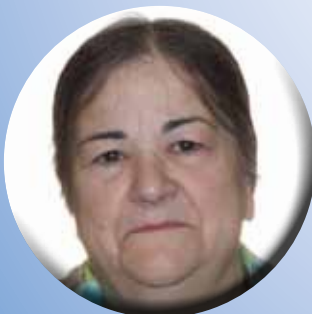


# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada

Annual  
Report

2012  
2013



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## 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.

# National President

*This Annual Report will highlight the activities and accomplishments of the National Council of Canada over the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2012.*

## MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION

### Canadian Conference/Councils Audit and Ongoing Monitoring

It all began in July 2007, with a formal audit of all the conferences and councils in Canada. There was not a reliable format to ensure accuracy of the location and viability of all the conferences and councils in Canada. This process took over one year to complete. The final administrative processes related to an ongoing process of accounting and monitoring of these numbers came to fruition when our administrative assistant, Josée came on staff in 2011. The National Council of Canada can now accurately process and monitor requests for aggregation and institutions and subsequently report the number of both active and inactive conferences and councils at any given time. This monitoring becomes important in both accountability to the International Council and in the submission of funds to the National Council of Canada for each region.

### Policies and Administrative Procedures/By Laws

We have now formalized both - the policies and the administrative procedures; as well as, developing a process to ensure their continuous review and updating. We have also formalized a development process for the formulation and subsequent approval of these policies, procedures and guidelines. The policies and procedures are identified as ADM for National Council Policies and ADMIN PR for those that are administrative procedures. These policies, procedures and guidelines are now on the web-site for easy member access. I want to thank **Pierre Morissette**, from the **Quebec Regional Council**, for his assistance in reviewing submitted by laws with me.

### Board of Directors Orientation Day

It is very important for Board members to come together as a team to conduct the business of the organization. To that end, I instituted two day meetings for the Board of Directors. The first occurs in November. This meeting provides the opportunity for board members to have a)

an orientation to their role on the board, policies, procedures and administrative processes. Our two staff members are also present at this meeting to orient members of the board regarding administrative processes of each of the staff; they meet them and are able to pose questions and receive responses to guide them in their roles. The other part of the meeting involves understanding their role as members of the board of directors. Yes they are there representing their respective regions, but also to make Gospel based decisions related to the National Council as a whole. The president also has a chance to outline some of the themes and issues the board will have to deal with; help them understand parliamentary procedures; and also invite them to share some of the issues and concerns of their regions.

Chairs of the standing committees are also invited to be present to relate their functions and goals for the coming year eg Twinning, Spirituality, AGA Planning, Editor of the VincenPaul etc.

The entire process begins with time devoted to the spiritual development of all concerned. Msgr. Peter and chair of Spirituality Committee team up to provide some very meaningful food for the soul so to speak. We cannot feed others effectively if we are not ourselves fed.

Feedback from members of the Board of Directors indicates this to be a very worthwhile time spent. They appreciate the time to share without worrying parliamentary procedures. It does save a lot of time for the Board meeting the next day as many areas are already discussed and motions are then easily made and passed.

### Member Screening and Duty of Care Guidelines

As we all know, the duty of any organization is to minimize risk to its employees, volunteers and the people it serves. For us, as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul who serve vulnerable people in their homes and other capacities, Duty of Care becomes an important element not only for the people we serve, but also to protect ourselves as members conducting this service. In 2005, recognizing the risk management need, the National Council of Canada Board of Directors implemented Member Screening and



# National President

Duty of Care Guidelines program that includes a Police Record Check Report for all members.

Regional councils and conferences are to be congratulated for taking seriously their responsibilities and implementing the policy.

## Annual Declaration by Members

The Member Screening process involves obtaining a Police Record Check Report that was renewable every five years. For some jurisdictions, this became a hardship in that costs were involved to the members for these volunteer police record checks. In some other jurisdictions there were no costs involved for volunteer police record checks. Since these Police Record Checks were to be conducted every five years, and hearing the concerns of members, the National Council set about examining ways to make things easier, yet still maintaining an effective screening process.

To that end, we began researching other sectors that deal with vulnerable sector individuals to see how things were being handled by these sectors. After review of information received from various sectors, we set about determining how we might incorporate what we learned into the processes of the National Council Member Screening process. Thus, we adopted the process of an Annual Declaration Document that most schools use for their teachers. This document now replaces the requirement for the five year renewal of a Police Record Check. After the initial Police Record Check is conducted for each new member, all conference presidents must ensure that this Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council document is signed by all members annually by January 30<sup>th</sup>, and this signed document is placed and kept in each member's file.

## Abuse/Harassment/Discrimination Policy and Guidelines

In compliance with legislations, all organizations were to develop policies and guidelines related to abuse, harassment and discrimination as it relates to its staff, volunteers and the persons they serve. In 2012, the National Council of Canada developed its policy and guidelines to comply with both federal and provincial legislations. This policy and its guidelines were sent

for the legal opinion of our legal counsel, Don Grant. His opinion was that this policy and its guidelines were excellent. The Board of Directors approved the policy and its guidelines in November of 2012. Subsequently, all regional councils and its conferences were tasked with disseminating and informing and training the members and any staff in their regions.

The National Council obtained permission of the Windsor Essex Central Council to use their Abuse Training Program presentation in order to formulate a generic presentation that would be available to other councils to provide training in their respective areas. This generic training program is available via the web site.

## NCC - AGA Planning Manual

We have developed and formalized the National Council of Canada Annual General Assembly Planning Guidelines to assist hosting councils to know their roles and responsibilities and those of the National Council of Canada. It is intended to make planning by local host councils so much easier and less daunting. Our Past President, **Ellen Schryburt**, has been invaluable in coaching and mentoring each hosting council through the planning process. An initial on-site meeting is conducted with herself, the NCC president and each planning committee. We walk through the planning manual addressing questions and concerns of the local planning committee. She continues to act as resource person representing the NCC president to the hosting council throughout the process, while at the same time keeping the NCC president informed.

## Human Resources

The National Council of Canada now has written Personnel Policies and Procedures for our staff. The Human Resources Committee has also developed a consistent performance appraisal format and salary review for the staff of the National Council of Canada.

## New Head Office

At the outset of my term, it was incumbent upon us as a new the new board of directors to complete the directives of the previous administration to sell the house in Quebec City. We were to locate the head office into a central location that would provide easier access by



members of the Board of Directors, as well as provide access to political figures. We purchased and moved into our new head office in July/August of 2010. The head office is located in Ottawa, Ontario. It is good to know that the property and structures have already increased in value since purchase.

## Youth Scholarship Fund

As a National Council, we are always commenting on the fact that we are getting older. Our strategic directions indicated that we must recruit younger members. We worry about how we can attract young members to join the Society. As a result we recognized that we needed to make the Society a more visible entity to youth and gain the interest of the youth about our council.

Much of this SSVP presence has been gained in establishing conferences in our Catholic schools. Of course, what a better way to assist youth than with their educational endeavours. Thus, **Caroline Gilbert**, our youth member of the Board of Directors worked with the National Council to establish a youth scholarship fund that would be available to our young Vincentians. To date, we have had three young Vincentians receive a scholarship award. The monies to support this fund have been donated by private funders and through a bequest. The funds are in a restricted designation for this purpose. Further solicitation of funds will have to be addressed in the near future in order to keep the fund viable.

## National SSVP Week Celebrations

Our brothers and sisters in Quebec saw real value in establishing the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as an entity to be recognized in the world of public relations. This effort would see the Society Conferences highlighted as a place that the public would recognize as a place to get help when in need. The Regional Council of Quebec worked diligently with a Public Relations Company at developing their profile utilizing media of all sorts. Part of their public relations strategy involved well known Quebec artists publicly promoting the Society.

This public relations endeavour was not simply a one day, one time event, but rather, an entire week of Society of Saint Vincent de Paul promotions through media of all sorts. I had the pleasure of attending their first kick-off

event. Truly, this was a very inspiring event that resonated with me and got me excited enough to think that we should be doing this right across Canada! Thus, we worked with our brothers and sisters in Quebec to establish our National SSVP week in September each year; the dates of SSVP Week includes the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul. A week's worth of SSVP celebrations that raise both public awareness and Vincentian spirituality. Councils and conferences were encouraged to plan Retreats, public booths, Masses of Commissioning, dinners etc. This week is a time to celebrate who we are as a family of Vincentians!!

In 2013, Quebec council attended a meeting in Paris France to share with them their project of 'Ozanam's Dream'. We look forward to hearing more about this at the 2013 AGA in Ottawa.

## New NCC Annual Report

It became evident that a more comprehensive reporting format was required if the National Council of Canada and regions were to move forward with some assuredness about who we are and what we do. If we are to engage in Advocacy and Systemic Change activities, we need to know such things as how many members we have, how many stores, or, how many soup kitchens we operate etc. As well, how many families and or people we are actually serving - to include men women and children. With this new Annual Report we can now measure whether we are in fact lowering the age of our members. Whenever we approach or are speaking with the media, or to governments – whether federal, provincial or municipal, as an organization we need to have reliable facts to support our efforts with aspects of systemic change.

Another important element we must finally grasp is that of the numbers of reporting conferences and councils. Our statistics and data are not really valid and reliable if we have no idea about out of the 802 conferences and 111 councils we have in Canada, the actual number who submit their annual reports. The new annual report has been a learning process for all of us. However, there is always room for continuous improvement. Thanks to all who contribute ideas to make things easier and better.

# National President

## Bilingual Format of Minutes and Agendas/Policies and Administrative Procedures

For many years the National Council agendas and minutes, the terms of references for committees, policies and guidelines and other related materials always came in two separate documents. Our official translator, **Ghislaine Du Nord** offered to assist us to establish a side-by-side bilingual format, which is what we are now using for all of our documents. **Marianne Angus, Secretary** maintains that format and disseminates information to all members of the board in that bilingual format.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### VincenPaul Magazine/Web-site

In this age of technology, it is very important that we get on board with the technological advances. These advances allow us to update the look of our VincenPaul Magazine, establish our national website, and begin the process of on-line communication. Staff have established an electronic 'breaking news' format for quick dissemination of interesting news from all areas of Vincentian activities and interest.

