



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada

Annual report
2018-2019



Serving
persons
in need,
since
1846.



No offer of assistance, no offer of dignity,
and no act of charity is foreign to the Society;
that is the strength of the organization.

Message from the National President



I would like first of all to thank our benefactors. Without them, our volunteer work would not be possible. I would also like to thank all conference and council presidents for contributing to this report. That team work allows us to gather invaluable information and offer you an extensive overview of activities carried out by our members and employees across the country.

To optimize the distribution of our annual report and allow all Vincentians and employees to have access, we have moved from a paper format to an electronic format. This approach will make it easier for conference presidents to forward the report to all members. We invite council presidents who have employees on their team to do the same and ensure that your staff is well informed of our overall activities.

I invite you to take the time to read this report, because it is a good summary of the work accomplished this past year to serve the less fortunate among us. As you will see, once again this year, everyone was creative in responding adequately to the various needs. You will also note that an increasing number of conferences are twinned with conferences in poorer countries, that our assistance program on behalf of people in the Canadian Great North continues to expand and that, during the World Day of the Poor on November 18th, we launched a national information program intended to support the actions of our conferences and councils throughout the country. These are only a few of the activities that you will find on the following pages.

To conclude, I would like to thank all Vincentians and employees for their excellent work. Considering the limited resources we have and the number of people we are able to help, we accomplish a great deal.

Thank you and may God bless you.

*Jean-Noël Cormier, President
National Council of Canada*

N.B.: Please visit our website for the complete activity reports at www.ssvp.ca/annual-reports-national-council. You will also find on our site the annual reports of the national council committees, under “Projects and Committees”.

Message from the Executive Director



Thank you to all members for your dedication and firm commitment to our mission, and for your relentless generosity in helping your neighbours in need. Together, we are building a world of hope and justice while promoting human dignity.

This past year has been an exciting one, achieved by the constant support from many members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. We had our first national campaign where conferences and councils from Victoria to St. John's accepted the invitation of Pope Francis to celebrate the World Day of the Poor, the 33rd Sunday each year in Ordinary Time. Educational material was developed by the national office to ensure a consistent message and image across Canada. We also used this opportunity to launch our promotional video, first visible across Canada during the broadcast of the Daily TV Mass in November.

Assistance to people in need can vary from providing material help (food, clothing, furniture) to simply lending an ear when people need to share their difficulties. Blessed Frédéric Ozanam wrote "Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. But it is justice's role to prevent the attack." The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is more and more focusing on systemic change, looking at upstream topics that addressing poverty reduction. There are many topics to choose from, and a National Action Plan was introduced to determine which poverty relief topic the Society should focus on from coast-to-coast. A multi-year and multi-phase systemic change topic has been identified: Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing.

To assist persons in need, often financial means are an essential requirement. In October 2018, we added capabilities to the national website for donors to direct funds to any conference or council in Canada; this is achieved via the arrival of the ProDon software tool.

We continue to assist Vincentians in their work, helping those in need, by providing up-to-date training material. The four pillars of the SSVP Canada training curriculum are i) Vincentian Life; ii) Leadership; iii) Spirituality; iv) Special Works/Stores. New material is regularly being added and is accessible on the national web site under the "Members" portal.

Vincentians provide assistance to basically 1% of the Canadian population. No offer of assistance, no offer of dignity, and no act of charity is foreign to the Society; that is the strength of the organization.

*Richard Pommerville, Executive Director
National Council of Canada*

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Numbers



151,651
homes
visited



353,652
people
served



164,246
children served
at home



1,578,436
volunteer
hours



13,937
members



164
active
twinning



\$ 112,730,773
worth of
merchandise given



\$ 11,700,000
worth of
food given



3,669
inmates
visited



135
food banks and
soup kitchens



144
stores and
outlets

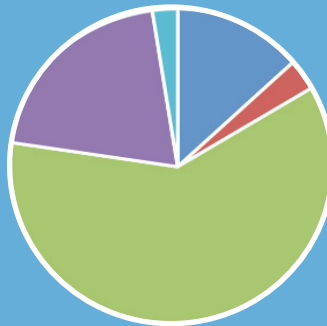


282
lowcost
housing units

Revenues/Expenses

\$ 76,340,462
total
revenues

\$ 70,553,185
total
expenses



Regional distribution

- B.C.
- West
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Atlantic



7
shelters and
drop-in centres



11,489
people served
in shelters and
drop-in centres



2,388
children sent to
summer camp

North of 60

The SSVP has been present in the Canadian North since 2008. During the summer of 2018, 12 sea containers were filled with food, sewing machines and fabrics, household articles and small furniture, everyday tools, school supplies and sports equipment. Those containers were shipped by truck and then marine transportation to 14 Arctic communities:

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour.

