



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
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Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada
2463 Innes Road Ottawa ON K1B 3K3
Tel: (613) 837-4363
Toll-free: 1-866-997-7787 (1-866-997-SSVP)
www.ssvp.ca - editor@ssvp.ca
Charitable Registration Number: 132410671 RR0001



Society of
Saint Vincent
de Paul



Community Impact Report

2020-2021

Message From the National President



Claude Bédard

President,
National Council of Canada

president@ssvp.ca

Thank you to our National office staff for their dedication and assistance. Their work is invaluable to the Society and its members. Without them, we would be hard pressed to provide any services and help to persons in need from ocean, to ocean, to ocean. I know that when a conference or council is in dire need of a quick response or when they are faced with what appears to be an insurmountable problem, they can always depend on them to provide ideas, suggestions or solutions on how best to prevail over the issues at hand.

Thank you also to all the staff members employed by the conferences and councils to manage their offices, stores and special works and to support the work of the members, associates and volunteers within your respective jurisdiction.

Next, my thanks go out to the thousands of members, associates and volunteers, the life blood of our Society. More than 1.1 million hours of volunteer service per year means that no person in need has to go without help when reaching out to the Society; no stores or special works have to close their doors for lack of willing workers.

Where would the Society be without its leaders? Committed, steadfast, loyal and faithful leaders at the helm steering and guiding conferences and councils at all levels. Elected and appointed officials upholding and protecting our core values, fully motivated and dedicated to the mission of the Society. Thank you for your services.

To the executive committee, members of the board, committee chairs and national office staff, my most sincere and heartfelt thank you for all your work. Who could have imagined that we could accomplish so much in just two short years while under constraint by the COVID pandemic? The Lord works in mysterious ways. Let us hope and pray that He will continue to inspire and guide us to the benefit of the Society and those whom we serve.

Last but not least by any stretch of the imagination, thank you to our benefactors. Your support makes it possible for the Society to exist and to serve the needs of the unfortunate, the forgotten, the marginalized and the oppressed members of our communities. Your ongoing support has given the Society 175 years of continuous service in Canada.

Serviens in Spe,
Claude Bédard

Message From the Executive Director



Richard Pommainville

Executive Director
National Council of Canada

exdir-dirgen@ssvp.ca

Thank you to all members for your dedication and firm commitment to our mission, and for your continuing generosity in helping persons in need, especially during this COVID-19 public health pandemic. The mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is even more important today, to be proactive in the assistance of persons in need, making no distinction of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions, and to help in all possible ways. The mission of the Society is a key differentiator since it is anchored in Catholic Social Teaching, and is inspired by the respect of human dignity, by personal contact, and by the personalization of assistance. SSVP has a wide reach across Canada, not just in a few urban centers. Vincentians provide assistance to about one per cent of the Canadian population.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam wrote “Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. But it is justice’s role to prevent the attack.” The National Action Plan, the national campaign on housing following the theme of Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing, was launched on February 7, 2021, feast day of Blessed Rosalie Rendu. Vincentians see first-hand the necessity of having a good roof over someone’s head.

Training development continues to be a key focus for the Society. Training is a lifelong process, with regular updates necessary. The four pillars of training in the SSVP Canada curriculum are: i) Vincentian Life; ii) Leadership; iii) Spirituality; and iv) Special Works/Stores. The Formation Committee is putting a lot of focus on the extension of these four areas. Leveraging technologies, online webinars have been developed and delivered, providing opportunities to reach more Vincentians than ever before. As well, we saw the launch of the Society’s spiritual computer-based program developed for the SSVP by Newman Theological College.

During the course of 2020, as part of being engaged with the Food Rescue Canadian Alliance (FRCA) Task Force, a relationship was developed with Second Harvest/Food Rescue so that the SSVP conferences/councils could take advantage of the fresh produce available in their communities. This is well aligned with Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* on care for our common home, by reducing waste and reducing green gas emission.

