

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

Again, this past year has been spent in cultivating ways to assist the Society to grow and realize its full potential. The ministry of administration continues to evolve as a caring and spirituality based mission that more clearly defines who we are as "people of the water and the towel" in the administration of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

As in the previous report, it would be worthwhile to provide a quick snapshot regarding the health of each area of the ministry of administration. Each committee, as you know will provide a more detailed report of its activities. It is not my intention to reiterate these reports.

Administration: (Strategic Direction)

Several key areas that are visible manifestations of this ministry included revising the administrative staffing. We continue with one full-time and one part-time. As of October 2008, we welcomed **Sandra Melo** as the new full time staff member, and **Nicole Schryburt** in the Montreal office remains part time. Sandra has been quite busy learning about the Society and how it functions. She attended a training program in Gatineau, Quebec. Our thanks to that group for their assistance. Sandra speaks English, French and Portuguese. She has a six year old son and lives in Ottawa.

Again, I have also been able to be present in the office for several days before all executive and board meetings, thus providing for better interactions, communications, staff meetings and coaching process for the staff.

Aggregations and Institutions

The defined process for Aggregations and Institutions and follow-up for inquiries has been working quite well. As you probably are aware, all certificates are now numbered for easier tracking.

Human Resources Committee under the leadership of **Clermont Fortin**, has also been very busy assembling all of the legal documentation requirements to practice due diligence as an employer that will care for our staff. Our employee benefits package has also been updated.

As always, a great vote of thanks to our staff, Nicole and Sandra, and to our consultants **Ghislaine Du Nord**, who does our translations sometimes with very little turnaround time notice, and to **Josée Laforest**, our graphic artist who does a great job of graphics and set up for our Vincenpaul magazine and other national council items such as the new brochures. We certainly appreciate all of you!

Board Orientation Day

The Board of Directors had two-day meetings both in November and May. The Friday of the November meeting is considered a **Board Orientation Day**. New board members learn all aspects of the administration of the National Council and meet the staff that assists members to learn their staff functions. As well, all board members learn their own role in the administration and communications between the national council board and the members of their regions.

Board Retreat Day

In May, the Friday is spent as a day of retreat/spirituality. The time is spent reflecting on the importance of who we are as stewards and members of the board and the members of the administrative team. We celebrate the gifts each of us brings to the ministry of administration and within the Society. The day begins with prayer and recitation of the rosary and ends with the celebration of Mass.

Also during this day the theme for the following year AGA is developed and decided upon along with possible workshop topics that will help to develop this chosen theme.

As members have stated, "a very full day and very worthwhile for both events".

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Spirituality Committee chaired by **Yvon Bussieres**, has been instrumental in making the May Retreat Day a very remarkable and edifying experience. Our **National Spiritual Advisor, Msgr Peter Schonenbach**, provides the insights needed to ground our decision-making both at the board level and at the executive level. The terms of reference for this committee were expanded to allow for a number of spirituality focused areas to emerge. Under the strategic planning process one area identified was that "There are no visible signs of spirituality within the Society".

Through the efforts of this committee measures are now taken to ensure that there ARE visible signs of spirituality within the Society. Yvon and his team will endeavor to ensure that Spirituality is a viable and visible presence at all Society gatherings and communications. This task does not rest with Msgr Peter alone; we all have a responsibility to animate the Spirituality of the Society! Yvon will have much more to report on this topic.

Education/Formation(StrategicDirection)

Under the leadership of **Carle Horne VP**, meetings and communications have taken place that will generate the results that the Strategic Planning had identified as important concerns for membership. The establishment of the Education/Formation committee has begun to manifest signs as a very fruitful endeavour. Carol is very excited about the results over the last year and will have much to report.

Strategic Planning will also continue under **Carol Horne's** leadership. It is so life- giving when strategic issues are identified and attained. This gives life to both the committee itself and the organization. As a council we have met objectives in a timely fashion with tangible results. This is due in most part to the dedication of all of you as members of the Society wanting to see the Society grow and flourish in your local areas. Carol will be having ongoing meetings at each AGA that will assist in continuing to develop the strategic planning process as a viable process to assist the Society in Canada toward healthy growth and sustainable vitality.

International Emergency/Disaster Relief remains under the stewardship of **Clermont Fortin, VP** . He will provide a complete report.

Twining

Kathy Weswick, continues as the national chair. She and Nicole have worked very diligently to maintain the integrity of the twinning process for all concerned. Twining has once again been very busy developing relationships and providing safe mechanisms that will see twinning connections made and the provision of monetary support find its way to those twins that rely on assistance both internally and externally outside Canada. Kathy will provide a comprehensive report.

Finance

The Finance Committee, chaired by **Marcel Tremblay VP**, has met a couple of times to develop processes that will provide for good stewardship of those funds that come to the national council for whatever reason. Our **Treasurer Germain Souigny and Francois Dufault, finance committee member**, continues to be instrumental in assisting the administration of the national council with the development of practices that enable sustainability throughout the fiscal year.

You will remember, that last year I reported that the finance committee developed Financial Guidelines that will assist everyone to understand the basics of financial practices as they relate to the national council administration. These new guidelines have assisted in the annual council budget preparations.

Last year we budgeted \$240,000.00 in conference and council contributions for the last fiscal year 2008-09. I am pleased to report that we attained 98% of the goal!!!

Bravo and congratulations to all of you that supported the national council in this fashion. A huge BRAVO to all of you that send more in order to help those conferences and councils that cannot afford to send the annual contribution! Together, we made a difference! The National Council of Canada now has the necessary resources to help the Society attain its mandate...to live the Gospel Message and help in all possible ways not only in Canada, but to all of our brother and sister Vincentians all over the world.!!!