NUNAVUT - Gjoa Haven, Nauyasat, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Taloyoak, Baker Lake and Kugaaruk.

I'm a minister for the Anglican Church.

I was born here and have lived here my whole life.

I want to thank all the people who donated supplies for the sea can, coming on the barge, and helping all the people.

You guys did a good job and we thank you very much.

Hopefully, in the future, we'll keep working together and helping each other, God bless! Thank you.

David Kuptana, Ulukhatok, N.W.T.



Sister Fay Trombley, a longstanding missionary in the Canadian North and great SSVP collaborator, was awarded the prestigious Polar Medal by our Governor General, Julie Payette. Since 2005, the Sister of Charity of the Immaculate Conception (SCIC) has been devoting herself to the mostly Inuvialuit population in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT.



Twining - International Aid

Twining has been designed to help Vincentian sisters and brothers in emerging countries to accomplish our mission of charity and social justice. It is a work of solidarity with the poorest of this world through spiritual sharing, friendship and financial resources. Twining opens a window for men, women and children who suffer and lack financial means in the countries under the responsibility of SSVP Canada. The strengthening of ties and material help generate compassion and the joy of serving the most unfortunate. Twining activity is increasing every year, and thanks to our **164 active twinning partners**, we have distributed **\$170,000** to our **20 beneficiary countries**.

“

We are happy to tell you that the beneficiaries of the project are very happy with the benefits received. We want to tell you that it is an honour to work with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in projects that are changing the living conditions of the inhabitants of different communities

Maria Araica, Project Manager, Nicaragua

”

Access to drinking water ...



and latrine construction in Nicaragua.

“

Looking back – and looking forward, twinning has profoundly changed me. I am keenly aware of the difference between Canadian relative poverty and other countries absolute poverty. Both are a blight on Christianity. We who have been given so much must be willing to ease our planet-mates' pain.

Heidi Minuti, Huronia, Ontario

Mrs. Minuti is the twinning rep for several councils, twinned with Sri Lanka, Ukraine and Peru.

”

World Day of the Poor



On November 18, 2018, the Canada-wide SSVP launched its first awareness campaign on behalf of people living in poverty, following Pope Francis' appeal on the World Day of the Poor. Conferences and councils used a common ad to support their respective actions within their own communities and promote that special day or launch a collection campaign before the end of the year.

Annual General Assembly

National Council's Annual General Assembly was held in St. John's N.L. from June 20 to 24 2018.



A special thank you to our hosts in St. John's for their great welcome and the excellent work!

Emmanuel Bailly Bursary Recipient

Andrea has contributed to our Society at the conference level, central, regional and national council level. Her dedication to serving has been exceptional. It is so good that this effort has been recognized in a way that will provide Andrea with the means to continue her education and her passion for helping others

*Peter Ouellette, Past President
Western Regional Council*



The scholarship is awarded to a Vincentian student who clearly stood out during the year. The bursary is to help the recipient pursue his/her studies and fulfill professional ambitions.

The main objective of the Seeds of Hope project is to educate people on the existence of the Canada learning bond and to make it more accessible.

“ Colleen, a single mom we serve, was reluctant to take steps to receive the education funds for her children because she was afraid there might be an impact on her other government funding. But we gently guided her through the process and now all four of her children have access to a total of \$8,000 toward their post-secondary education. ”

Linda Alexander, Seeds of Hope Project Manager



Sr. Elizabeth Davis, RSM, was the keynote speaker at our Annual General Assembly.



Fr. Daniel Szwarc, OMI spoke on the North of 60 project in Naujaat, Nunavut.

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.

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