### In Memoriam

In Memoriam was a feature we added to the VincenPaul magazine in the last couple of years. So many dedicated Vincentians have paved the way for what we can now accomplish as the National Council of Canada. These deceased members are so very near and dear to our hearts that we wanted to remember their gifts of self-giving to us and those they served. What better way, than to let the whole of the National Council as well as the world know about and mourn their passing. Each Regional Council is asked to submit names, conference and date of death of the deceased members in their region for insertion into each edition of the VincenPaul. We publish the names for the year of publication. However, this requires conferences and councils to be diligent in submitting names on a timely basis for publication. The feedback has been very positive for this act of remembrance.

### National SSVP Promotional Items/Publicity

At the request of many members the NCC developed an inventory of SSVP goods for members use. From a

public relations and recruitment point of view, we have developed a National Council of Canada tag line and/or look to our national materials including our brochures. We have developed a theme to our new recognition certificates and pins for conference and councils to recognize and thank older members. We have provided 'thank you' certificates to present to our benefactors and others who provide assistance in so many ways. We have designed sympathy cards, get well cards, T shirts, golf shirts, hats etc. Sale of these promotional items are now become quite popular. More requests for additional items have been generated and will be addressed in the near future. Great advertisement for the Society in Canada!

### National Committee Terms of Reference

We have developed formal terms of references for each National Council Committees. All committee terms of reference are reviewed and updated as required annually. All of these committee terms of references are available on the SSVP web-site in bilingual format. The following will highlight some of their activities.

## NATIONAL COMMITTEES AT WORK

### Finance

This committee was chaired by **Marcel Tremblay, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**. The members of the finance committee have worked to set annual budgets and adapt our financial reporting system to reflect expenses according to income and expenditures of both operations and committee expenses. The Finance Committee formalized financial policies and guidelines that assist members to understand how finances are dispensed.

These financial policies and guidelines define both National Council responsibilities, and Regional Council responsibilities regarding attendance at meetings and other expenses. Our Treasurer, **Germain Souigny** has been diligent in monitoring our financial status and recommending ways to achieve the best strategies to keep the National Council financially viable throughout the year. One of these strategies involves regions passing up funds on a quarterly basis in order to keep the operating line viable.

## Youth

This committee has been active under the leadership of **Caroline Gilbert, Youth Member of the Board of Directors**. Youth have attended FamVin/WYD in Australia 2008 and Spain 2011. Caroline represented Canada at the ICG World Youth Congress in Spain in 2009. We have witnessed their increased presence at our own National Council AGA's. Youth weekend retreats have been held at SSVP Camp at Bothwell, Ontario.

## Twinning Committee

Under the leadership of **Kathy Weswick appointed member of the Board of Directors**.

Kathy has been active with NCC Twinning for the last 12 years, this committee, along with our staff, Nicole Schryburt, have established and formalized our National Council of Canada processes for safe fund dissemination to various twin countries. Kathy has worked to establish NCC Twinning Policies and an official Twinning Manual based on the International Council General parameters for Twinning. Kathy has worked with Carmela Addante, the ICG Twinning Representative to review the roster of twins in the North American hemisphere. A National Council of Canada Twinning brochure was developed. Kathy has visited a number of twinned countries eg Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Haiti. The committee has worked hard to help conferences and councils understand how twinning operates effectively.

**Education and Strategic Planning** was under the portfolio of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, **Carol Horne**.

## Education

A national education team representative of each region was assembled to review current materials of the National Council. Together they examined and developed and updated materials. Recruitment and Orientation modules/materials for new Vincentians were developed to assist with the screening processes. The committee is currently working on a Youth Recruitment Manual, and a booklet on the Role Responsibility of officers. The committee is now responsible to call for workshops for the NCC AGA, as well as, to ensure the provision of core NCC workshops. These include the role of president, vice presidents, secretary and treasurer; parliamentary

procedures – related to how to efficiently run a meeting. Other future core workshops will certainly be identified and added.

## Strategic Planning

This committee has revisited the last strategic issues to ascertain what has been accomplished and what needs to be done next. As part of the processes, the new NCC Annual Report was developed. This report enables us to measure certain action steps identified in the strategic plan. We identified that we must recruit younger members, but we really had no way of knowing how successful we were from year to year. The new NCC Annual Report will provide information that measures how well the national council is actually doing in attaining the goals of attracting younger members in our recruitment. Our strategic plan identified that there was not enough visibility of our spirituality in the Society, now the NCC Annual Report provides some mechanisms to measure the visibility of our Vincentian spirituality.

The next steps in our strategic planning must now involve going back to the membership to identify further strategic issues facing the National Council. As well, the National Council of Canada must now tie into the strategic directions announced by the International Council General.

## Spirituality Committee

Spirituality committee was under the leadership of **Maureen MacIssac appointed member of the Board of Directors**.

This committee has been quite busy addressing areas of the NCC strategic plan that identified that there was little, or no visible evidence of Vincentian spirituality in the Society in Canada. In 2007, the National Council needed to provide the model to councils and conferences that they might see evidence and follow. The NCC Spirituality Committee developed the format for the Spiritual Advisors luncheon at each AGA. These Spiritual Advisors came together to share their experiences, learn more about the Society and its annual theme and how to develop the theme back home. The committee developed a memorial service based on the contributions of the Western Regional Council format that was provided by

# National President

past president Pat Bennetto that we now use at each AGA. This committee works with the host planning committees of each AGA to ensure the various spirituality elements have been addressed such as Commissioning Ceremony, and that all Masses are planned and executed. This committee has accomplished the development of the new Spiritual Advisor Installation Ceremony.

Of importance, is the role that this committee has played in the development of the National Council Board of Directors Retreat Day that occurs at the spring meeting each year; they have also been instrumental in the development of our AGA theme each year.

VincenPaul and Web-site reflections are ongoing and accessible to all members. A prayer request hotline ensures that we all know about these requests on a timely basis.

*To Spiritual Advisors everywhere.*

*Know that your presence and counsel are invaluable to the success of every conference and council! The dedication of your time to those who are seeking to develop their own spirituality as members, and to each other as a conference or council is paramount to their understanding and development of their Vincentian vocational call. May the Holy Spirit be always with you, and thank you so much for what you do!*

## Advocacy and International Emergency Relief

This committee has been chaired by **Clermont Fortin 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.**

**Advocacy** has evolved to include another dimension - that of 'systemic change'. Clermont has represented Canada at various meetings held in the USA. He and other representatives from across the regions attended a meeting in Belleville Illinois regarding developing strategies related to initiating systemic change on our respective countries, regions and areas.

Several others have also attended a meeting in Indianapolis Indiana. Clermont has also presented workshops at each AGA. Ontario Region has been very busy trying to make a difference in the lives of those they serve by initiating and making available several small loans to individuals who want to better their situations.

**Systemic Change** is a new addition to the arm, language and work of the Society's Advocacy. While the work of the Society involves assisting people to move out of the poverty cycle, it goes beyond. Systemic change includes working to address and change the systems that help to keep persons at the poverty level. Such things as the outrageous interest rates of Pay Day Loans, or, timely assistance to prisoners as they are released from prison really need to be addressed now. These are just a couple of areas we can easily focus our attention on. Pay Day Loans is really an international concern that both Canada and the USA can address together. The meetings of the both the leadership teams and collaborators of Canada and the USA systemic change groups can pool resources to work for change. Opportunities for other topics may also be identified and addressed internationally.

Education regarding systemic change will be paramount to bring everyone to a basic understanding. Workshops relating to systemic change will continue. They will be established as a part of the core workshops at each AGA.

**International Relief** – this area has mainly centered on helping the situation in Haiti. Clermont has been in constant contact with the president Elisme Lesly for the last three years. In 2012, a new president was elected. In the fall of 2012, I asked Jean Noel to visit Haiti to meet the new president Mr. Tham. Historically, the ICG had terminated or froze all twinning with Haiti due to the inability to get a proper council functioning, information and feedback.

In 2008, I visited Haiti, along with Larry Toumey from the ICG VinPaz program. Our purpose was to see what Canada could do to assist the Haiti Council since the VinPaz members were finishing their term in Haiti. After much discussion and with special permission from the President of the CGI, and based on a specified process, Canada was able to resume a 'special form' of twinning. This consisted of region to region twinning between Canada's regions and the regions of Haiti.

Then, the earthquake followed the next year. We continued to twin limiting the funds that were sent, but following the same process as was previously established. There definitely were challenges to the communication system.



Another visit was made by myself, Kathy Weswick, the Twinning Coordinator of Canada, to the Dominican Republic. All of us drove to Haiti to visit the Vincentians there and bring them supplies from both Canada and the Dominican Republic. There was evidence of devastation everywhere. Following the earthquake, cholera broke out, and hurricane weather from which the people of Haiti are still trying to recover. The work is ongoing but really slow. The political situation is tenuous at best. Canada's help to Haiti is ongoing. Canada and the USA are meeting to establish ongoing protocols and training for the new council of Haiti that was elected in 2012.

Funds sent to NCC for other designated countries were sent as requested.

## Property Management

With the purchase of our new Head Office comes the responsibility of managing the property and building. **Clermont Fortin** has done an admirable job of addressing these two areas. The internal components of both the office and the rented apartment have been closely monitored and updated to relevant municipal codes.

These areas of improvement have saved the NCC a great deal of overall maintenance and operational costs. The external components have involved regular maintenance of driveway and grass and shrubbery. Clermont has sought ways to reduce costs by renting out parking spaces over the summer and winter. The apartment rental, the parking spaces and garage rental all assist in the mortgage payments. A great deal of thanks goes to **Clermont** and his dear wife **Nicole**, who come on a regular basis to clean and maintain the house and property.

We will develop a 25 year maintenance plan that will highlight areas that we need to address at certain periods, such as painting, roof, windows, furnace etc. A capitol budget will be prepared to address these items without undue stress on the member conferences and councils.

## Mortgage Debt Reduction

Our thanks go to all of the councils that have contributed to paying down the mortgage quickly. It was hoped that within five years we could be mortgage free. That is still

the hope. We are applying balloon payments whenever we can without penalties.

This Head Office belongs to all of us across Canada and we are very pleased that everyone that visits the premises is quite pleased with its look and upkeep. Each of us as members, have a piece of the home both in reality and in our hearts. Thanks to all who have and will help to make this not just a 'head office', but a 'home of our own'.