SSVP became a Founding Partner in the Will Power pilot campaign initiated by the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP); this pilot was in the Oakville, Hamilton and Niagara Golden Horseshoe (NGH) area, linking donors with financial planners, lawyers and notaries with charities. This legacy giving initiative will be extended throughout Canada in the fall of 2021.

In addition, as part of continuing to modernize the National office infrastructure, many conferences and councils have taken advantage of the National donation portal to receive donations, all part of revenue diversification. A series of social media visuals were developed, including a social media use guide and best operational practice, for reuse by any conference/council.



13,000

volunteers



1,125,500

volunteer hours



104,000

homes assisted



248,000

people served at home



82,000

children served at home



140

stores and outlets



34,300

friendly visits and visits to the sick



139

food banks and soup kitchens



129,000

people served at food banks



186,000

meals served at soup kitchens



264

low-cost housing units



9

shelters and drop-in centres



1,130

people served at shelters
and drop-in centres



8,107

children given education assistance



\$47,820,000

total revenues



\$43,500,000

total expenses



\$14,770,000

worth of food given



\$3,950,000

worth of merchandise given

Volunteers in Action



Sandra

Sandra coordinates with the Mount Pearl (NL) Minor Hockey Association to collect food and funds for the food bank. In December, Sandra collected 30,000 food items and raised over \$10,000.



Bob & Richard

Every two weeks, Bob and Richard distributed boxes of pre-packaged frozen meals to 38 families, helping 131 people in need. (Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, BC).



Food Bank (Rosemont)

Young food bank volunteers in the Borough Rosemont (QC) help with the weekly food distribution, assisting 100 people in need.



Lynn

Lynn assists in the weekly preparation and distribution of 90 food hampers, helping 125 people in their homes and 40 people in the park in Williams Lake. (BC).

Special Projects

North of 60

Tsiigehtchic NWT

We invite you to view photos and texts by Therese Steiner of the North of 60 project. Therese visited Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic in the Northwest Territories. She describes the life in these communities; the arrival of sea containers sent by the SSVP; the distribution of the food and material received. She introduces us to the Vincentians and other volunteers in this region who make sure that everything is well distributed... by snowmobile and toboggan!

Watch the video at bit.ly/tsiigehtchic-nwt



Whitefish Lake First Nation

Over the month of December, SSVP has received a generous donation of several hundred mattresses. Please enjoy the visual of the movement of these mattresses from the Edmonton 'North of 60' warehouse to the Whitefish Lake First Nation (Atikameg) Cree Community located in Northern Alberta, five hours drive north.

Further distribution is within the Edmonton Community through SSVP conferences as well as the SSVP conference in Yellowknife, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre, the Edmonton Emergency Services Centre, and a few other Cree Nations Communities in Northern Alberta.

Watch the video at bit.ly/whitefish-lake-first-nation



The North of 60 project continues to assist 17 Northern communities by sending 13 sea containers with food and material.

Special Projects

“Twinning” Nicaragua

Construction of bathrooms

This project entailed the construction of 19 bathrooms in the rural community of El Tule, Chinandega Department, Nicaragua.

It was planned and executed by a local community organization, FUNDACCO, in collaboration with the National Council of Nicaragua. FUNDACCO is linked to Roots of Change, a Catholic charity from Alberta.

More information at bit.ly/ssvp-nicaragua



\$208,500 has been sent by SSVP Canada to its 170 active twinning engagements over 21 recipient countries.

Advocacy

Housing campaign

Inspired by the Housing campaign “Safe, secure and affordable housing is a human right”, the Halifax Particular Council has initiated two key projects where they have:

- Provided new portable beds, mattresses and bedding to the residents of the Out of the Cold (OTC) Shelter in Halifax, replacing borrowed Salvation Army cots. Value: \$11,500.
- Provided funding to support the Sackville Area Warming Centre’s social worker and her work, locating long-term housing for the users of the Centre. Value: \$10,000.



Safe, secure and affordable housing is a human right

Thank you

We'd like to thank all our donors and volunteers for their commitment to helping our communities this year. It's people like you who make this all possible. Whether you donated money, food, goods or time this year, know that your contribution has truly made a difference.