Of further note:

The Vincenpaul Spring Issue contained an article that explained the necessity of the \$240.00 contribution to the national council. This was in response to questions posed by conference/council presidents. Of course, they have a right to know so I called it "a teachable moment". I asked Marcel, Finance Committee Chair, to help me write an article to help answer their questions. We received very positive responses, both from the article's value and obviously from the generous support to help us get to 98% of the goal.

Voice of the Poor - Advocacy

The Voice of the Poor Committee is now underway. Both **Clermont Fortin VP**, and **Michael Burke PP**, along with **Msgr Peter Schonenbach** have undertaken to make this committee an audible voice within the Society for and with the poor that we serve. Issues will come forward for input and action as the committee plans strategies to make our voice heard. There indeed will be no shortage of issues and concerns. There will be an orientation type meeting come October 2009 that will begin to set the pace and gain everyone's interest I am sure.

Youth Committee

Our Youth Committee is under the able leadership of **Caroline Gilbert**. Caroline attended the International Youth Conference in Salamanca Spain in the beginning of June 2008. There are some interesting opportunities for youth engagement in activities especially in the Western hemisphere. Caroline will also have a comprehensive report for all of you.

Board Administrative Communication

This aspect of administrative communication continues to be well provided for by having **Diane Pearson** continuing in her role as secretary of the board. Her knowledge of both French and English assists with the comprehensiveness of her minute taking. The time lines we have established have been working well for both the notices of meetings and the dissemination of minutes. **Sandra** remains the main facilitator throughout this process as she communicates with the translator **Ghislaine Du Nord**.

Communications/Public Relations (Strategic Direction)

Communications/Public Relations remains as one of the identified strategic directions that members identified as important for continued growth of the Society throughout the country. Last year, our National Council materials were developed to have the look of the organization in Canada. We have created a new Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council brochure, a new Twinning brochure, prayer cards, mission cards, etc, all with the distinctive international logo and blue and white colours that define the Society in Canada. As I travel around the country I can see the Society logo, colours etc being consistently utilized... we are becoming a recognized symbol in our communities.

As part of updating the communications element, we now have a 1 800 number for individuals to use when contacting us.

Website/Operations Manual (Strategic Direction)

The Operations Manual and Website: both of these have been updated. I have been told that more and more individuals are stopping and using the web site. We now have an on line donation format. Our thanks to **Nicole** for her diligence in managing that aspect for us.

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Vincenpaul Magazine

Vincepaul Magazine continues to be managed by both **Nicole and Ellen Schryburt**. Both of these ladies have been gathering news stories and with the help of our translator and our graphic artist, have assembled a very informative magazine. We continue to receive a number of compliments on how well done it is. Thanks to each of you, **Nicole, Ellen, Ghislaine, and Josée** for your hard work.

A great big vote of thanks goes to all of you for submitting interesting articles...especially if there are pictures! Keep them coming!

Please Note

We continue to get a great deal of magazines returned to the national office as undeliverable. This can be due to deceased members, change of presidents etc.

Screening Process

Screening process is well underway in most regions. It is a tribute to those who have helped to make it all possible. Each region has truly worked diligently to ensure that the process is understood and is indeed moving forward.

President's Travel

As I reported in the Vincenpaul Magazine I have attended meetings in Australia, Louisville KY, Haiti, Ottawa, Costa Rica, Calgary and Spain in June. These have been wonderful opportunities for me to see the many good works conducted in the name of the Society and to meet so many brothers and sisters. Presence means so much to all of these persons and taking the time to go to meet with everyone is very life giving to all concerned. What an invaluable resource we are to one another!

Council News Item

The house that belonged to the National Council that was located in Quebec City was finally sold in November 2008. However, since that time, our present landlord, the Archdiocese of Ottawa, has given us notice that they require the space that we presently occupy. Therefore we must vacate the premises by October 31, 2009.

The Executive Committee set about to determined what our space requirement would have to be.

Since commercial options are rather costly, the ideal would be to find another "house" that would accommodate administrative office space, meeting space, accommodation and office for the president and of course storage space and parking.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, in January 2009, we enlisted the help of a real estate agent, who is also a Vincentian, to assist us in finding such a place. He worked with us to find something that would suit our needs.

We are now pleased to report that we have found a suitable location that meets all of our requirements. It is a corner lot in the east side of Ottawa in a place called "Blackburn Hamlet", in a quiet neighbourhood. The really good news is that it comes all furnished and is in "move in" condition. This will also include sufficient parking. It is close to transportation, train station and the airport. It is 5 -10 minutes from the hotel that we use.

Michael Burke has conducted an engineering assessment and found the home quite solid and a very worthwhile investment for the Society..

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The members of the Board of the National Council of Canada reviewed and considered the information and thus made the decision to move forward with the purchase of the new home for the National Council of Canada.

I would like to thank both Clermont and Germain for the many hours hard work they did on our behalf as well as Michael for his report. There are many more dedicated individuals to thank, which I will do at the AGA.

A full report will be presented at the statutory meeting on the Saturday, complete with pictures!

Summation

I will endeavor to continue to assist my brother and sister Vincentians to continually move forward in sharing their gifts in the ministry of administration. For in sharing who we are as gifts, we become more of who we are! Those who receive our gifts in the spirit of good stewardship can only be graced and blessed with the desire to do more!

As always I pray that we may be, all one in truth and charity!"

Penny Craig, President
National Council of Canada

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ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

We have intensified our efforts to promote our youth program and our advocacy programs. Our Spirituality is the glue that holds and directs all our activities in serving the poor for the glory of God. We are more than just a social agency. We are an apostolate that requires self-sacrifice. You and I are called to serve. A loving response to this call requires humility. We do not have time to boast of our achievements. The reward is in doing God's Will. Blessed Frederick Ozanam stated, "Our guiding rule should be neither to force ourselves on the public gaze nor to conceal ourselves from those who may wish to find us." All Conferences need a Spiritual Advisor. It need not be a priest but a religious or some layperson that you deem worthy.