## Regional Councils

The work conducted by the members of these councils is nothing short of amazing. Their reports will reflect the magnitude of their work and their accomplishments. Therefore, I will not repeat their accomplishments in this report, except to say how pleased St. Vincent, Louise, Rosalie and Frederic along with Our Lord must be to see the Vincentian love and Gospel Message that is being shared throughout these regions. Members are very dedicated to their mission of 'seeing Christ in the Poor' and give true meaning to 'helping in all possible ways'. As we read these regional reports, we realize that a great deal of good Vincentian work is accomplished across Canada and beyond. We should acknowledge that work in a humble and meaningful way. We can showcase these works through our magazine and web-site, but yet, at the same time celebrate who we are as Vincentians living the Gospel message! Send the editor pictures and stories!!!

## Staff of the National Council

Avery special thanks goes to our dedicated administrative staff **Nicole Schryburt** and **Josée Lemieux**. These two ladies are always thinking of ways to effectively and efficiently support us the members.

We see evidence of their dedication in the way the VincenPaul magazine is presented, the look, the layout, the content. The web-site has taken on new dimensions both have contributed immensely to its dynamic nature. We are all now 'relying' on that medium to source out information. For me, I used to say, 'its in your manual, now I cannot believe I am saying 'its on the web-site'. (ps I have not given up my manual though).

# National President

Administrative processes have now been streamlined so that each has their own area of service to our members and it is simpler and more efficient.

## Families of our Vincentians

A huge vote of thanks goes to all the supportive family members that are not a member of the Society, but support those who are. The times of travel and being away, even when family members are in need speaks volumes for the support of Vincentian work, for those families...God Bless YOU!

## International Council General

Over the past years I have had the privilege of attending and meeting members of the Society right across the world. Indeed they represent various capacities of the work of Vincentian spirituality. The visitation at our 2008 AGA by President José Ramón Torremocha really made real and concrete the validity and presence of the International Council General to the members of the Canadian Society. Even though Canada does not have 1000 active conferences, we have been invited to attend the ICG Permanent Section meetings each year.

Canada has been trying to be diligent in its commitment to the concordat that was signed in 2008. This relates to the passing up of committed or promised amount of funds. Like the National council of Canada, the ICG relies on 'countries' for its financial sustenance.

Canada has committed to \$40,000.00 annually. As we all know this can only be realized if regions meet their commitment to the NCC. These dedicated funds to the ICG are realized by only 16 world countries that are able to submit financial help. Some of the poorer countries contribute what they can when they can.

This year we will be visited by the current ICG President, Michael Thio and his wife, Rosalind. What a great way for me to end my ministry of administration, and for Jean Noel to begin his ministry!

## National Council of Canada Spiritual Advisor

Of course, I must say 'Special Thank You' to our own National Council of Canada **Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Peter Schonenbach**. He has assisted all of us at the Board of Directors to understand and make Gospel-based

decisions that helped this council grow in its spirituality. By the way, what a great cook he is!!

## IN CLOSING

The National Council of Canada is in a very strong position to support its members and the work they do, and I am sure that this will continue. A Very Special Thanks to all the members of the National Council Executive, the Board of Directors, appointed members and Committees. It is their dedication that helped to make it all happen for the Society in Canada.

The challenges that lay before us as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada are varied and many. I hope that we will embark on new avenues of serving those in need with a good sense of empowerment and renewed vigor. It has been my pleasure to have served! I will continue to serve in other capacities, being a Vincentian is a life long commitment I take quite seriously.

Above all remember everyone, there is no 'I' in TEAM at whatever level of the Society we are engaged.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you with wisdom, understanding and strength!

As St. Vincent de Paul said, "May the radiance of your charity always be a beaming light!"

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine!!!

● **Dr. Penny Craig, President  
National Council of Canada  
2007 - 2013**



# Quebec Regional Council

Dear Vincentian friends,

It is a pleasure to present the annual report of the Quebec Regional Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

First, I wish to thank the Council members - members by right, as well as the staff, Mrs. Lise Blais, Project Manager, and Mrs. Diane Dorion, Secretary and Administrative Assistant, in charge of the Montreal Office. Finally, I thank our Spiritual Advisor, Father Lionel Dion, for being present at every meeting and for his very thorough and inspiring spiritual presentations, appreciated by all our Council members.

## Committee Development

Our Council has created a number of committees, namely an Executive Committee, composed of Mr. Michel Olivier, Vice-President, Mr. Jude Bourke, Secretary, and Mr. Claude Roy, Treasurer. I thank them for their commitment. Other committees have also been set up, namely spirituality, communications, stores, etc. Our Council met three times in 2012, and the meetings all took place in Montréal.

## SSVP WEEK

We took the important decision to initiate Harvest Tuesday once again in 2012, an activity during which SSVP beneficiaries and members pick vegetables. Over 100 people participated in the activity that took place in Lotbinière in September 2012, at a farm operated by the Moissonneurs solidaires (Solidarity Harvesters). The results were impressive, with 7,500 lbs. of leeks, 12,000 lbs. of turnips, and 20,000 lbs. of beets, all vegetables harvested with a joyful heart. Throughout the day, smiling faces could be seen all over the immense fields. For some, it was a way to give back, and for others, an opportunity to be together. That activity is part of the SSVP week that took place between September 24 and October 1st, 2012. In addition, the publicity campaign entitled "Ozanam's Dream" will continue in 2013, during the SSVP week to be held between September 22 and 29. That campaign was managed mainly by Mrs. Louise Larivière.

The Women's Central Council of Chicoutimi celebrated the SSVP week in a spirit of wonderful friendship with everyone rejoicing. First of all, most conferences extended à special invitation the population at large, either verbally,

in church bulletins, or by putting up posters in neighbouring stores. Activities took place all week.

## Open Doors

In several stores, during regular opening hours: sweets, cakes, fruit and cheese were served, as well as hot and cold drinks. Everything was generously offered, in the joy of sharing, for everyone's pleasure. Even the children were not forgotten. Several locations also offered apples.

## Flea Markets

A few flea markets were organized in various locations. A particularly large one took place in the La Baie area.

## Booth

We distributed informative pamphlets about SSVP (mission) and services offered in the area. There was a distribution of apples during the day. The Men's Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was also present at the shopping centre on September 26.

## Distribution Of Apples

Thanks to its President, a conference wanted to add an educational twist to its action. The conference offered the primary school, to which it already contributes through the Bonne Mine operation, to distribute free apples to every student (360) and staff. The action also included the distribution of relevant information about the role of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The experience was truly appreciated by the volunteers, as well as the school. A generous donator helped us in purchasing the apples.

## BONNE MINE OPERATION

This provincial program helps children whose parents are going through difficult times, and cannot cover all the costs related to the beginning of the school year, or extracurricular activities.

One of the main objectives of the BONNE MINE operation is to encourage perseverance at school, as well as to give disadvantaged youth an equal opportunity to continue their studies. It also aims to help children develop self-esteem, encourage their integration, and revive their motivation and tenacity. In a wider



# Quebec Regional Council

perspective, the program also aims to be a long-term solution to counter labour-shortage challenge in Quebec. \$250 and \$500 scholarships are given respectively to primary and secondary-level students who have shown perseverance and a will to improve during the year. Those scholarships are awarded according to merit, not academic performance. That recognition system was designed to encourage perseverance at school. Several hundred youths were thus helped all over Quebec in 2012.

## ACTIVE COUNCILS, CONFERENCES AND VINCENTIANS

During 2012-2013, all councils and conferences were very active. Fund-raising activities were organized in various councils, namely in Québec and in Montréal. In Québec, a first fund-raising dinner was organized, during which Frederic Ozanam was introduced – more than 200 people attended the dinner. Montréal organized a traditional HIGH TEA type evening, with 125 people in attendance. A flagship SSVP activity in Québec, the parish and regional-level Guignolée allowed all levels of the SSVP to collect once again food and money to garnish the Christmas hampers. As a result, more than 10,000 Christmas hampers were distributed by SSVP conferences and councils in Québec, in 2012. The Gatineau and Chicoutimi, men's and women's, councils, the Trois-Rivières Particular Council, the St-Jean Council and all other conferences and councils organized numerous activities, for example :

- In St-Jean sur le Richelieu, under the musical direction of Jean Wiedrick, nine men graciously united their mature and deep voices to present a

concert at the St-Gérard church. More than 500 people attended, and more than \$10,000 were thus collected. Among other fund-raising activities, there was a golf tournament and a lobster and seafood dinner.

- In Gatineau, the Mayor's breakfast was once again a great success, allowing the distribution of more than 1000 Christmas hampers to people in need. More than 2,000 people attended that annual breakfast on behalf of needy people.
- In Trois-Rivières, the Particular Council completed the purchase of a new SSVP store and moved into the new premises, located in a former car dealership building. The local is vast, modern and full of windows, providing extraordinary light in the store.
- In Shawinigan, the local conference that covers the entire community continues to maintain exceptional Vincentian activities, such as a food bank and a store, both located in a former church of which ownership was transferred to the local SSVP.
- On June 22, 2012, the St-Luc Conference inaugurated the St-Luc Conference store, located at 55 rue des Échevins, in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, St-Luc sector. Over 40 people gathered for the occasion. Created almost 30 years ago, the St-Luc Conference store occupied premises that had become out-dated, thus the need to relocate. Located in a newly purchased building, offering 4,000 s. ft. of modern and well-designed space, the store serves a clientele composed of several hundred people per week. The store's activities are operated and managed by more than one hundred people, all of them volunteers.

*Ozanam's Dream*  
<http://www.lerevedozanam.com>



The meeting place  
of the Society of



# Quebec Regional Council

- Several other activities and works were undertaken this year by Québec conferences. You are invited to follow up on them, on the web site entitled **LE RÊVE D'OZANAM (OZANAM'S DREAM)**. In order to receive all news updates, please register at <http://www.lerevedozanam.com>.

**Bravo and thank you to all Vincentians for their dedication, perseverance and commitment on behalf of people in need.**

## **A QUÉBEC DELEGATION IN PARIS – APRIL 19-21, 2013**

The Regional Council members voted unanimously to delegate members to represent the councils who entered SSVP promotion projects, during the 2013 winter in Paris, considering that the three presentations were selected for a presentation during the conference in Paris. Thus, From April 19 to 21, 2013, a Québec delegation represented the Quebec Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at the bicentennial of Frederic Ozanam, founder of the Society. Mr. Jean-Marc Vaillancourt, President of the Québec Central Council, as well as Mrs. Lise Boyer, President, and Mrs. Lorraine Bessette, Vice-President, of the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Particular Council, as well as Mrs. Louise Larivière, lead consultant to the Provincial Council, composed that delegation.