Find out how to get involved at ssvp.ca



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National President — **president@ssvp.ca**
Executive Director — **exdir-dirgen@ssvp.ca**
Administrative Assistant — **national@ssvp.ca**
Twinning Assistant — **twinning-jumelage@ssvp.ca**
Editor — **editor@ssvp.ca**



2463 Innes Road
Ottawa ON, K1B 3K3



Tel: **(613) 837-4363**
Toll free: **1-866-997-SSVP (7787)**
Fax: **(613) 837-7375**



ssvp.ca



@SSVPCanada

British Columbia and Yukon Regional Council

1738 East Hastings
Vancouver, BC V5L 1S5
Email: **pres.bc@ssvp.ca**

Western Regional Council

(Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories)

PO BOX 18035 Shawnessy
Calgary, AB T2Y 3W5
Tel: **(403) 968-9254**
Email: **pres.wrc@ssvp.ca**

Ontario Regional Council

38-1502 Warbler Woods Walk,
London, ON N6K 0A7
Tel: **(519) 641-1655**
ssvp.on.ca
Email: **pres.on@ssvp.ca**

Québec Regional Council

1855 Rue Rachel E, Office 204
Montréal, Québec H2H 1P5
Tel: **(514) 525-0232**
ssvp.qc.ca
Email: **info@ssvp.qc.ca**
pres.quebec@ssvp.ca

Atlantic Regional Council

Email: **pres.arc@ssvp.ca**

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REFLECTION REGARDING THE TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC FIRST NATION RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL GRAVESITE NEAR KAMLOOPS, BC FOR SSVF

The discovery of 215 children found buried at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in unmarked graves on the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation community is surely impacting all of us.

We have probably all felt some or all of the emotions of shock, disbelief, dismay, anger, shame, sorrow and profound grief. And we have all have questions, many unanswered questions that need to be asked in the coming days and weeks: when did this happen, how did this happen, how could this have been allowed to happen, who could have allowed this to happen? This shared history of residential schools profoundly impacts residential school survivors, and indeed all Canadians, and certainly us as a Society.

Probably many of us have received messages or comments from others – family, friends, acquaintances, fellow workers, expressing some of the above reactions. A friend who was a former chief, politician and businessman, called me to express his frustration, indignation and anger. He had international connections, stressed that the impact of this was huge, and that it was placing the church, as well as the Oblates, in a very dark, negative light with especially the media. One person even questioned her involvement with a program that is being hosted by our Star of the North retreat Centre, precisely because it is an Oblate centre. Another former parishioner wrote to say she was questioning the church now.

What makes something that is already bad perhaps even worse, is the fact that one of our venerable bishops, Vital Grandin, is quoted saying something that is as racist as even the first prime minister seems to have been – that Indigenous children need to be taken away from their families and civilized until there is “nothing Indian left in them except their blood.” And I read in the Delmas history book, my home parish, how Fr. Delmas worked to convince the Indigenous to trust the government’s offer for basically the forced take-over of their land and wanted a favour to establish a French Catholic colony there.

So, what are we to make of all this, and how should we respond, as a Catholic society dedicated to serving the poor and marginalized, when this ugly reality reveals the poverty, mistakes and weakness of the Church, and threatens to marginalize us?

Psychologists offer us three options when danger or threat is on the horizon, as this development surely is – fight, flight or freeze. We can react by being defensive and fight back, as some are urging us to do (“Why is no one defending Bishop Grandin?” is a question posed to us already). We can try to flee into defensiveness, justifying and rationalizing. Or we can simply sit and do nothing, trying to ignore all the painful revelations and comments, hoping it will all pass.

None of these responses, tempting as they are, will help in any way. Our best response is to be humble, honest, open and transparent, and see this as a moment of purification and humiliation for the Church, and for us all. We need to remember that God turns everything to the good for those who love God, and trust that in all of this darkness and pain, God will draw some good, even if it is a more humble, compassionate and faithful body of believers.