It is most important that all members follow the Rule at their meetings. Some Councils and Conferences as part of their educational program discuss various aspects of the Rule. If we are to be a vibrant and informed group we must adhere to the guidelines set out in the Rule. Many of our problems in our Conferences and Councils stem from the fact that we ignore the Rule. Consequently, we inadvertently fail to treat each other with respect and dignity.

1. Our youth program has expanded greatly. London Particular Council has initiated a youth program with the Catholic School Board of Greater London including St. Thomas and Woodstock. Waterloo and Kitchener youth will be a major factor in hosting the AGA this year. The Particular Councils from Cambridge, Guelph and Hamilton are involved. As you can see Carmela and Jason have been working diligently to make this a reality. Meanwhile, in Windsor we have seven aggregated youth Conferences including a Particular Council. All Catholic Schools including Our French Catholic High School L'Essor, have Conferences. We also have two Public High Schools involved. St. Clair College, University of Windsor and Wayne State University have members that participate. As most of you are aware we sent five youth to the Youth Day in Australia. While there Carmela Addante was selected by President, José-Ramon, of our International Society to serve as International territorial Vice President Advisor. Congratulations Carmela! She will still serve as Youth Coordinator. Twinning in Guatemala will be one of our first challenges.
2. Our Advocacy program is up and running. Jim Paddon has networked with Toronto Council and National Council to develop a uniform program. It is important that all levels of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul are on the same page when it deals with all aspects of the media. We are striving to set a protocol that all members can follow when dealing with other agencies that advocate for the poor. In the larger picture as a member of ISARC we need to examine our role with this larger national organization that advocates for the poor. We have been meeting with The Ontario Catholic bishops to synchronize our work.
3. The National Training Committee has been implemented. As part of that committee the Ontario Region has two members. Bill Graham and I are members of this committee.
4. The stores committee has made great strides in introducing our health and safety policy. Toronto Central has been instrumental in implementing this policy across the province. I would like to thank Toronto Central Council as well as members of our regional committee, for your hard work and dedication. On a sad note Windsor Central Council meeting area and store were seriously damaged by fire. Insurance covered some of the costs. Under the leadership of President Don Meloche they are on their way to a full recovery.

5. Jim Paddon and I are anxious to expand Conferences in the North. Little Current, Thunder Bay, as well as areas on the eastern side of the province are places where we hope to have enough conferences in close geographical proximity to eliminate the need for isolated conferences. An important priority is to get more First Nation Conferences aggregated.
6. Keeping up with membership is a fulltime job. Mary Anne Kieran, chairperson of this committee, is working diligently to have all members respond to their requests.
7. Prison Ministry: There have been two organizational meetings so far at Toronto St. Vincent de Paul head quarters. Jim Paddon has acted as chairperson in order to get things organized. The jail committee has two major groups; federal prisoners (two or more years to serve) and have different needs than provincial prisoners (two years less a day). There are also women prisoners with different needs. The challenge is to try and meet their spiritual, physical and social needs.

This year we are going to turn up our efforts another notch. This means we will need more communication and assistance from our members. I wish to thank all those conferences and councils who sent monies to our treasury so that we are operating in the black.

Quick Facts:

- 475 Conferences and Councils
- 73,514 Home Visits to the poor

Special Works:

- 46 stores
- 2 Affordable Housing Buildings
- 14 Transitional Homes
- 21 Supportive Homes
- 2 Summer Camps
- 8 Prison Ministries
- 98 Twinned councils and Conferences
- There are 11 youth Conferences and one Particular Council

I would also like to thank our executive, Jim Paddon, Brenda Kormendy and Agnes Turly for their dedication, loyalty and patience. In addition, we have an outstanding executive council that is willing to help at a moments notice. Their expertise and friendship is appreciated.

John E. Staley, President
Ontario Regional Council

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QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

In 2008, the year theme was:

- 1- Let us feel a **sense of belonging** to the great movement that is the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul;
- 2- **Let us be united** among ourselves the members, conferences and councils, let us be one with our mission;
- 3- **Let us know how to share** with the poor, but also among ourselves. Let us know how to share our talents, our knowledge, our possessions, our time...

Those are the values that, in our communications with our members, we have transmitted during the entire year 2008. In our newsletters (Voix & Voie and Mini Voix & Voie) and our Board and Executive meetings, we have encouraged our members, whenever they had a meeting, to think about those values and to practice them.

As you know, we keep evolving according to our original strategic plan, and assiduously work on the same issues: recruiting; formation; spirituality; social justice; communications, and this year, on the concept of welcoming.

1- Recruiting Committee

The Recruiting Committee has published and distributed a document on volunteering, the best ways to recruit, as well as on the importance and ways to welcome new volunteers.

That document is permanently posted on our web site.

2- The Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee has met twice in 2008. Among other things, the members have made the following suggestions:

- Better inform our members about government programs, make sure that they get government agencies' publications;
- Include transmission of this information into formation courses;
- Use our newsletters to inform our members;
- Informe our members on possible subsidies.

Finally, the committee sent a letter to all Quebec government MNAs. (At least 25 MNAs have acknowledged receipt of our letter and a few commented positively.)

In that letter, we expressed our dissatisfaction on the following issues:

- The lack of affordable housing;
- The increase in the cost of electricity;
- The progression in the cost of food.