Mr. Vaillancourt's presentation introduces the project of the Roulotte Le Marginal – a caravan who meets the youths directly in the streets. Mrs. Boyer and Bessette present the transformation of the Saint-Jean sur le Richelieu Particular Council. In 2007, the council was almost extinct and in 2011, it was inaugurating new

premises and a new structure to serve people in need. Finally, Mrs. Larivière presents the concept “Le Rêve d'Ozanam” (Ozanam's Dream) that inspired the Week of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Quebec, in 2011 and 2012. We heard that the more than 250 people who attended the conference in Paris greatly appreciated the Quebec presentations.

## **THE RECRUITMENT ISSUE**

Several actions and reflections were set forth in order to specify what would come next in terms of encouraging and helping recruitment within the SSVP in Quebec. That issue is identified as the main one for the coming years, an issue towards which we will have to work with vigour and energy. In addition, we will have to stress the fact that all Vincentian cells in Quebec have to provide to higher instances a minimum of statistical data and management information about their group. Finally, the topic of financing for the highest SSVP body in Quebec is a sensitive issue that will have to be specifically addressed in the coming years.

## **THANKS**

I thank you for listening. I wish for all of you Vincentians a good Vincentian continuity and may the spirit of our Blessed Frederic Ozanam guide us and protect needy people in their life, as well as bring them support.

To conclude, we thank the members of the National Council for their commitment during the past years, particularly Mrs. Penny Craig for her energy and values. We also wish a good term, beginning in July, for Mr. Jean-Noël Cormier, and ensure him of our collaboration.

● **Pierre Morissette, President**

**ce of the members and friends  
f Saint Vincent de Paul in Quebec**

# Atlantic Regional Council



People in Atlantic Canada were once again called by Christ to proclaim the Gospel and to be His presence on earth to one another and those in need during the past year. How was this done by the Vincentian family? One could cite the work done by fifty-six conferences and five particular councils consisting of over eight hundred Vincentians served the needy at Christmas and all year long. The wonderful work done by the volunteers of the food bank of Mount Pearl Newfoundland and by Vincentians at St. Leonard's Conference food bank owned and operated by St. Leonard's Conference in New Waterford are also well known to us. Last year two thousand seven hundred and ninety-five persons used the food bank at New Waterford manned by thirty Vincentians giving two thousand six hundred hours of service without pay to our society. What a wonderful service to the needy.

Still you may ask were we visible to the poor and needy. Members from the Glace Bay Particular Council have been visiting the Breton Ability centre since our last meeting. They dance, sing, laugh, and socialize with residents, serving the needy in love, respect justice and joy. In their presence, they experience being 'somebody', persons of interest made by God to share love with others. This involves carrying the cross always.

At St. Peter's conference in St. John's Newfoundland, sixty youthful members work with Mary Queen of the World conference. They provide assistance to the needy of Mount Pearl. St. Peter's provides services to approximately seven hundred families per year with two hundred helped at Christmas. In Dartmouth, Nova Scotia St. Peter's conference holds a dinner for the needy with over six hundred meals served in one afternoon. At Holy Redeemer Society in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island thirty-five Vincentians helped provide furnace oil, food vouchers, groceries, transportation, clothing and help with medical appointments.

Since our last annual meeting I had the opportunity to visit Vincentians in Charlottetown and Sydney and will meet with conferences in Newfoundland soon. The treatment I am receiving is simply wonderful; the creativity shown by the conferences obvious, their love for one another

striking. In April I had the opportunity to attend a retreat put on by The Halifax Particular Council in Spryfield. The retreat lead by Valerie Getson and Sister Pat Wilson of the Sisters of Charity was of personal benefit in a spiritual sense. I hope my new friends in Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton and Newfoundland have an opportunity to attend this workshop which renewed my desire to provide more service and support to the needy and those in my own conference area. The retreat stressed that every day was an the opportunity to serve the poor in love, respect, justice and joy, a theme close to the heart of our principal founder Frederick Ozanam. I recommend you listen to the song 'The Deers Cry, Arise'. These words stay with me.

'I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me, God's eye to look before me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me.'

And from the 'servant song' we sang 'Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you, pray that I may have the grace to let me be your servant too...'

Last year Carol Horne, Maureen MacIssac and friends from the Halifax and Dartmouth Particular Councils joined with Penny Craig and her team to help plan a very successful National Annual meeting held at Saint Mary's University in June. The spirit of cooperation and charity was obvious to everyone. This year a new committee led by the Particular Councils of Glace Bay and North side Cape Breton planned and held a very successful Annual meeting of Atlantic Regional Council held at Cape Breton University May 24-May 26. I thank our Vice President of Cape Breton Laura Young, George MacDougall President of North side Particular Council and Jim Macintyre President of Glace Bay Particular Council for their hard work and attention to detail. They love their work on behalf of the needy and all Vincentians in Atlantic. Lorraine Bartlett with over twenty years of service to the needy and Jim Guilford Treasurer worked closely with the Cape Breton team by encouraging Vincentians to attend this year's meetings and share experiences that will help needy persons in Atlantic Canada shape new directions in service.

Traditions start somewhere. This year our National President Penny Craig and President Elect Jean Noel Cormier gave a joint presentation 'Looking Back, Looking Forward'. This marks the first time a past president and president elect stood on the same podium

# Atlantic Regional Council

in support of our Society. They are sending the message that communication works. They believe our Society has a proud history and that the poor will continue to be served in love respect, justice and joy.

All events took place at Cape Breton University, including a presentation with special reference to the Conference theme by Father Paul Abbass at the opening supper on Friday night and a supper with Father Jake Andrea on Saturday evening. Thank you fathers for sharing your insight with everyone present.

What is remarkable is that although the number of Vincentians providing service is decreasing and an increasing number of persons require service, conferences are reorganizing and finding creative ways to serve the needy and recognize the past service of others. Conferences close and unite with others to feed the hungry, encourage self confidence, and extend the arm of friendship to the poor. That friendship blossoms in Atlantic Canada.

Look at the newly named conference of Amherst Nova Scotia. They have been hit by changes in the economy and the Church. Their response was to send a letter of thanks to David O'Connor and I that read 'We are now Holy Family Conference Amherst. Yeah!! , I received the certificates and pins recognizing years of service already, and I appreciate the assistance received from both of you to speed these to us. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU. President Dorritt Amos and the Vincentians are saying yes to the future and the needy that will always be with them, and one another.

Saying yes to the future inspired our President Jean Noel Cormier to work with those who care for the needy in New Brunswick during the past year. He has visited both Moncton and St. John and his efforts are taken seriously by the friends of our society and the needy.

A plant blooms with water. Under Treasurer James Guilford we were able to meet our financial obligations to National office and assist Conferences in need this year. I want to acknowledge the major donations given to Atlantic region by The Halifax Particular Council, The Newfoundland Particular Council and the Glace Bay and Northside Particular Councils, and the Dartmouth Particular Council. Many isolated conferences also gave generously to Atlantic and National office.

Conferences raised funds in creative ways last year. In Charlottetown passengers aboard cruise ships supported our work through the poor box collection. At St. Clements conference Dartmouth, a supper and Ceileih featuring authentic Irish stews and soda breads raised nine hundred dollars for Saint Vincent de Paul.

## Advocacy

Advocacy is happening at the Particular Council and Conference levels of our Society. The Halifax Particular Council advocacy committee are making presentations to those who are able to help the needy, the Nova Scotia Power Commission, legal aid, Tenants rights organizations, affordable housing groups and senior support organizations. Their leadership is encouraging other conferences to be part of the solution. In Cape Breton, for example members of Particular Council made their presence felt at N. S. Power meetings in Sydney.

## Communications

When I became president, the Presidents of Halifax and Newfoundland Particular councils stressed the need to open lines of communication in Atlantic Canada. Some progress is being made in this area. The installation of a 211 line by the province of Nova Scotia will be helpful. Still the conferences have much to share with one another and Particular Council. I will form a small committee of four persons to set up an Atlantic Canada website for September of this year.

Every year Vincentians celebrate The Feast Day of Saint Vincent de Paul. This work takes time and effort by the organizing committees in all provinces. To those involved thank you for doing a wonderful job in 2012/13

In closing I extend my thanks to President Penny Craig, Jean Noel Cormier, the staff of our National office, the executive of Atlantic Regional Council, Vice president Laura Young of Sydney, Pat Coady of Prince Edward Island, and committee members working on the completion of financial data Jim Guilford, John Rowe, Lorraine Bartlett, the presidents and treasurers of Particular Councils in Atlantic. I also thank Gary Hollett President of St. John the Baptist Isolated Conference for compiling statistical information sent from the fifty-six conferences of Atlantic.

Blessings,

● **Dennis McCormack, President**

# Ontario Regional Council



This past year has been a busy and rewarding one for our Ontario membership. I would like to start by thanking my executive committee for their dedication in the past year. I would also encourage

you to visit our recently revised website

([www.ssvp.on.ca](http://www.ssvp.on.ca)) for information on all

things Vincentian in Ontario.

- Spiritual Advisor-Bishop William McGrattan, Toronto
- Secretary-Geraldine Campbell, Chatham. Geraldine also chairs our Public Relations committee.
- Treasurer-Don Grad, Guelph.

Vice-presidents:

- Mary Grad, Guelph. Mary is also chair of our Communications committee.
- Theresa Riccardi, Toronto. Theresa is interim chair of our Youth committee.
- Jason Hunt, Waterloo. Jason chairs our Youth committee and is currently working in Scotland but returning next year.
- Past president-John Staley, Windsor. John remains active on both our Youth and Prison Ministry committees.
- Senior Advisor-Bernie Hartlin, Kanata (Ottawa)

Committee chairs

- Spirituality-Sister Janine Rocheleau, Windsor
- Twinning-Guido Kelly, Hamilton
- Stores-Phil Bondy, London.
- Formation –Bill Graham, Mississauga.
- Prison Apostolate-Frank Boscarol, Toronto.
- Systemic Change-Jere Hartnett, Burlington
- Voice of the Poor advocacy-Danny Bourne, Toronto.

In addition, our Administrative Assistant-Sarah Davidson, Chatham and John Ketelaars, Webmaster.

It is because of the efforts of these individuals and the support of our councils and conferences across Ontario that we are able to give our friends and neighbours in need a sense of hope that the future will be brighter for all.

## YOUTH

As part of the Year of Faith, the Ontario Regional Council has designated 2013 as the Year of the Young Vincentian. 2013 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Frederic Ozanam, a twenty year old student and founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The Society has been talking about attracting more youth and young adults to our organization for years now and as both Vincent and Frederic were proponents of action, we have decided to do so in regards to this need. I'd like to highlight some of our actions.

