rule or Operations procedures, or for their training/education endeavors. Please contact your regional rep on the National Education Committee for help.

*Mary Grad, Chair, Education/Formation Committee*



# Youth



**“Pencil Case Project”  
Philippines**

Youth are actively involved across the country, serving the poor in their communities. Some highlights from the year include:

In **London**, Ontario, the St. Louise de Marillac Youth Conference spent a day in early November in the “Last Post” area of the Woodland Cemetery in London where impoverished soldiers are buried. The youth cleaned the grave sites of the soldiers in preparation for Remembrance Day as a way to honour and thank those who sacrificed so much and died destitute and without the means for a decent burial.

In and around **Calgary**, Alberta, there is lots of activity around youth in high schools and parishes. Bishop McNally High School Conference serves 500 – 600 of Calgary’s homeless in the downtown core every Sunday, with youth volunteers from across the city. While the - Our Lady of the Snows Youth Conference experienced poverty first hand through “Take the Plunge” where they spent the day doing workshops and experienced the poverty on the streets of Calgary.

The Archangels Youth Conference in the **Kitchener-Waterloo**, Ontario once again lead the “Pencil Case Project”, collecting new and used school supplies in July for SSVP Conferences around the world. The project is in collaboration with the Council General International’s Commission for International Aid and Development and is led by Carmela Addante, the Archangels Youth Advisor. The collection has grown to include many Vincentians in cities across Southwestern Ontario. In 2015, some 5,166 pounds of material was collected to be distributed in the Philippines; it is the second year the collection has been for the Philippines in support of their redevelopment efforts after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Youth are involved across the country in many amazing activities. I encourage you to share information about them with me throughout the year at [youth@ssvp.ca](mailto:youth@ssvp.ca).

*Jason Hunt, National Youth Rep*

# British Columbia and Yukon Regional Council

The past few months have been fulfilling and heart rending. Our past treasurer Bill Clendenning's wife Gloria, our past president Nora Criss's husband Ron, our acting treasurer Claude Bedard's wife Eva all have passed away in the last six months. Please pray for all these families which have lost their loved ones that they may live in peace and the grace of God. We will miss these friends.

We are looking forward to Kelowna hosting the B.C. Yukon AGM in April and then Vancouver hosting SSVP National AGA in June. Thank you to all that are doing such good works in putting this together. We hope there are many from across Canada who will join us in Vancouver as this is a beautiful city and there is a full agenda to enjoy.

Many have been financially and physically involved in the Refugee Program and I heartily congratulate them all. Throughout the province Vincentians are living our Mission Statement to See Christ in the Poor. My prayers go out to you all.

I am going to finish this report by also congratulating SSVP Vancouver Island on their 100th Birthday this year. They have grown in leaps and bounds in these 100 years to having many Retail Stores, multi Housing projects, the Ozanam Center (serving persons with developmental disabilities), and the Social Concern Office. Four Conferences have also been added north of Victoria (making 14 in total with the 10 in the Victoria area); it only made sense that the northern four became a separate Particular Council.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Victoria, B.C. has been in existence in Victoria since November 1915 and aggregated in 1916. Renamed now as SSVP Vancouver Island.

We continue our conversations with contacts in Whitehorse, Yukon and hope we will be able to work with them in the future. Our goal for the near future is to reinstate Conferences that have closed for one reason or another over the years. Pray for us that all these good works will happen.

Yours in Christ,

*Scotty MacLaren, President, B. C. & Yukon Council*



Canada Day Parade,  
Sidney C.-B.

# Western Regional Council



Using teleconferencing and websites, the Vincentian Family in Western Region has effectively communicated to share best practices and to introduce our mission to others interested in collaborating with our Society. The Regional website [www.ssvpwrcc.ca](http://www.ssvpwrcc.ca) is updated weekly. Information on activities in Edmonton is found at [www.ssvpedmonton.ca](http://www.ssvpedmonton.ca) and our Society's programs in Calgary are found at [www.ssvpcalgary.org](http://www.ssvpcalgary.org).

Our Vincentian efforts in the Canadian Arctic North through the North of 60 Project continues to increase with 10 communities this year receiving food, clothing and other items that they identify as in need.

Assistance to First Nations Communities in Alberta and Manitoba continues to be a priority. Communications as a first step have been successful and Community needs have been identified through the cooperative efforts of people in these Communities. Donation support to fill these identified needs has begun.

So much of our Vincentian effort in support of the Inuit, Inuvialuit and First Nations Communities would not be possible without the donations from the Parishioners in our Conference churches and Corporate help with transportation, food product and other items on our needs lists. Vincentians have heard the call for action and are addressing the need for reconciliation with the Canadian indigenous peoples.

New Conference formation continues in Alberta and Manitoba however we have not had success in Saskatchewan.

Our Vincentians continue to be innovative and these improvements increase the effectiveness of our support to those in need.

- A new data base has been developed and shared with Conferences around the Western Region as well as across Canada.
- A strong Regional Social Justice Committee has been formed and in harmony with the National Social Justice Committee there have been submissions to Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments.
- Collaboration with private sponsored Syrian Refugee Committees within the Catholic Community, as well as several other Faith Groups, started late last year and continued into early 2016, provided food, furniture and household items to help settle these new Canadians.
- The North of 60 activity continues to be a strong motivator for increased youth involvement.