We need to be patient, and meet the challenge of doing three things exceptionally well – face the reality, accept the reality, and deal with the reality. We need to face the truth of what has happened, and what will continue to surface as surely more such scenarios will be discovered. We need to accept that members of our faith community, and in my case, religious community of the Oblates, somehow, in whatever historical context they were in, allowed this to happen.

Then we need to move towards what Jesus teaches us in the gospel of Matthew – forgive the perpetrators of this awful reality, and apologize for the fact that it was done by whomever was responsible. Above all, we need to listen from the heart to the pain that especially the Indigenous peoples are feeling, as this will trigger past memories of abuse, racism, discrimination, neglect, indignity, and humiliation for many.

One lady who attended a Catholic day school, not a boarding school, sent me an email sharing her anger at the treatment she received from one sister in particular as a Métis student, how the Métis all sat at the back of the class, how she was not allowed to go to the bathroom during class, then was teased for being smelly all day. She vividly shared the impact that abuse had on her, but also how she had managed to work her way through that intense pain to a place where she now experienced some serenity. What she needed to heal that inner wound, newly scraped open, was to be heard and affirmed. And that we can all do.

We need to let this development not just play itself out, but spur us on to even greater levels of compassion, understanding, and awareness as we continue to serve the poor. Let us resolve to work together with all levels of our church leadership to finally be more open, humble and honest about our mistakes in the past, and change any attitudes of not really caring in the present. May we all work together to heal this dark history, encourage the bishops to unite around the call for a papal apology, and be willing to provide funds to help the process of truth-telling, instead of giving it to lawyers to mitigate litigation.

And above all, let us pray for greater compassion and understanding for all of us – Indigenous and non-Indigenous, that this dark night of the soul will lead us all to a place of greater wellness as a church, a society and a country.

Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie OMI
National Spiritual Advisor



A DREAM COMING TRUE

<https://www.ssvpglobal.org/a-dream-coming-true/>



Haiti is arguably the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere.

In late February 2020, I visited the last Superior Council in Haiti before the Covid pandemic shut down the world. I was given a very warm and humbling welcome by Haiti's Society leadership and spent several days with them visiting a DC convent and other noted places that work with the Society there. I also participated in a Council Board of Directors meeting led by President Vital Hugues.



At the conclusion of the meeting, Vincentian Charles Pelistin, president of the Society's Northeast Region of Haiti, presented me with a proposal to develop a rice farm, which would ultimately provide



food for the poor and some revenue for the Council. The proposal called for the purchase of five acres of land plus materials for this special project, and asked for my help in securing funds for the endeavor.

The Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) was interested in supporting the rice farm. As a matter of fact, the CIAD provided a series of detailed questions to the Haiti leadership to ensure the money would be used successfully. Some 15 months after the submission of the initial proposal, the CIAD transferred \$28,000 (U.S.) to the Society's bank account in Haiti to purchase five acres of land and cover other initial start-up costs for the rice farm.



The Vincentian leadership of Haiti is most grateful to CGI and CIAD for their support, as well as to the councils of the United States and Canada for their ongoing twinning support.

In the Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighbour to the East, the Society has been operating a successful rice farm for many years: some 200,000 pounds of rice is produced each year and the crop is shared with their five regions. In addition, some of the rice is sold to pay for annual maintenance costs.

In February 2018, I visited the Council of the Dominican Republic with my esteemed predecessor, Ed Keene, and had the opportunity to visit their rice farm.

With the hand of the Lord, Haiti's rice farm will be equally successful.

*By Michael Nizankiewicz, ITVP, America 1
Council General International*



GRACE BY GIVING GRACE

An Aboriginal gentleman once contacted our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul conference and, in keeping with our mission, two ladies were assigned to visit him at his home. He lived in a basement apartment with an entrance in the back of the building, close to a transit train station. On their way to meet with him, the ladies noticed an ambulance at the station.

When they got to the backyard of his building, the man was sitting with his head in his hands, rocking back and forth. They noticed that his right hand was bleeding. The ladies were shocked at what they saw and the man appeared shocked as well. When he looked up and saw them, he broke down in tears. The ladies went over to comfort him and, after a while, he told them what had happened.