Ontario Youth committee. We now have a dynamic and dedicated youth committee, chaired by Jason Hunt. While Jason is in Scotland for another year, Theresa Riccardi is interim chair. Jason is of course very much involved via email. We are pleased to have six youth members on this committee. They are

- Marieke Creese, Waterloo
- Aidan Masterton, Guelph
- Amanda Harte, Val Caron (Sudbury)
- Christina Yeboah, Windsor
- Jacob Matthews, Windsor
- Neil Dixon, London.

In addition, Sister Janine Rocheleau is the spiritual advisor and adult advisors are

- John Staley, Windsor
- Carmela Addante, Waterloo
- Lillian Mulder, London
- Maria Harte, Val Caron

At our recent Ontario Executive committee meeting, we also invited the entire youth committee to join us as a way to emphasize our commitment to youth to both the youth and executive committee. It is our belief that if we are to successfully attract more youth, our older members must remain open and accepting of youth. We need to allow our youth to have a voice in decisions we make and to have the opportunity to bring new ideas to our Society.

## Year of the Young Vincentian

We have contacted all Roman Catholic school boards and dioceses in Ontario regarding youth and have provided them with regular updates on our organization. We have had meetings with several of the school boards and dioceses to discuss what the Society can offer today's



# Ontario Regional Council

youth. Our goal this year is to establish a solid foundation with schools, dioceses and parishes. We have some very useful resource material that we can make available on request. As we increase the awareness of the Society amongst our youth in our schools and parishes, we expect to see a strong interest in becoming members.

Our contact with schools includes high schools and elementary levels. The added feature of our social justice work would also seem to be very attractive to today's youth.

## **World Youth Days**

We will be sending five pilgrims to Brazil for World Youth Days. They are Christina Yeboah, Amanda Harte, Neil Dixon, Jason Hunt and adult advisor Maria Harte.

## **BAM (Best Awesome Meeting)**

We staged our first annual youth BAM weekend last year in London. The youth committee is currently planning this year's BAM event in November. There is a real need to have such an annual event that is planned and presented by and for youth.

Website-Our new website has plans to include such social media topics as Facebook and Twitter.

We hope to have lots of input and assistance from our youth committee in this area.

## **National AGA**

It is always a major issue for youth attendance at our National AGA due to conflicting dates with high school exams or graduations. If we are to encourage more youth to attend national AGA, it may be time to consider if there may be possible solutions to the scheduling difficulties.

## **Youth Information sessions**

We are also collaborating with local councils, diocesan and parish youth ministries to schedule youth information nights. These information nights will be promoted by councils and conferences in addition to parish bulletins and posters sent to high school and elementary school (grades 7 and 8) that will invite students (and parents) to attend the information evening. The success of these sessions this spring will be assessed over the summer, and if successful, will be promoted across Ontario.

## **FORMATION**

Our Ontario training staff under Chairperson Bill Graham, launched the three national training modules as part of our recent Ontario spring meeting (April 20-21<sup>st</sup>) in Cambridge. Bill's team includes Bernie Hartlin, Mike Chomyshyn, Tom Kelly, Gord Jenkinson and Phil Bondy. There will be a series of district presentations of these modules over the spring of this year. All conferences will be requested to send at least two members to their local session with the hope they will return to their home conferences and promote the modules and future training at the council or conference level.

In addition to our support for these national education modules, we shall address the need to re-activate conferences that have been classified as inactive. Over term presidents will be addressed through a positive program that includes a recruitment package along with succession planning.

There are also areas and dioceses of the province that we have few or no conferences. These include the numerous French parishes, especially in northern Ontario. We hope to enlist the aid of one or more bilingual Vincentians to assist with this initiative.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The main focus of this committee has been our new and revised website. The Ontario website has been maintained with the dedicated work of Bernie Hartlin for a number of years, for which we thank Bernie.

In order to make the enhancements we feel are needed, we have been blessed with the addition of our new webmaster, John Ketelaars, a Vincentian from London. John brings years of experience from being a teacher of this subject and his expertise as well as knowledge of the Society has been most welcome.

Mary Grad has performed many hours of service to the website along with the support of Bernie, John and Angela Murdoch. Many thanks to all. Please visit our website ([www.ssvp.on.ca](http://www.ssvp.on.ca)) frequently and look for more enhancements and features in the coming months.

We also wanted to improve communications between Ontario Regional and our membership as well as to the

# Ontario Regional Council

general public. This effort led to establishing our Public Relations committee under Geraldine Campbell. Some of the work of this committee has been the publication of Vincentimes, our quarterly newsletter. Sarah Davidson, our Administrative Assistant has assisted Geraldine in this production. The submission of articles for the VincenPaul magazine is also handled by this committee.

We have also developed a strong relationship with the Catholic Register weekly newspaper and have been the subject of several articles. We have also advertised in the Catholic Register with some success and have an on-going ad on their online digital edition.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

We have included the work of three committees under the umbrella of social justice. These include prison apostolate, systemic change and Voice of the Poor advocacy committees. We're pleased to have Frank Boscariol as the chair of the prison apostolate committee as he brings many years of experience in this area. Our newest committee chair is Danny Bourne, past president of the Toronto central Council. Danny's committee consists of the Toronto advocacy committee which is now also our Ontario advocacy committee. You will find lots of information on our website from Danny's group. Welcome aboard!

Systemic Change continues to be a direction that we emphasize as the best way to address the causes of poverty and hopefully help our friends in need to break the cycle of poverty. Since this committee began its work, we continue to understand the need to educate both our members and the public on the subject if we are to realize the level of success we envision.

In regards to education, the systemic change committee is working on developing this component. The other part that education about systemic change involves is the development and implementation of specific projects which make it much easier for demonstrating the benefits and positive results that systemic change can provide.

Our systemic change committee membership is based in the Halton council area of Ontario and with the full support of the council, has implemented the Canada Learning Bond program as a pilot project. This is an

education savings program which is based on using the Government of Canada RESP program, which makes it an attractive option for conferences across Canada to consider. The government will provide matching funds within the limits of the program.

**Ozanam Education Fund**-This is a program designed to provide funding for applicants from low income families to achieve their goal of obtaining a higher education that may not be available to them due to lack of financial ability. It is a very real injustice that keeps people trapped in poverty when they have the ambition and ability to reach a higher level of education.

Both of these education related programs also provide families with something they seldom experience....Hope for a better future for themselves and their families. Since this program was introduced last fall, we have assisted five applicants further their education and have several more applications under review. The average amount of education grants has been about \$2,000.00. The local sponsoring council or conference is also asked to maintain an active relationship with the student and their families and provide assistance as required. There is information on these programs on our website or you can contact Jere Hartnett at [jhartnett@cogeco.ca](mailto:jhartnett@cogeco.ca)

## **STORES**

Phil Bondy has continued to place a priority on improved communications between himself and all stores. Our revised website is certainly a viable method to do this and Phil is making abundant use of it. Phil has also made store visits an important part of his role as chair of our store committee. Phil also initiated a store employee benefit package that three stores have adopted to this date. It is hoped more stores will consider a benefit package for their staff.

## **TWINNING**

Guido Kelly has seen some positive result in the number of conferences that have joined the twinning program. While there has been an increase in the number of conferences that now have twins in Ontario, we look forward to further increases in the coming year. Twinning provides a great example of the worldwide network of charity envisioned by Ozanam.

## SPIRITUALITY

Sister Janine Rocheleau has made a very positive impact on the visible display of our spirituality. This has been demonstrated by her reflection at the beginning of our regional meetings. The focus on what make us true disciples of Jesus as we begin our meetings helps us to maintain that same focus throughout the day. We are still working at increasing the number of active spiritual advisors at councils and conferences and a pilot project in this regards in the Windsor Essex area has seen some positive results. This project has targeted presidents and emphasizes the need for also having active spiritual advisors at all levels of the Society.

## SUMMARY

In closing I would like to extend best wishes to Penny Craig as her term as national president concludes and to Jean Noel Cormier as our incoming national president. Please join us in our prayers for both Penny and Jean Noel.

I would encourage you to remember Frederic Ozanam, our founder, by keeping our focus on our mission and values. I don't believe there is any limit to what we can achieve if we keep our uniquely Vincentian spirituality as the essential ingredient of all of our works of charity and social justice.

I have had the opportunity to visit many councils and members across Ontario and greet many more at our various meetings across the province. There is nothing that inspires me more than to witness the sincere dedication of our members that is so visible in their works of charity and social justice.

### ● Jim Paddon, President

One way of helping those in need is to provide an opportunity for children to attend camp. There are three SSVP camps in Ontario where children can have a week of experiencing the great out doors and interacting with other children. In many cases this week remains with them as a highlight for the rest of their lives.





# Western Regional Council



My first year as Regional President has presented many challenges. So many needs have been identified. These all require action with new initiatives and solutions. Fortunately we are all strengthened by the Spirituality that Vincentians experience daily when we gather with others to do our “works”. We are additionally strengthened when we attend our Conference meetings and reflect, as one Vincentian Family on the reasons why we are members of this Society. We are fortunate to have annual spirituality programs offered in the Western Region. Calgary’s retreat “Fullness of Life” held at Mount St. Francis and Edmonton’s Annual Training Day offer Spirituality workshops. These sessions continue to provide members of our Society the strength to meet the challenges of helping those in our community that are living in poverty.

The two primary goals in 2012 were Communications and Development. These same goals are also shared with our Society’s National Strategic Plan. Status of both of these is highlighted below.

## Communications

In appreciation of the distance required to cover 1500 km east from Edmonton, as well as 2000 km north and 500 km south, it has been and will continue to be a challenge to share with Vincentians in the Western Region. Fortunately Edmonton is a centre of Health Services for many of Canada’s northern Communities and this has presented opportunity to meet members of the Society as they travel to and through the Edmonton area.

Travel costs will continue to be a constraint in the formation of new Conferences. We have found a few alternatives.

1. A new website [www.ssvpwrc.ca](http://www.ssvpwrc.ca) which was designed as a blogging/bulletin board site has worked to some extent in sharing Society news to both our members and non members. The content will continue to focus on the Vincentian – sharing their stories and best practices.

2. Through the generous donation by Network Telsys of Calgary, conference calls continue to be the method of necessity for the Regional Board members, the Regional Committee members and several Conference Committee members to increase both communications as well as expedite action plans. One training program last year did use the conference calling method with success. Web broadcasting has been tried experimentally and offers a great opportunity for training at a low cost. We must learn how to bring training into the home of our Vincentians.