*Peter Ouellette, President, Western Regional Council*



# Ontario Regional Council

The Ontario Regional Council held a very successful election in 2015 for the position of president. I am very pleased to announce that Linda Dollard of London will take office on July 1st, 2016. I am certain Linda will do a wonderful job in this new challenging and rewarding role. I look forward to helping Linda and her incoming executive as much as I am needed.

I thank all of my current executive, committee chairs and all of the Ontario presidents for their support over these past five years. I have grown spirituality and have made many new friends across this great nation. While the above named members certainly had a great deal to do with any success achieved during my presidential term, none of us would have realized such results without the daily contributions of our grass root members across Ontario. I truly enjoyed every opportunity I had to meet Conference members and to listen to their comments, concerns and advice. Thank you so much. My final thanks must also go to the many friends and neighbours in need I have met and listened to. There are countless examples of how even the smallest act of kindness by one of our members can leave such a long lasting and joyful memory with these folks.

One of my greatest fears is when I see our members starting to join the side of those who judge the poor, look down on them, and perhaps start to criticize them for not doing more to better their lives.

We must put the temptation of placing the blame on these dear friends, when they are simply reacting to their plight by doing whatever they must do to survive. They too have ambitions. They too have hopes and dreams for a future that is at least better for their children. Do we not have an obligation to look at ways we can help beyond the voucher? The answer is very simple. We need to address any and all injustices through our social justice actions.

*Jim Paddon, President, Ontario Regional Council.*



# Quebec Regional Council



Cadets participating  
in the Guignolée,  
Notre-Dame-de-Foy,  
Quebec

Activities in Quebec are the usual ones:

- Christmas hampers, approximately 15,000 hampers were distributed during the month of December 2015;
- Opération Bonne Mine, approximately \$300,000 was distributed to young students;
- More than 100,000 home visits were made to families in 2015, and about 5 million dollars was provided in material or money assistance (namely food vouchers).
- Ten of thousands of dollars (about \$100,000) were granted for particular needs such as payment of rent, heating, medications, etc.
- Finally, close to 100 stores (small and large) managed by the SSVP sold supplies for a total amount of almost 10 million dollars.

The Quebec Region has approximately 2,500 active members and as many supporting members (regular and occasional). The members of the Quebec Regional Council met three (3) times in 2015, and a provincial assembly was held in October 2015, hosting more than 100 members for two (2) days of deliberations and formation. Some members of the National Council of Canada attended the assembly. We thank them for being there, and a very good presentation was made on international twinning.

To conclude I thank Michel Olivier and Claude Roy for their support and their commitment as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Quebec Regional Council, respectively. As well, I thank our two employees, Diane Dorion and Lise Blais, and all the members of the Quebec Regional Council Board for their support and commitment towards the SSVP. I thank all the members of the National Council of Canada for your support in my task, and for your Vincentian friendship.

Finally, I wish to inform you that Michel Olivier was appointed as our new President. I wish to congratulate him and assure him of everyone's full support, and I thank him for accepting this new mandate. Well done, and thank you Michel.

*Pierre Morissette, President, Quebec Regional Council,*

# Atlantic Regional Council

The Atlantic Regional Council has travelled a rocky road in the last ten months. My short term as Acting President has been somewhat successful. Our future looks bright. Conversations are being held, with a goal of becoming a Council that will embrace technology.

The four Conferences on **Prince Edward Island** have been able to increase memberships. Holy Redeemer hosted a half day mini conference in late February. The three Conferences in Charlottetown and one in Summerside distributed hand-made mittens, hats and scarves to the elementary schools in the two cities. The need for funds to travel for medical care off the Island has risen dramatically. The PEI Conferences continue to be very generous in their donations.

The Island of **Cape Breton**, Northside P.C. is still very active and is supporting the poor in many ways. Food banks, drop-in centres and response to calls in the Northside Conferences are facing struggles. The need has increased because of the number of folks who are unemployed as well as the aging population whose needs are greater than their income. This is also a problem as the average age of Vincentians is growing. Out migration has been a problem in Atlantic Canada for decades.

The **NFLD** Particular Council under the leadership of President Chris Ryan is showing leadership to the rest of Atlantic Canada. In the near future, meetings across the Island will be held via Skype. Mr. Ryan is a very valuable resource to Regional board. The Gathering Place was identified as a place where the St Johns Conferences could do an act of charity. A goal was set to collect gently used and new boots and new socks. One hundred pairs in two weeks. At the completion of the successful drive the gift was presented to Val Geary of the Gathering Place by Louise Moores.

**Halifax** Particular Council is made up of most of mainland Nova Scotia. David Connors is President of this PC. Their food bank in downtown Halifax is water in the desert for the unfortunate in Halifax.

Mr. Cecil Snow resigned his position in mid -February. Mr. Cormier asked if I would take on the role in an acting position until the next AGA. We also lost the Secretary, Treasurer, and Spiritual Director. The new Executive is: Acting President: Parnell Kelly, PEI; Vice-President: Chris Ryan, NFLD; Vice-President: Jim MacIntyre, Northside Cape Breton; Treasurer: Linda Peters, PEI; Spiritual Director: Gordon Lan, PEI.

*Parnell Kelly, Acting President, Atlantic Regional Council*



Vincentians from  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador

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Official publication of the  
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Canada  
Legal Deposit Library and Archives Canada  
ISSN 2371-2155

Made with the collaboration of :  
Ghislaine DuNord, Ellen Schryburt,  
John Grocholski, Denise Miron,  
Madelaine Soulière Brown  
Editor : Nicole Schryburt  
Graphic Design : Nicole Schryburt  
Printing : Impressions Daigle Inc.

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