We also suggested the following measures:

- Adopt tax measures in favour of low income families (tax credits, rebates...) to compensate for costs increase;
- Continue construction of social housing and promote, through financial incentives and other measures, the development of housing cooperative;
- Increase the amount of shelter subsidy to compensate for higher rent amounts;
- Augment minimum wage with a target of \$10/hour in 2010;
- Fully index social security benefits to the cost of living (not only at 50%) – adopted by the Quebec Government in January 2009;
- Encourage entry into the work force with incentives.

3- Formation Committee

The Committee completed a thorough review of formation courses;
Two Train the Trainer courses were given to members in various Quebec regions;
Specialized formation courses were also given to conference/council presidents, and treasurers.
Finally, 32 courses were given to conference members.

4- Communication Committee

The members of that Committee met several times during the year, and contributed to the publication of two V & V newsletters and four Mini V&V newsletters.
In every edition, we focused on publishing spiritual reflections, developing on the year's theme, informing our members on projects and accomplishments, as well as sharing news and information that we receive.

Recently, Board members had regularly mentioned that they felt the SSVP was less visible in their community, that we heard less about its works in the general population. According to them, this phenomenon plays a role in the difficulties we experience in recruiting.

Therefore, it was decided to organize, jointly with public relations experts, a SSVP week to take place across the province, from September 27 to October 3, 2009.

All members, conferences and councils are invited to participate by organizing media and social activities in their communities.

Three objectives have been identified:

- Increase SSVP visibility, recall its reputation, and rejuvenate our image;
- Encourage recruiting of new volunteer members of all ages;
- Solicit donations for our works from social or religious groups.

That *Vincentian week* will start with our AGA that will take place in Trois-Rivières, from September 25 to 27 and which theme will be: "Towards the Future".

The theme of the year for 2009 is: **WELCOMING**.

- Welcoming the poor;
- Welcoming the new members;
- Welcoming the Verb, and Spirituality within the SSVP;
- Welcoming our sisters and brothers;
- Welcoming the presidents, to SSVP officers at various levels;
- Welcoming the SSVP, its mission, its values, its Rule which is a unifying tool.

Finally, all our thanks to all volunteer members and auxiliary members active in our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, for their dedication to disadvantaged people.

Your love of your neighbour is a grace of God.

Jean-Claude Bienvenue, President
Quebec Regional Council

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Here are a few numbers for 2008-2009, from the Quebec Regional Council :

Following are a few numbers for 2008:

Active members: 3,298
 Auxiliary members: 1,810
 Total: 5,108
 Hours of volunteer work: 830,675

Number of visits: 278,005
 Number of families helped: 235,851
 Single parent families: 134,070
 Two parents families: 59,873
 Single individuals: 41,908

Number of persons helped: 344,924
 Adults: 231,806
 Children: 113,119

Source of income

Social assistance: 83.0 %
 Unemployment: 6.5%
 Old age pension: 3.0%
 Employment: 7.0%
 Other: 0.9 %

Total receipts:	\$ 9,185,490	(including the Guignolée: \$3,046,957)
Store deficit:	(\$ 229,308)	
<u>Total expenses:</u>	<u>\$ 8,842,766</u>	
Surplus:	\$ 113,416	

Assistance to families

Food:	\$ 5,168,784
Furniture and clothes:	\$ 726,634
Heating, medicine, other:	\$ 1,302,462

Assistance to children (Opération Bonne Mine and Services d'Aide aux Jeunes Étudiants)
 7,711 children for an amount of \$379,085

Christmas hampers

24,258 hampers with a total value of \$1,773,925

Total assistance: \$9,350,890

BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

Activities

“Out of the Cold”, Kamloops – 734 slept over and breakfast was served.

“Women’s Day, Victoria” – Activities for women, including workshops re self-esteem, budgeting and other items of interest to women.

Advocay – Income tax help, help with government forms, etc.

Walking for World Food Day.

Walking and talking with homeless people on the streets.

2000 sandwiches provided once a month to the Sisters of Attonement for the people in the Downtown Eastside.

Supplied furniture and household goods and clothing, etc. to conferences.

Help lines and to other Missions and Societies who assist people.

Paying rents, utilities, gas and transportation provided.

Delivered food to refugees weekly and helped with immigration.

Work for refugees. Helped them with their household needs.

Back to school supplies and back packs.

Good News Bears Campaign for children. Kids Kapers (after school activities). Providing children with \$75 for their choice of activity (eg a sport or club, etc.). Sending children to summer camp.

Outreach to the Vancouver Eastside. Our truck goes out with volunteers, three times a week, giving out sandwiches, beverages, clothing, blankets, etc.

Assistance is given to Anglicans to provide Community Luncheons and Breakfast in New Westminster, weekly.

Day programs for mentally challenged adults.

Twinning programs.

Senior luncheons, dinners and activities.

Prison visiting and after prison visiting.

Providing housing, services and activities for hard to house adults – Ozanam-Victoria and for men Ozanam-Kelowna.

Attended funerals and offered masses.

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Reactivated conferences.

Served as extraordinary ministers, lectors, ushers, PREP teaches, Knights of Columbus members and CWL members. Assisted at senior homes when mass being held. Provided transportation for seniors to mass.

Driving seniors to appointments and visiting seniors.

Christmas hampers with gifts, Easter hampers and Thanksgiving hampers.

Food hampers through the year, fruit and vegetable hampers.

Soup kitchens

Bringing Holy Communion to shut ins.

Arranging for the Sacrament of the sick followed by luncheon.

Arranging for the angel trees at parishes (for Christmas gifts for hampers).

Facilitating food drives at parishes and schools.

Picking up and distributing bread to people.

Having drives for clothing, personal care items, toy drives, sock drives.

Emergency food bags given to single people.

Christmas parties, gave donated gifts to Seamen's Mission, other Catholic missions and other missions.

Assisted Agape ministry, Poor Clares, Dominican Sisters, Sisters of Attonement, Operation Outreach, Third World Eyecare Society.