## Development

New Conference formation is active. The opportunity for strong Conferences to mentor the start up of the new Conferences has been successful. Currently the mentoring partners are:

- St Albert - Slave Lake,
- Good Shepherd - Spruce Grove,
- Divine Mercy - St Joseph’s College at the U of A
- St Joseph’s (Tuktoyaktuk) - Paulatuk

We need more strong Conferences to offer experienced Vincentians to be available to mentor start up efforts in Fort Smith, Hay River, Airdrie, and Banff/Canmore.

We are currently looking for a Conference to mentor our existing Mary Immaculate Conference in Gjoa Haven, Nunavut. Vincentians in Gjoa Haven are asking for our help. They want our guidance and strength for revitalization.

Particular Council formation is being considered for the Isolated Conferences East of Calgary. Over a longer term, a new Particular Council for North of 60 as well as one for central Alberta will be needed.

Regina has an active Conference with the potential for growth in that city and Prince Albert continues to have a strong group of Vincentians. However we have had no success in the development of SSVP in Saskatoon or in other areas of Saskatchewan. If you can help us get started then please provide us contact information.

Manitoba has several Parish driven SSVP assemblies that are collecting money and servicing their communities however these Parish assemblies are not recognizing



# Western Regional Council

our Regional Council or the National Society Rule. Discussions will continue with these groups through the efforts of a great group of Vincentians at St Timothy's Conference in Winnipeg.

Calgary Central Council is active with development of a Strategic Plan that will assist Vincentians in their focus of working with those living in poverty.

## Training

A training program for Conference Treasurers was delivered in November 2012 via a conference call to more than half of the regional treasurers and their delegates. Email notes and follow up questions to the one hour presentations provided additional learning. The summary is noted at [www.ssvpwrcc.ca](http://www.ssvpwrcc.ca). The consensus was that both content and delivery was a great success.

The Edmonton Council developed a Recruiting/Retaining Tool Box for their Conferences. This has been shared with Vincentians in Winnipeg to satisfy their expressed need for help in the strategic objective of building membership in our Society.

## Client Data Base

About 12 years ago members of the Calgary Central Council developed a Client Data Base that is now used by Conferences in the Western Region as well as a few across Canada. For technical reasons this program can no longer be maintained. A new Microsoft based version of the same data base has been developed and it is in testing at both the Divine Mercy and Good Shepherd Conferences. A national initiative may be required to provide a "best practice" Client Data Base product to Conferences across the country.

## North of 60

The project continues with the expectation of shipping by barge a 20 ft steel container loaded with emergency food, clothing and other needed items (sewing machines are needed) to each of Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk and Gjoa Haven in June of this year.

Promotion of the need to assist those living in poverty in Canada's far north is needed. The article in the winter 2013 issue of Vincenpaul-Canada as well as some CBC footage reporting on the hunger in Paulatuk, NWT made

some Canadians aware. Parishioners at Lady of Lourdes Parish in Kelowna B.C. rallied and organized a successful food shipment for a cost of \$2000. God bless them for helping. Promotion, awareness and money are needed to continue these initiatives.

Additionally a SSVP Vehicle and Driver Training Program was initiated in Tuktoyaktuk with the assistance of the RCMP and Aurora College. This program will prepare the youth in the North for future job opportunities. An annuity fund is being set up to finance this systemic change program in memory of Eileen Orysiuk, a founding member of SSVP in Edmonton who died earlier this year.

## Prison Ministry

Calgary has a few Vincentians active in this Ministry and Edmonton is in the formation stage with several Vincentians stepping up to develop a strategy. There is much more required by our Society in the Western Region to work effectively in this Ministry.

## Youth

Calgary continues to grow their Youth Program. An application for Aggregation of a new Conference has been submitted for St. Francis Calgary Youth Conference. These young Vincentians are raising funds to attend the National AGA/AGM in Ottawa. Credit goes to the energy and experience of our Regional Youth Coordinator, Connie MacKenzie. Edmonton is focused on the Formation of a Conference at St Joseph's College at the University of Alberta. It has been exciting to see university Youth so active. These Vincentians have been doing home visits since last fall and are working with strong mentorship from Vincentians at Divine Mercy Conference. One of these Vincentians is raising funds to attend FamVin in Brazil this year.

## Collaboration

Conferences and Councils are encouraged to work in collaboration with neighbourhood and city wide organizations, both faith and secular based groups, to reduce duplication and increase the effectiveness of serving those who are in need.

Calgary Vincentians has been very successful working in harmony with Food N More, a low cost city sponsored food purchase program; the Alice Bissett Centre, a

# Western Regional Council

residential program for elderly in need; as well as the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative.

SSVP in Edmonton is active with the Capital Region Interfaith Initiative on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. They work with FIND, a social enterprise initiative of Homeward Trust that offers quality low cost used furniture to clients. Collaboration is also growing with Edmonton's Catholic Social Services through both referrals and assistance in consulting some of the most difficult situations that Home Visitors encounter. Vincentians in Edmonton operate a Distribution Centre and a fleet of trucks that are used city wide to pick up and deliver furniture, clothing, bedding and food to those friends that are identified by the Home Visitors.

Vincentians in Prince Albert Saskatchewan continue to operate their Centre and Workshop repairing and building furniture for distribution to those in need.

At St Timothy's Conference in Winnipeg, negotiations have started with Harvest Foods, a non-profit, community based organization that is a food distribution centre.

## Promotion/Fund Raising

Prince Albert raised \$5000 with a SSVP Dinner event. Yellowknife raised \$3000 with a Curling program and Edmonton Archdiocese put on a gala that raised \$130,000 split between Edmonton SSVP and the Diocese of Mackenzie – Fort Smith. The video Serving in Hope is available for all to see at [www.vimeo.com/52731023](http://www.vimeo.com/52731023).

Calgary Central Council has been involved with an approx. \$500,000 grant program for training through the Government of Canada's Social Partnerships Strategy.

## Twinning

The TriCycle Project requires financial support for the purchase of 25 units to be purchased directly from the factory in Dominican Republic at a cost of approx \$6500. This is a continuation of our micro loans project that will enable local Dominicans to operate small businesses.

● **Peter Ouellette, President**



**Ozanam Day with Calgary Central Council**  
A day of Prayer, Sacrament and Education at Our Lady of Grace Church.



**Some Members of the Edmonton Council Building Committee: Max Wan, John Chin, Daryl Dittich and Bernie McCracken.**



**The SSVP Edmonton Distribution Centre**  
Local hotels have been a great source of beds, bedding and furniture



**The Chapel at St Joseph's College, University of Alberta**  
A new Conference in the making

# BC & Yukon Regional Council

## Board

Board members include Nora Criss, President, Bill Yule, Vice President; Minette Gomez, Secretary and Bill Clendinning, Treasurer.

## Communication

The website is still a work in progress and we thank Victoria for their patience.

## Extension/Training & Education

Our Lady of Lourdes in West Kelowna has been working for a year now with Dana Webster as the President. The conference is submitting their aggregation papers as well as their CRA application.

Watson Lake in the Yukon Diocese has requested establishing SSVP in the diocese. Due to illness, the President was unable to make the trip. We are restructuring Extension and Training to begin a 'Cascade' type program.

## Spirituality

The Regional Council is still seeking a Spiritual Advisor. Each area in the Province celebrated the Feast days in September with masses or 1/2 day retreats. Twenty-two members attended a wonderful retreat led by Fr. Ignacious at the Retreat House in Cache Creek September 28-30. We are planning our 2013 Annual Retreat for September 27- 29 at Immaculate Heart Shrine & Centre Cache Creek. Vancouver Central Council will hold a half-day of Reflection on Sept. 15 to acknowledge both feast days.

## Prince George & Mackenzie Isolated Conferences (Northern BC)

Prince George continues to perform extraordinary ministry in the downtown area. Mackenzie has received their CRA charity number and operates a very busy food cupboard with participation of the whole community.

## Kamloops & Williams Lake Isolated Conferences

Kamloops operates a Thrift Store, drop in centre, and Out of the Cold shelter and continue to answer the needs of the area. Sacred Heart of Williams Lake continue their Lunch in the Park program on Sunday afternoons and have now received their aggregation papers as well as their Charity Registration. Lynn Paterson and her dedicated team of Vincentians continue their work in this isolated area.

## Okanagan Valley PC Area

6 conferences (5 in Kelowna and 1 in Penticton) conduct home visits and facilitate Ozanam House for men recovering from substance abuse. Our Lady of Lourdes has just completed its first year and is applying for Aggregation.



## Vancouver Central Council Area

The Central Council consists of 24 conferences and 3 Particular Councils. Two Thrift Stores, Outreach to Downtown Eastside three times a week, all serviced by volunteers. President Ivan Douglas continues to dialogue with youth members to form a Youth Conference under the guidance of Shane Nossel (Vancouver Particular Council President). East-West Fraser Particular Council continues unified action to relieve the suffering of those living in poverty in Surrey, Richmond and Abbotsford. Vancouver Central has begun the process of setting up a Youth/Young Adult Conference. St. Patrick's conference in Vancouver held a fundraiser to aid the Eastside Outreach in September and raised over \$13,000 in donations, raffles and profits to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SSVP in BC.

## Victoria & Northern Vancouver Island PC Areas

There are 11 active conferences within these two Particular Councils. Victoria Particular Council filled over 24,675 requests for emergency assistance through the Social Concern Program, operates a Housing Program for hard to house tenants as well as those individuals on limited incomes. The Frederic Ozanam Program provides care of for adults with physical and mental disabilities. Victoria Particular Council operates 5 Retail Thrift Stores; Provides a work training program; a women's day program; a family support program; life skills training; a free income tax assistance program; and advocates for those in need. 318 volunteers provided 32,520 hours of labour during 2012.