Earlier that day, he had been with some friends and told them that he was feeling pretty down because of his current situation. They took him out for a beer to help him feel better. He took the train home and, when he got off at the station, he stumbled. There was a group of young men nearby and one of them commented, "Another f*** drunken Indian".

"I know that I'm past my prime, but I'm a boxer," our gentleman said. "I had a couple of beers in me and was already feeling pretty down. At that very moment, without a thought, I knocked that fellow unconscious with a single punch. I ran home and then, to top it all off, you two church ladies show up."

A lot of tears and hugs followed. They went inside with him and cleaned his hand and bandaged it up. The experience was very raw, very real, and very spiritual.

These two ladies brought God's love to our friend at a time when he most needed it and was probably most open to receiving it. He was already feeling low because he had to call a charity for help and his contrition concerning his recent actions was palpable. Boxers are trained to maintain emotional control and he knew he had lost his control and that he might have hurt somebody quite badly. At that moment, when he was most in need of God's merciful compassion, our Vincentians showed up and offered him simple compassion via the corporeal works of mercy. He had an experience of Grace.

One of the ladies commented that she had never felt so close to God as during that visit. Just at that moment, to arrive to do His work and be merciful as the Father is merciful, to do God's work at such a moment when the person being helped is so strong, yet so vulnerable and contrite. It was a blessing in their lives to be able to so openly and freely serve Christ in the poor through our friend because our friend at that moment was also so open to receiving it. They experienced Grace through doing God's work. We grow in Grace by giving Grace.

The fellow who made the unfortunate comment to our boxer friend may have learned a lesson, but I am not sure if he would qualify it as graceful.

Yours in the Service of the Servants of the Poor,

*John Carey, Chair
National Spirituality Committee*



FROM ST. ALBERT TO ULUKHAKTOK, NWT, WITH LOVE

From *St. Albert Today*, May 22, 2021 8:00 AM

By: [Jennifer Henderson, Local Journalism Initiative reporter](#)

<https://www.stalberttoday.ca/st-albert-signal/episode-10-from-st-albert-to-ulukhaktok-nwt-with-love-3802505>



Linda Tutt stands in a sea can full of donations for the northern community of Ulukhaktok. Food prices are very expensive in the hamlet and Tutt is an organizer with the North of 60 program which helps gather and ship food and other donations for residents in need in northern and remote communities. JENNIFER HENDERSON/St. Albert Gazette

Every year in the summer, a barge full of sea cans sails up the Mackenzie River from Hay River, NWT, heading to the Beaufort Sea.

With carefully calculated timing, it stops in at some of the Northwest Territories' most remote communities: Tsiigehtchic, Paulatuk, Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Fort McPherson, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Good Hope and, sometime in August, Ulukhaktok.

The barge bears gifts from across the Edmonton area, full of food, sewing supplies and other goods. One sea can, filled up here in St. Albert, is destined for Ulukhaktok.

Ulukhaktok, a hamlet of roughly 400 people, sits on the west coast of Victoria Island, in the Beaufort Delta region. Its residents hunt, fish, trap and create beautiful works of art. Since 2016, Linda Tutt, the chair for the St. Albert arm of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's North of 60 Project, has helped fill a sea can each year with donations for the remote northern community.

“Eventually this barge gets out into the ocean and to Ulukhaktok, and the ice is only gone for a very short time and so the timing is crucial. So they get it at the end of August and that's pretty well the end of their open water,” Tutt explained.



Tutt organizes St. Albert's efforts for its northern friends, putting together a 20-foot sea can worth of donations each year. Sewing machines, non-perishable foods, art supplies, infant and baby items and sleeping mats are all gathered.

Most of the community's non-perishable food and goods like ATV's, lumber or tools come up on the barge in August, Tutt said – the only barge that comes in during the entire year. For the rest of the year, food and other goods must be flown into the community, making prices high in the community.

As a result, food is very expensive, Tutt explained.