Helped with student tuition.

Christmas dinners

Drop in centre in Prince George served 96,117 meals @3 per day.

Thomas O'Flynn, President
British Columbia & Yukon Regional Council

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am honoured to report on the activities and achievements of Atlantic Regional Council in this, my first report. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the previous Executive and thank them all for their dedicated service.

Summary:

This year we are reduced in number of conferences but remain vibrant and dedicated to the service of the Poor in our communities. A summary of our Region is as follows:

Number of Members 725
Number of Particular Councils 5
Number of Conferences 58
Number of Visits made 9,867
Number of People Helped 22,330
Total Receipts \$1,469,897
Total Expenditures \$1,392,564

One Particular Council, in Antigonish, is dormant right now because there is no sitting President in the Council. Our Members across the Region continue struggling with parish closures and are facing decisions on whether to work separately in a remaining parish, or, to merge into a new conference.

Halifax Particular Council:

Halifax Particular Council continues to operate three Outreach activities, as follows:

The Hand in Hand Store hopes to have a new building this year. Sales of used clothing and furniture remain comparable to last year. Hope Cottage continues in its hot meals program and 36,000 meals were served in 2008. The clustering of parishes brings "supper groups" together as one unit and this may impact on services in the future. A new power generator has been installed for continuity of service in a power failure situation. A new fundraising group, The Friends of Hope Cottage, raised \$38,000.00 for Thanksgiving Dinner at a local hotel. The staff began receiving coverage under a pension plan for them.

The Outreach Office in Halifax saw some big changes this year. New premises are in use and two people have been hired. A full time Outreach Coordinator provides advocacy services and is a member of several community service boards as our representative. A part time community support worker handles Nova Scotia Power accounts for the needy, among other duties.

St. John's Particular Council:

St. John's Particular Council is in the planning stages of deciding how to use the proceeds from the sale of their downtown building that had been used as the site of the former Thrift Store.

Initiative by the new Regional Executive:

The Executive has begun holding meetings by "conference call" to save money on travel. We have opened an account with Clarity Conferencing, Inc. The contact information is:

Mr. Cam Cooke and website is ccooke@clarityconferencing.com

We encouraged our conferences to continue the Screening Process, with a hope to have it finished by year's end.

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We launched a Newsletter in Spring 2009 and have asked those receiving it via the Internet to share the news with those not on the Internet, by printing and sending it along.

We put before our Annual General Meeting, in Florence, N.S., a motion to approve Twinning by the Council with another Council in need of our help. We also presented a Budget for 2009.

We updated the Vincenpaul Magazine mailing list, eliminating names no longer in office in conferences and councils.

We reviewed the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) database for our conferences and councils; any whose Business Number was "revoked" have been notified through the Particular Council or vice president concerned.

Respectfully submitted as servant of Servants to the Poor,

David Grant, President
 Atlantic Regional Council

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

I am honoured to present the 2008/2009 annual report of the Western Region Council.

Projects: Calgary is in the final planning stages of their store. The Calgary housing project will be taking in its first tenants this June. Calgary also produced a new dvd this year which is very professional. It is quite short and perfect for presentations and training.

Technology: Our database usage continues ever so slowly to grow as conferences come on board. There is hope of putting St. Timothy Conference's website on our server.

Alberta: How things change over one year. Last year I remarked how well Lloydminster conference was doing with plans to start a satellite conference at a reserve. This year I am sad to say they have ceased operations. Edmonton Central Council has a new president as of April. I must be rough on their presidents; this is the third one since I started! Edmonton now has their first youth conference at St. Alphonsus Conference!

St. Bonaventure Conference in Calgary is hosting our Western AGA at the end of this month. We will be celebrating their 25th anniversary. I had the honour of giving Penny Craig two Aggregation Applications from the Calgary area this month. We also closed a conference in Calgary this year. Our dear Lynn L'Heureux has continued to be ill through this year and we keep her in our prayers.

Plans are underway in Edmonton for their first annual spiritual retreat in September. I attended the annual spiritual retreat in Cochrane last January where we meditated on the Lord's Prayer.

Saskatchewan: St. Francis of Assisi conference in Prince Albert was able to assist a friend in Australia this year by moving her items in storage in Saskatoon to their space in Prince Albert. We continue to pray for Henry Siwak as he battles cancer. St. Josephine Bakhita conference in Regina is another small but hard working conference. Darlene Schroeder who is the president of the conference lost her husband Bob, who was also a Vincentian, in the fall. Her great faith and inner strength during this time was an inspiration to her conference. Father Don McNeil, their spiritual director, is also fighting cancer and our prayers are with him.

Manitoba: St. Timothy's Conference in Manitoba continues to grow. I have the pleasure of receiving their minutes every meeting and feel like I am reading about a close Christian community during the

times of St. Paul. Their Vincentian spirit and love is so refreshing. I have been invited to visit St. Augustine conference in Brandon when I go out there.

North West Territories/Nunavut: I had the privilege of giving Penny Craig the Aggregation application for Mary Immaculate conference in Gjoa Haven this month. We are working on a way to send up a large non-perishable food order for their pantry. Shipping is very expensive and we continue to look for the most economical way to get the food there. St. Joseph Conference in Tuktoyaktuk was very happy to finally receive the sea can filled with various goods that we shipped last fall. We are currently working on obtaining a lap top computer to send to the conference president so that we can keep in better communication. St. Patrick's conference in Yellowknife is four years old! This well run conference of 21 Vincentians has 100% support from their parish. According to Gerda Groothuizen's report for the year-end they have found a way to ensure the growth of the conference. They have Vincentian birth announcements! Baby Caleb is one of them. I wonder if they read the Rule to him at bedtime.

Statistics:

Our **800** reporting Vincentians have logged in **58,000 hours**.