Island Catholic School students joined our Society and Farm Credit Canada to raise awareness for those in need by walking on World Food Day. More info can be found on the Victoria website: [www.svdpvictoria.com](http://www.svdpvictoria.com). Victoria members discussed their Strategic Plan in depth at their 2013 AGM. Results will be posted to their website shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

● Nora Criss, President

# BC & Yukon Regional Council

## BC & Yukon Statistics:

Central Councils	1
Particular Councils	6
Non instituted Particular Councils	0
Number of Aggregated Conferences	41
Number of Non Aggregated Conferences	2
Number of Inactive Conferences	24
Number of Homes visited	2,730
Number of visit to these homes	5,880
Number of adults served	3,593
Number of children served	2,716
Number of visits to sick home/hospitals/ homes for aged	1,759
Number of friendly visits to persons	1,334
Prison Ministry visits	1,650
Men 1.650 Women 0	

## Conference membership

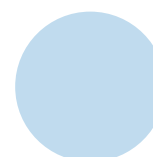
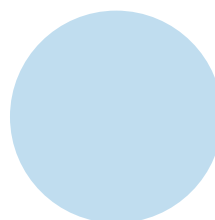
Number of full members (age 36)	447
Number of young adult members (18-35)	12
Total number ( includes screening)	459
Number of youth members	10
Number of auxiliary members	165
Spiritual Advisor Yes 17 No 5 Unknown 21	
Store	8
Outlets	1
Soup kitchens	2
Food Banks	3
Drop in Centres	1
Housing	1
Shelters	2

Special works: Christmas Dinners, Senior Dinners,  
Outreach truck of Sandwiches to street

Twinning: 10 outside & 1 inside Canada

## Financial

Receipts:	\$5,143,966
Total Assets:	\$9,386,075
Disbursements:	\$4,992,270
Total Liabilities:	\$5,248,150
Surplus:	\$151,695
Total Liabilities & Surplus:	\$9,421,921





# Emergency Relief Committees

## INTERNATIONAL

The Committee has responsibility to respond to and track requests for financial assistance from the International Council General (ICG) and national councils outside Canada as a result of natural disasters and catastrophes of all kinds.

### Haiti

During this fiscal year the Committee continued to send funds to the National Council of Haiti to help the victims of the January 2010 earthquake. As well, Hurricane Sandy ravaged Haiti in October 2012. Five inter-bank transfers of funds were made to the National Council of Haiti during the period. All transfers were acknowledged by the National Council of Haiti and reports on the use of the funds were received. As per previous agreement all funds are equally distributed between the National Council and the four regional councils in Haiti, except otherwise specified in the transfer. A total of \$11,350.00 in emergency funds was sent to Haiti during the fiscal year. The balance in the emergency fund for Haiti amounted to \$110,970.60 on March 31, 2013.

**Horn of Africa** (drought, regional conflicts and refugees in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia))

A sum of \$8,500.00 was received by the National Council and forwarded to the International Council General in November 2012.

**Holy Land – Jerusalem** (assisting local conference assisting the poor under difficult conditions)

A sum of \$1,250.00 collected in the British Columbia and Yukon region was forwarded to the International Council General in November 2012.

**Famine in the Sahel region of Africa** (severe drought and famine: Senegal, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Gambia, Niger, North Cameroon).

The National Council received \$500.00, which it forwarded to the International Council General in November 2012.

**Typhoon Pablo (Bopha)** (hit the island of Mindanao, Philippines on December 4, 2012, causing an estimated 12,000 deaths and 2.6 million survivors were affected by it).

The National Council received \$1,000.00 from a conference in Surrey, British Columbia. The donation

was forwarded to the International Council General in March 2013.

**Hurricane Sandy** (ravaged eastern Caribbean islands and Atlantic seaboard of the USA in October 2012)



The National Council forward to the US Council in January 2013 a cheque in the amount of \$21,115.00 as a result collections received from the Ontario region. As well, \$500.00 was sent to the National Council of the Dominican Republic, via an inter-bank transfer, after a request for help by this council after Sandy ravaged the southern part of the country. The National Council of Canada also provided assistance after Sandy to the National Council of Haiti via an inter-bank transfer in the amount of \$1,000.00 (included in transfers above for Haiti) in November 2012.

Conferences and councils responded with generosity and demonstrated their solidarity with the victims of natural disasters and other human tragedies that occurred this past year. As a general policy on international relief assistance, the National Council considers first those countries with which Canada has twinning arrangements, then other countries in the Southern hemisphere. In the case of a major disaster or calamity in other regions of the world, the National President can launch an appeal to conferences and councils if asked by the International General Council.

The balance in the International Emergency Relief Fund was \$137,977.00 on March 31, 2013.

● **Clermont Fortin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Chairperson**

## NATIONAL

The Committee did not receive any request for assistance during the fiscal year. There was \$127,712.00 in the reserve fund as of March 31, 2013.

● **Clermont Fortin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Chairperson**

# Voice of the Poor Committee

Members of the Committee were involved in various activities this past year. The Committee continued to be a member of a major national social justice organization. The Chair wrote a few letters to Cabinet Ministers and members of parliament on the position of the Society on proposed legislation tabled in the House of Commons or the Senate related to socio-economic matters. The Chair also gave a presentation at the Annual General Assembly in June 2012 on a Systemic Change issue. The Chair continued to exchange information and collaborate with Vincentians involved in Systemic Change and Advocacy activities at the regional level. The Society is gradually accepting and integrating Advocacy and Systemic Change as part of its core mission, as members realize that charity alone is not enough to help those living in poverty.

The Committee continued its involvement with the *Citizen for Public Justice, Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty-Free Canada (CPJ)* during the past year. The CPC is dedicated to eradicating poverty in Canada according to a Christian approach. The Committee Chair participated in CPJ activities throughout the year.

The Committee wrote a few letters to federal Cabinet ministers, leaders of the Opposition and other members of parliament to oppose or support proposed Bills (e.g.: C-400). The Chair wrote a couple of articles for publication in the Society's magazine and web site on topics related to poverty issues in Canada. The Chair gave a bilingual Power Point Presentation at the Annual General Assembly held in June 2012 at St Mary's University, Halifax, NS on the subject of microcredit lending, *The Pay Day Loans Business*. The Committee also supported regional activities and projects related to Systemic Change and Advocacy issues.

The Committee continued to learn about both Systemic Change and Advocacy and to expand the scope of its activities in both fields. The prayers and cooperation of all Vincentians are needed for this most important mission.

● **Clermont Fortin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Chairperson**

# Human Resources Committee

The National Council employs two part-time Administrative Assistants to perform clerical, administrative and publishing duties. **Mrs. Nicole Schryburt** works from her home in Longueuil, Québec while **Mrs. Josée Lemieux** works at the National Office in Ottawa, Ontario. At the end of the fiscal year, both employees cumulated 38 hours a week. This is the same number of hours as reported at the end the previous fiscal year.

Both employees are working at a fully satisfactory level and received training appropriate to their duties.

I wish to thank both employees for their dedication and initiative this past year. They are very important members of the National team.

● **Clermont Fortin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Chairperson**



# Property Management Committee

This Committee is charged with overseeing as well as formulating procedures and long range plans for maintaining and improving the National Council Office property, structures and equipment.

The property, located in Ottawa, Ontario, was purchased in June 2009. The structures include a furnished bungalow-type residence and an adjoining one story structure with a two-door garage and one bedroom apartment. The main building is used by the National Council as office space and for meeting and residential purposes. The garage and apartment are currently rented under lease agreements. The large lot can accommodate 5 parking spaces. At the end of the fiscal year, one parking space was rented long term while other parking spaces had been rented for a few months this past year. Total revenue from leasing was \$10,125.00 during the period.

The National Council contracted a mortgage to purchase the property and the balance on the capital amounted to \$210,289.00 on March 31, 2013. Mortgage payments (capital + interests) amount to \$16,085.00 annually. As the property belongs to and serves all Canadian Vincentians, councils and conferences are being asked to help in paying down the mortgage as this is a major expenditure for the National Council. No contribution by conferences and councils was made during the 2012-2013 period.

Expenditures related to maintenance and repairs amounted to \$4,500.00. The renovation of the shower in the apartment was the main expenditure.

The property meets National Council administrative needs. As well, it is cost effective as it generates revenue, is appreciating in value and Vincentians visiting the National Capital Region for meetings can stay at the house. Local conferences and councils also use the premises for meetings.

● **Clermont Fortin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Chairperson**

# Finance Committee

Dear brothers and sisters,

You know that the \$240 annual contribution has always been an essential element for the National Council of Canada to pursue its mission. Most conferences and councils send the requested amount, and sometimes even more.



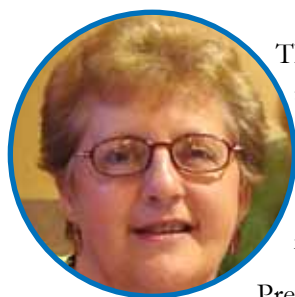
However, the total amount received is not sufficient to cover continuous increases in expenditures, and to continue working and providing all expected services. As you know, the \$240 amount has been the same since 2004, and with the passing of the years, new committees have been created: education, stores, public relations, and advocacy. We also believe that it is essential to support the Council General International of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul by sending annually a reasonable financial contribution.

Following the preparation of the 2013-14 budget, we came to the conclusion that the contribution should be increased at \$260, in order to meet the operating needs of the National Council of Canada.

The Finance Committee, composed of the National President, Penny Craig, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Clermont Fortin, Treasurer Germain Souigny, Chartered Accountant François Dufault, and myself, wish to thank all members from councils and conferences for their support and commitment to our Society.

● **Marcel Tremblay, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Chairperson**

# Strategic Planning Committee



The idea of a strategic plan began at the 2002 AGA with the establishment of nine issues. In 2005 the strategic planning committee identified three new issues.

Presented here is an overview of these issues.

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Strategic issue:** The National Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada does not have a clearly defined, understood and communicated mission statement for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada.

**Progress report:** In 2004 the national board of directors completed our mission statement and this is no longer part of our strategic plan.

## SPIRITUALLY OF THE SOCIETY

**Strategic issue:** There is insufficient observable evidence of spirituality within the Society.

**Progress report:** In 2008 a national spirituality committee was formed. Their articles in Vincenpaul magazine and on the national website have opened up the possibility for many Vincentians to read and use the material for themselves and for their conferences. The committee has also developed a handbook for spiritual advisers. This is a good start but the development of a deeper spirituality within the Society continues to be an ongoing process.

## 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 continues to be a work in progress. The first Educational module, "Orientation and renewal" has been developed. A train-the-trainer manual has been developed and a

national workshop for Vincentians was held to train them in the use of this method and also to train them in the use of our module, "Orientation and Renewal". Further modules are being developed.

## 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. A public relations and media strategy is being developed. The National president is in the process of forming a standing committee to address this issue that will develop strategies and tools to assist all councils. On-going.