“The food is just unbelievably expensive so that's why our food goes to the school program. They give the kids breakfast and lunch,” Tutt said.

Along with the schools, food goes to the food bank in the community for those in need.

Tutt stays in communication with the hamlet to track what they will need for the year. Then in April, she begins to collect items from St. Albertans and stores much of them in her garage until the sea can is ready to be loaded in May.

Before the barge arrives in August, Tutt said the community tends to run short on food and supplies.

Last year, Tutt wasn't sure if they would be able to collect donations due to COVID-19, but Peter Ouellette, from the Western Regional Council for the project, said the communities would need the food now more than ever.

Usually, parishioners attending the Holy Family Catholic Church would drop off donations after their service, but over the past two years Tutt has asked for monetary donations so she can purchase non-perishable food to send up north.

Tutt then collects everything in her garage and labels it all for the different organizations it will support once it arrives up north.

In May, Tutt and a group of volunteers spend a day loading the container. The can will head to a truck yard until June, when it heads to Hay River, then eventually up the Mackenzie River.

North of 60 is a program run by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and there are eight sea cans sent to nine northern communities annually.

CHANGING TIMES

June 2021

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Housing Campaign

In concert with the launch of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's Canada-wide multi-year National Action Plan on Housing, this is the fourth in a series of newsletters to help you and your conference address the housing needs in your community.

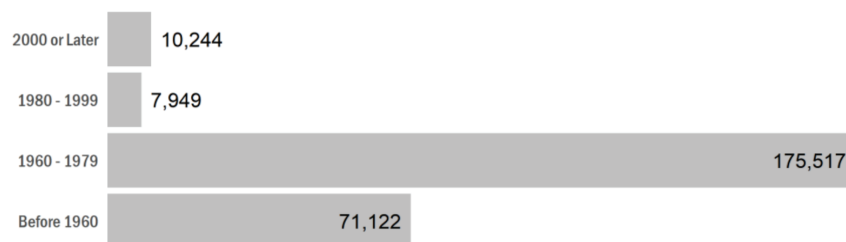
We hope and pray the content in this and future editions will inform and inspire us to serve in new and holistic ways!

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE
National Newsletter](#)

**Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing
is a Human Right!**



**Why is Canada facing severe shortage of affordable housing stock?
Here is one reason:**



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Rental Market

Figure 23 Primary Rental Market Universe in Toronto by Period of Construction (as of 2018)

Almost 250,000 purpose built rental units were built in the City of Toronto before 1980.

From 1980 to 2018 less than 20,000 units have been built.

The same ratio can be found in almost every community across Canada.

Even with the rollout of the National Housing Strategy there remains a shortfall of much needed affordable housing stock. In Ottawa alone that shortfall is 27,000 homes!

Share what your council and/or conference is doing to make a difference!

E-mail us at: sj-nac@ssvp.ca

Turn to page two for more!

Champions Corner

Become a housing champion for your Conference or Council!

If you need help getting started, reach out to us at sj-nac@ssvp.ca.

To date, the National Action Plan Committee has facilitated presentations in London, Edmonton and Windsor. If your conference would like to facilitate a virtual meeting with your social justice team and with other Vincentians who are curious about the housing needs in your community, we can help!

Are the issues of housing discussed in your conference?

Are you “Built For Zero”?

Is your community striving to end chronic homelessness and veteran homelessness?

Check out the latest Canadian stats [here](#).

‘HOMESHARING’ IS A REALITY!

Remember the TV show Golden Girls? As Canadians age gracefully and search for cost-effective ways to live affordably in the neighbourhood they love, many are considering a shared living environment.

Initiated in Burlington Ontario, HomeShare is growing in popularity across Canada. In some homes it can be older adults living together, in other cases it may be inter-generational! Check out their toolkit [here](#).

Urban Indigenous Peoples are 8 times more likely to experience homelessness!

Discover the research and responses being conducted by the Homeless Hub on reality. Click [here](#) to learn more.