We have **52 Conferences, 10 Councils**. We served Christ in our **17,330 friends** (men, women and children) with **8,828** home visits to our friends who were lifted up with food, clothing, furniture, financial aid, shelter, job search, budget planning, tutoring and much more in the gift of ourselves.

We received a total of **\$1,074,484** in to our accounts from donations, grants and fundraising. We disbursed **\$970,653** to the poor. This does not include monies received as transfer to conferences for tax receipts. While the number of Vincentians is down the number of friends helped is up.

We continue to be good stewards of all the God gives us. Less than 5% of our budget is used for administration and a bare minimum is left in our accounts from one year to the next with the excess funds being passed up in true Vincentian spirit. We trust in God to provide for our needs and the needs of our friends, whom we serve in Christ.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Bennetto Western Regional Council President
Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut
Phone: 780—633-9762 fax:780-633-9472 email: gardenofweed@telus.net web www.ssvpwr.ca

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2008-2009

Dear Vincentians, I am proud to present my annual report, in this second year as Youth Representative.

First, 2008 saw two important international meetings. A first global youth meeting took place in Salamanca, Spain, and was entitled International Vincentian Youth Study Days. I represented Canada with great pleasure. That 4-day meeting (June 4-8), resulted in the creation of an International Youth Committee, and recommendations were submitted to the Council General International.

A few weeks later, the World Youth Days took place in Australia. Carmela Addante, Josh Pfaff, Aidan Masterton, Ryan El-baba and Sarah Latouf (ON), as well as Nora Criss (BC) and our National President, Penny Craig, were able to go through a memorable human experience. The 2011 WYD will take place in Madrid.

The Ontario Regional Council prepared a document on the creation of youth conferences. It is a thorough and very interesting file that will help developing Vincentian groups across the country! To all whom it may concern.

In 2009, I wish to revive a few international projects that resurfaced at the end of 2008. Two Canada-wide help opportunities seem to be arising. As well, I will continue supporting emerging youth conferences, and development projects.

Caroline Gilbert, chairperson
Youth Committee

VOICE OF THE POOR COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2008-2009

This is the second annual report of this committee. During the past year committee members gained some valuable experience in this sensitive field by exchanging information and ideas with Vincentians involved in social justice activities in their communities, by writing letters to elected officials on national issues affecting the poor, and keeping informed about advocacy projects and issues.

Three (3) letters were sent to the Prime Minister and relevant federal Ministers, and leaders of opposition parties on different social issues; those letters and some of the responses received were published in the VincenPaul magazine. As well, a couple of articles related to social justice were also published in our national magazine. Other advocacy issues were being researched at year's end. Two members of the Committee gave a well-attended workshop on advocacy at the 2008 AGA held in Sainte Anne de Beaupré, Québec. The planning of the first national conference on advocacy to be held in Ottawa next fall is on schedule.

It is very encouraging to note that several councils have formed Voice of the Poor committees during the past year and organised activities in the pursuit of the Society's objective of *not only relieving need but also the situations, which causes it*. The prayers and cooperation of all Vincentians are needed as we develop this new mission.

Clermont Fortin, 1er Vice President, National Council
Chair, Voice of the Poor Committee

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2008-2009

The Committee did not receive any request for assistance during the past year. There was about \$110,000.00 in the reserve fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Clermont Fortin, 1st Vice President, National Council
Chair, NERC

INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE REPORT 2008-2009

This Committee was created in 2007 to appropriately respond to and track requests for financial assistance from national councils outside Canada as a result of disasters. Funds are provided mostly to countries twinning with Canadian councils and conferences.

The Committee recommended and the Executive Committee approved relief assistance to national councils as a result of various natural disasters according to the following table:

1. Dominican Republic	July 2, 2008	\$5,000	Tropical storm Noel
2. Guatemala	July 3, 2008	\$5,000	Hurricane Felix
3. Peru	November 19, 2008	\$5,000	Earthquake
4. Nicaragua	November 19, 2008	\$5,000	Hurricane Felix
5. Haiti	November 19, 2008	\$1,500	Hurricane Gustav, Ike
6. Haiti (pass up from QRC)	February 16, 2009	\$5,050	Hurricane Gustav, Ike
7. Haiti (pass up from ORC)		\$12,000	Hurricane Gustav, Ike

(funds to be transferred in installments over next several months in 2009)

The receiving national must acknowledge all transfers of funds as well as reporting on the use of the funds. The recipient national councils have all confirmed receiving the funds in 2008/09 and some have started providing reports. On the administrative side, the Chair of the National Twinning committee is a member of this committee, which facilitates coordination, and transfer of funds.

The IERF had about \$54,000.00 in reserve at the end of the fiscal year.

Clermont Fortin, 1st, Vice President, National Council
Chair, IER Committee

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2008-2009

1. **Training**

Strategic issue: There is an overall lack of coordinated Vincentian training and training programs at all levels of the Society related to various topics and roles within the Society.

Progress report: This has resulted in the establishment of an education/ formation committee whose mandate is to establish the needed materials for this project. This committee is already hard at work to bring this about. This is very much a work in progress as the scope of this work is very broad. The first Educational module, "Orientation and renewal" has been developed. September/09 is the target date to have this material available for Vincentian. .

2. **Public Relations/Media**

Strategic issue: There is an overall lack of official Public Relations/Media materials for all levels of Councils and Conferences to use in order to promote the Society.

Progress report - The new logo is already present on our stationery, prayer cards and pins. New pamphlets have been developed for the National office and Twinning.

3. **Administration**

Strategic issues: there is an overall lack of timely communication and administrative processes among all levels of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada.

Progress report - With the hiring of a new office administrative assistant in the Ottawa office, there are now two administrative assistants for National. . This can only help to improve administrative efficiency. Effective Communication among all levels still continues to be a work in progress.