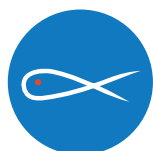
Are REIT’s destroying affordable rental housing in your community?

ACORN CANADA wants our government to end tax exemptions for large corporate landlords (known as REIT’s) who are known for buying existing affordable housing and pushing out tenants to raise rents without capital improvements. Find out more [here](#).

Inspire and attract new Vincentians!

36% of Canadians have been homeless themselves or know someone who has been.

Our focus on affordable housing may compel several parishioners to become members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Ask them to join us today!



○ God, as we recall the life and virtues of Blessed Frédéric and Blessed Rosalie, grant that we may continue their work of bringing good news to the poor. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.





PLANTING EDUCATIONAL SEEDS OF HOPE



The educational gap experienced by children of low-income families has never been greater. Children were educationally disadvantaged even before COVID hit and online learning became the narrower avenue to educational success. What better time for us as Vincentians to start to track our progress in assisting the almost 150,000 children in need that we serve across Canada. And it's clear that we have made a solid start.

Our cross-Canada annual conference reports were compiled and, for the first time, Educational Assistance, Program and Project Assistance statistics were tracked. The tremendous impact Vincentians are having to improve the educational success of the children we serve is shown by the assistance we gave. See below for some highlights!

Our journey from transactional charity to relational ministry and of deepening our culture of encounter with those we serve continues to broaden into the three pillars of Health, Education and Wellness (HEW).

Educational assistance, including school supplies, educational materials, food/snacks, transportation and help with daycare costs, was given for 8,107 children. The amount spent was \$581,967.

Development assistance in the form of training, workshops, extra-curricular activities (art, culture and sports), school projects and community initiatives benefitted 2,277 children, with \$19,780 being disbursed.

Forty-seven students were rewarded with **Scholarships** totalling \$26,530 to help them continue towards their educational goals.

Canada Learning Bond (CLB) statistics and contributions made to children's RESP accounts were tracked across SSVP for the first time in 2020! 69 children benefitted, creating access to \$138,000 in federal funds as well as RESP contributions of \$6,200, creating access to the 40% federal grants.

This is where Vincentians can play a vital role, to walk alongside the families with children, to help them rebuild hope for a brighter educational future.

By intensifying our work to provide Educational and Development assistance and by focusing on the Programs and Projects in place, we can help the children towards a healthier, more sustainable and more hope-filled future.

Want to learn more? Follow this link to the National website to access the SOH Project toolkit. Updated toolkits in English and in French are now available. [Click here](#)

Contact me, Linda Alexander, Seeds of Hope Project Coordinator at seedsofhope@ssvp.ca and I will help your team get started.

Schedule a Zoom coaching session for your conference to help you bring this much needed hope for a brighter educational future to the precious children you serve!

As we all are painfully aware, the challenges of COVID have impacted everyone, and the educational impact on the children has been far-reaching.

Employment and Social Development Canada just released their 2020 stats which show the impact the pandemic has had on the students.

In 2020, 136,460 children received the CLB for the first time, a 30.7% drop compared to the year before. CLB payments decreased by 23.8%.

Close to 249,000 Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) beneficiaries received the CESG for the first time, a decrease of 13.7% relative to 2019.

The number of CLB beneficiaries who received some contributions decreased by 7.2%.

The pandemic also led to increased online classes and students moving out of university residence or student housing.

As a result, in 2020, there was a 9.9% decrease in the number of students using RESPs to pay for their post-secondary education.

Access an **Infographic** from Employment and Social Development Canada to see the 2020 program results.

[Click here](#)



QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: In 2020, due to the pandemic, the deadline to file the T3010 was extended beyond 6 months of the end of a charity's fiscal year; will this be happening in 2021?

A: In 2020, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) gave an extension to charities to submit their 2019 T3010 filing to December 2020. In 2021, for the 2020 T3010 filing, unless the situation changes drastically, there will be no extensions. A reminder that one obligation for a registered charity is to file their T3010 no later than 6 months after a charity's fiscal year-end.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/operating-a-registered-charity/t3010-charity-return-overview.html>