4. **Advocacy**

Strategic Issue: There are no defined mechanisms/guidelines for advocacy by and on behalf of the SSVP.

Progress report - The committee has developed National Advocacy guidelines. This document will be used by all conference in Canada. Conferences and Councils are putting in place their own Advocacy Committees

Statistical data strategic planning reports.

The Committees for Training; Public relations/Media; Administration; and Advocacy have been established and continue to grow. Now is the time for the National Strategic Committee to look at other issues and directions to work on. At the AGA this year we will hold an open meeting to seek guidance from all the members to help us in this vision.

A very heart felt thank you to the members of this committee, who continue their faithful service

John O'Flynn, British Columbia
 Jean-Claude Bienvenue, Quebec
 Fr. Joseph Quinn, CSB - Spiritual Advisor

Tony L'Heureux, Western Region
 Jim Paddon, Ontario

Yours in Christ

Carol Horne, 2nd Vice President
 Chair National Strategic Planning Committee

NATIONAL EDUCATION/FORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2008-2009

One of the identified issues that come out of the strategic committee was that first there was an overall lack of coordinated Vincentian training and training programs at all levels of the Society related to various topics and roles within the society. And second that there was no identified human resource leadership related to training at the national and regional levels.

This committee is the result. The mandate of this committee is to establish the necessary material, provide training, and help with the selection of a coordinator to continue the program. This committee will continue to bring this about. The first Educational module, "Orientation and renewal" has been developed. Entwined in this module are both practicable and spiritual components very much in keeping with Frederick's vision. September/09 is the target date to begin the process of having this material available to all Vincentians, starting with train-the-trainer workshops. As each new component is developed they will be delivered to Vincentians in this manner.

The second part of the issue, that of a human resource leadership related to training at the national and regional levels will be on hold until a later date.

The committee members are a group of dedicated, very keen and trained people. The committee will meet a couple of times per year to work on the development of programs. The committee did meet at Mississauga for a weekend in Oct for this purpose and will meet again for a daylong session at the beginning of our AGA in Kitchener. We will continue to develop materials by working by phone, email and face-to-face meetings.

Always with gratitude, thanks to them all for their commitment in working on this committee.

Nora Criss	British Columbia
Lynn L'Heureux	Western Region
William Graham	Ontario

Yours in Christ

Carol Horne, 2nd Vice President
Chair National Education/Formation Committee

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada

TWINNING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2008-2009

I thank all who have helped the poor, in Canada, and in the countries with whom they are twinned.

I have committed to goals for twinning in 2007.

Below is a report on progress with these goals, and other task items that are done to maintain and promote twinning.

- Promotion of projects as a way to further assist out twins.
- Articles in the Vincenpaul magazine, which goes to all Councils in Canada.
 - *The titles of articles published in 2009 are: Colombia Twinning Partner, in Winter 2008 issue, "I move that our Conference Apply to Twin..." in Spring 2009 issue, and coming in the Summer 2009 issue, Tips on Writing to Your Twin.*
- Encouragement of conferences who express the wish to help their twin more, to consider the project process.
 - *A conference in the Western Region has asked to contribute to a project with their twin in Jamaica. The president of the National Council of Jamaica is assessing this possible project. They must approve the project before it is sent to our National Twinning Committee and National Council for approval.*
- Assistance where possible of the young adults in their twinning endeavors.
 - *The young adults in Ontario are supporting a "Pencil Project" with the Dominican Republic.*
 - *Western young adults are supporting a storage shed for diapers and formula in the Northwest Territories.*
 - *I am asking that the proposed project in Guatemala, of building of a third level of a school/community center for the young adult conference twin, be acted upon, either with a response to the project, or a passing on of this project.*
- Approaching twins who haven't transferred funds in the past 3 years, to ask about their needs and wishes in regards to twinning.
 - *Letter sent in February '09 to twins who haven't transferred funds in the past 3 years.*
 - *I have received emails and letters in response to this, some to resume their twinning with actions like a choosing another twinning contact person (who is not the current president), attempting again to contact their twin, and sending funds for their twin to our National.*

The National Board took some actions in regards to twinning in November. When they received my orientation/report on twinning, they asked that we develop a Canadian Twinning Resource Manual. This is in the process of development, and will be available by the next AGA.

The Board accepted the External Twinning Agreement, developed to be in compliance with CRA regulations. I am in the process of ensuring that these are signed by each of the National/Superior Councils of our designated twinned countries.

The Board also passed a motion to change the amount of the yearly contributions - policy TW002. If the National Council accepts this at the AGA, we will be able to send up to \$2000 yearly. Some conferences have been increasing their contributions spontaneously, and this enables other conferences to help their twins in this way. Our economic times mean that some of our twins are serving even greater numbers of the poor. We await the National Council decision.

Task Items

- I have updated the country information sheets that I send to new twins, from the 2003 information that I had.
- Two publications were developed, with the generous and capable assistance of Nicole Schryburt. A twinning newsletter and spiritual message was sent with the annual request for twinning reports. The other publication is a flyer with the twinning application on the back, which is circulating at this AGA.
- Twinning X 10 since June '08. We have 94 active external twins, and 46 twinned conferences and councils who have been asked this year whether they wish to continue with their twinings. We also have 38 conferences and councils who send funds through internal twinning. The number of twinned conferences and councils in Canada is 132.
- I responded to the twinning problems with Colombia, applications needed from Nicaragua, and an appeal for a twin for the National Council of Guatemala.
- I passed on a school program about the Society, developed by the Victoria Particular Council, to a person from a northern town, whom I met at an AGA.
- I attended a territorial meeting of North Equator Region in Costa Rica, and was able to have four of our twinned countries sign the External Twinning Agreement. Other designated twinned countries will have their Agreement mailed to them, and will return it at their convenience.

The following people help you with twinning:

Father Anthony Sebastian, OFM, Twinning Spiritual Advisor
Kathy Weswick, Canadian Twinning Chairperson
Nicole Schryburt, Administrative Assistant, Twinning Responsibilities
Shirley MacKinnon, Atlantic Regional Twinning Chairperson
Claude Roy, Quebec Regional Twinning Chairperson
Doreen Simmers, Ontario Regional Twinning Chairperson
Franki Luke, Western Regional Twinning Chairperson
Claude Bedard, BC and Yukon Regional Twinning Chairperson

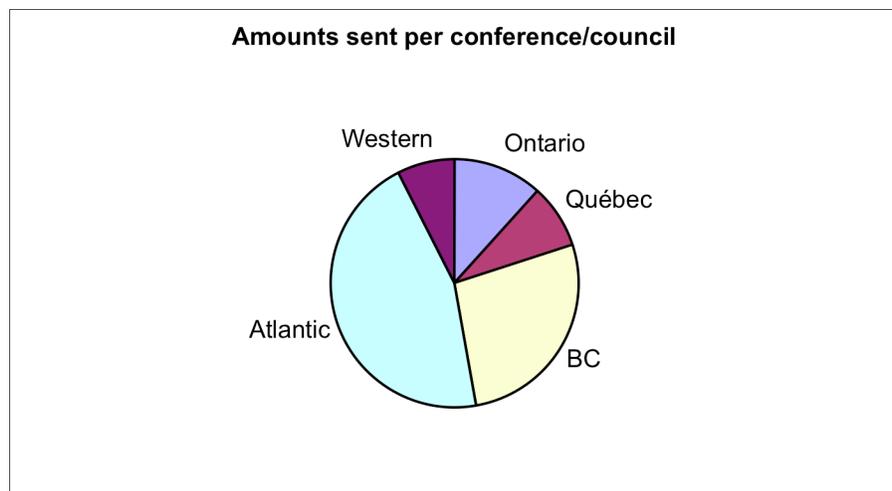
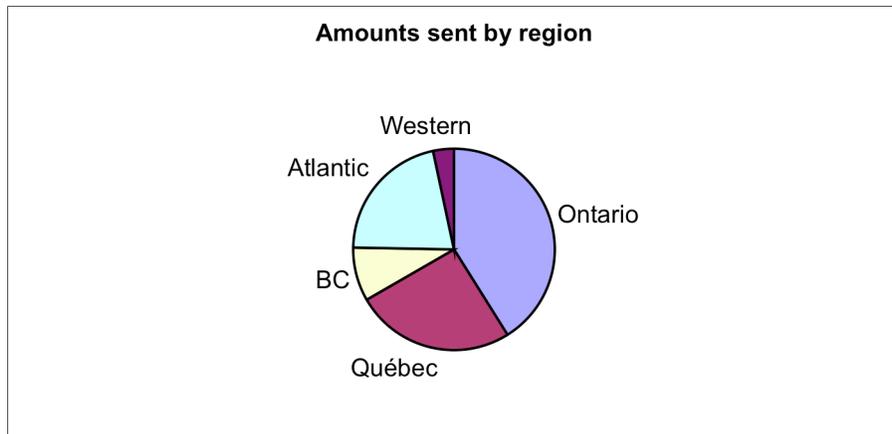
Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Weswick, National Chairperson
Twinning Committee

**SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada**

SUMMARY OF VINCENTIAN ACTIVITIES ACCROSS CANADA 2008-2009

Members	12 435
Regional Councils	5
Central Councils	13
Particular Councils	93
Conferences	941
Number of visits made	464,704
Number of people helped	569,410
Total receipts	\$ 19,026,024
Total expenditure	\$ 18,844,377

Contributions 2008-2009	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	West	BC & Yukon
Amounts sent	\$ 46,510	\$ 55,945	\$ 89,930	\$ 7,500	\$ 18,680
Number of conferences/councils	63	406	475	61	42
Amounts per conference/council	\$ 738	\$ 138	\$ 189	\$ 123	\$ 445



MISSION

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
is a lay Catholic organization
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 in anyone who suffers;
 - come together as a family;
- have personal contact with the poor;
 - help in all possible ways.

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada

PRESIDENTS OF THE COUNCIL GENERAL INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Emmanuel BAILLY	1836 - 1844
Jules GOSSIN	1844 - 1847
Adolphe BAUDON	1848 - 1886
Antonin PAGES	1886 - 1903
Paul CALON	1904 - 1913
Louis d'HENDECOURT	1913 - 1924
Henri de VERGES	1924 - 1943
Jacques ZEILLER	1943 - 1954
Pierre CHOUARD	1954 - 1969
Henri JACOB	1969 - 1975
Joseph ROUAST	1975 - 1981
Amin A. de TARRAZI	1981 - 1993
César A. NUNES-VIANA	1993 - 1999
José Ramón DIAZ TORREMOCHA y DIAZ	1999

PRESIDENTS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA
SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The honorable Judge Jean CHABOT	1844-1850
Augustin GAUTHIER	1850-1866
Georges MANLY-MUIR	1866-1881
Paul Ernest SMITH	1881-1885
C.-N. HAMEL	1885-1911
Charles Joseph MAGNAN	1911-1942
The honorable Judge Thomas TREMBLAY	1942-1969
The honorable Judge Gérald LEMAY	1969-1972
Patrice BOUDREAU	1972-1977
Marie-Claire LETARTE	1977-1983
Robert MARTINEAU	1983-1995
Ellen SCHRYBURT	1995-2001
Michael BURKE	2001-2007
Penny CRAIG	2007