## ADMINISTRATION

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

**Progress report:** There are now two administrative assistants for National; One working out of the Ottawa office and the other working from home. Their level of competency can only help to improve administrative efficiency.

## ADVOCACY

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

**Progress report:** A national advocacy committee was developed which established National Advocacy guidelines. This document should be used at all levels in Canada. A workshop was held for the regions across Canada to set guidelines as Conferences and Councils put in place their own Advocacy Committees.

Voice of the Poor committee formed 2006. We now have written guidelines that can be found on our website to assist and educate members. In addition, there is a strong emphasis on Systemic Change.



# Strategic Planning Committee

## COMMUNICATION

**Strategic Issue:** There is an overall lack of communication and collaboration within and among all levels of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

**Progress report:** The creation of the Vincenpaul magazine and our national website has been a help. Effective Communication, however, among all levels still continues to be very much a work in progress.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Strategic Issue:** Membership in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is declining.

**Progress report:** This is the responsibility of all conferences and councils and is an ongoing issue.

## AGE OF MEMBERSHIP

**Strategic Issue:** The present Vincentian population/membership is aging.

**Progress report:** This is the responsibility of all conferences and councils and is an ongoing issue.

## FINANCIAL

**Strategic Issue:** The defined Rule for the flow of funds is not being followed by all levels within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

**Progress report:** In 2004 the annual amount for all conferences and councils to pass up to national was set at \$240. Still not all comply with this. The issue is ongoing.

## CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

### Strategic Issue:

- a. There are no guidelines for Conferences when parishes close.
- b. There are parishes where the clergy are not supportive of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

### Progress report:

- a. Completed –Policy ADM PR002-church closing. The result will include the removal of the conference from our listings.
- b. This is ongoing and still requires much work.

## SUMMARY

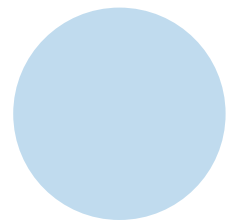
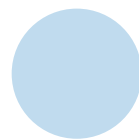
Committees for Training, Public relations/Media, Administration, Spirituality, Stores and Advocacy are established. The identified issues are now either in the process of completion or completed. The National Strategic Committee will look at other issues and directions to work on. One issue that often arises is the need for good communication within the Society. Another need is to reaffirm a greater Vincentian spirituality throughout the society. These are definitely areas we can all work on.

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

- Bill Clennding, BC Region
- Tony L'Heureux, Western Region
- Peter Ouellette, Western Region
- Jim Paddon, Ontario
- Jean-Claude Bienvenue, Quebec
- Fr. Joseph Quinn, CSB, Spiritual Advisor

Yours in Christ,

● Carol Horne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Chairperson



# Education/Formation Committee

The National education committee was established by the current National President, to meet one of the identified issues of the Strategic Planning report, this being the lack of coordinated training and materials at the national level. The committee has spent its time developing a national training manual, available throughout Canada. The format of manual is much like a “bible”, in that it will contain many modules. Entwined in this manual we will continue to have practicable and spiritual components very much in keeping with Frederic’s vision.

The committee developed a train-the-trainer manual [TNT]. Last year a workshop was held and Vincentians from across Canada were trained in this method. They also received training on using our first module, “Orientations & Renewal”. They are now back in their regions working with other Vincentians. As new material is developed it will be forwarded to them to be included in their training manual.

The committee has completed a recruitment module for adults. The committee was asked to look at developing a recruitment module for youth. In doing this it became apparent that what was needed was a full manual for youth, one that contained both recruitment and starting a youth conference. The committee is currently working on such a manual. Currently in development are booklets for President’s, and the executive.

The committee continues to meet three times throughout the year, always the day before our National AGA and twice a year for long weekends. In our coming together we have found that Mississauga is the most central for all of us to meet.

The committee members are a group of dedicated, passionate, keen and trained people. It continues to be a pleasure to work with them. We continue to develop materials by phone, email and face to face meetings. Special thanks as always to Shirley Graham, whose generous spirit and warm hospitality enriches us as we work in Mississauga.

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
- Michel Olivier, Quebec
- Fr. Joe Quinn CBS, Spiritual Advisor

Yours in Christ,

● **Carol Horne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Chairperson**



# Spirituality Committee

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my final annual report for the Spirituality Committee. It has been an honor to be a part of this committee and to work with such wonderful people who are committed to the Gospel call to serve His poor. Currently the members of the committee are our National President (ex-officio), Monsignor Peter Schonenbach, Father Joe Quinn, Ellen Schryburt and myself, Maureen MacIsaac. A special thanks you to former members Yvon Bussi res and Pat Bennetto and also our beloved Monsignor Andre Drouin who passed away last year.

I would like to begin by thanking our National President, Penny for her overwhelming support. Perry took the matter seriously when she heard from Vincentians that there was not sufficient emphasis placed on the spiritual importance of the work we do and was determined to respond. Penny took the work of the committee very seriously as did the members she appointed to carry out the task of helping all of us realize that we cannot do His work unless we do it, in payer, with Him.

The role of the committee is to “promote the enhancement and spiritual development of all Vincentians”. Throughout our appointed term, there have been a number of ways that we have tried to address this by trying to provide materials that would guide all of us to become more centered in Him who will lead us to where He wants us to be.

At the National Board meeting, the Spirituality Committee works with the Board to determine the theme for the AGA. In addition, the committee works with the Host committee to prepare the spiritual program, develop the theme, plan the liturgies and suggest topics for workshops as well as facilitate workshops and to host the Spiritual Advisors luncheon.

Articles are written by committee members for the magazine as well as a monthly reflection for the website. Each month, the number of members who access the web for the reflection, is increasing. For the year 2011, there were an average of 164 “hits” per month and 2012 the average number was 193 “hits”.

The committee has prepared a Memorial Service for our National AGA closing Mass as well as an Installation Ceremony for Spiritual Advisors. The committee was delighted that the first time the Ceremony was implemented was to install our own committee member, Monsignor Peter Schonenbach.



The committee updated the Role of the Spiritual Advisor’s Handbook which was initially written by Father Jean Picher.

In closing, I wish to thank all the members of the committee for their dedication and hard work. Their love of the Society and of one another shows through at all our meetings. I also want to thank Penny and all the National Board members as well as Nicole and Jos e for all their hard work. Our Society is blessed that He has given us such wonderful people to serve on the National level. I would also like to thank all who have responded to His call to serve His people. We all are blessed that He has asked us to be His heart, His hands, His Voice, His feet and His love. What a wonderful gift He has given us! We are indeed blessed.

Respectfully Submitted,

● **Maureen MacIsaac, Chairperson**



Installation of Msgr. Peter Schonenbach,  
National Spiritual Advisor

# Twinning Committee



Twinning is a work of the Society that enables us to fulfill our mission of serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. Twinning is characterized by spiritual bouquets, transfer of funds for the works of our twin by their members, and vitally, correspondence between twins.

As your National Twinning Chairperson, I have been honored to help many members to do this work. Our efforts have been to provide the structural items like pamphlets, flyers, a manual, policy changes, e-mail addresses of [twinning-chair@ssvp.ca](mailto:twinning-chair@ssvp.ca) and [twinning@ssvp.ca](mailto:twinning@ssvp.ca), and forms like the External Twinning Agreement to comply with expectations of CRA, and the twinning receipts for our international partners; to provide the communication to mainly support correspondence; and to encourage and possibly inspire twinning as a work of your Conference or Council. One plan that I did not complete was a training module about twinning.

This is my last report for the Annual Report after 12 years of assisting members and international representatives in the work of twinning by Canadian members.

The following people help you with twinning:

- Kathy Weswick, Canadian Twinning Chairperson
- Nicole Schryburt, Administrative Assistant, Twinning Responsibilities
- Shirley MacKinnon, Atlantic Regional Twinning Chairperson
- Claude Roy, Quebec Regional Twinning Chairperson
- Guido Kelly, Ontario Regional Twinning Chairperson
- Franki Luke, Western Regional Twinning Chairperson
- Nora Criss, Regional President and BC and Yukon Regional Twinning Chairperson

In the last six years, we have maintained the submission of articles to the Vincenpaul magazine, on such topics as *Tips on Writing to Your Twin*, *Help Us Find the Poor in Canada (Internal Twinning)*, and *What Happens to our Twinning Funds*. We have had some success in the development of projects, and the young adults have been **very active** in

the “Pencil Project” where school supplies are collected and shipped to the Society in Central American countries. I have reported regularly to the Board and annually to the National Council. I have represented you in writing and in person to our international partners. This has been a particular pleasure of mine, as I have had many friendly and prompt responses to communication, and count a couple of twinning representatives as friends. Our communication and coordination with International Council General has improved, with the development of the Twinning Commission Representative for our hemisphere, who is Carmela Addante.

We have 85 active twins, and have transferred \$82,696 to our twins in 19 countries this past year.

## Twinning applications from our twinned countries

We currently hold **35 International twinning applications** for the following designated countries of our Canadian Twinning Policy TW001:

- **Peru** (1 Conference and the National Council)
- **Dominican Republic** (11 Conferences)
- **Nicaragua** (6, but we do not have their aggregation dates)
- **Haiti** (4)
- **Colombia** (18, with 7 Conferences, 3 Particular Councils, 1 Central Councils, 5 Departmental Councils, and 2 Zonal Councils)

The twinning application form is available on our National website to download and print, at: [www.ssvp.ca/forms](http://www.ssvp.ca/forms).

Expressions of gratitude are not normally a part of a report, but I hope that you will indulge me. As stated in the twinning newsletter this year, my family – my husband and son, my sisters, brothers and in-laws, find ways to encourage and support me, and I could not volunteer without them with me. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve members, grateful to those who enlisted me – our past two National presidents, to those who walk with me like our Executive Assistant, Nicole Schryburt, who has been pivotal in our ability to twin, and the Board and Regional Twinning Chairpersons, and to those who maintain twinning, like our twinning contact persons, and the international members who work along with us. I am



# Youth Committee

grateful to you, dear members, who love God through your love of the poor. So I again say,

Thank you very much.

I wish my successor the same sense of satisfaction and pleasure that I have experienced in helping you, and every success in inspiring and supporting your work of twinning in the future.

Together in Christ,

● **Kathy Weswick, Chairperson**



Cooking for the poor, in Haiti



Sewing lessons, in Haiti

It is a pleasure to present my last annual report as Youth Representative to the SSVP National Council. The last six years spent with the active and inspiring team of the National Council allowed me to be aware of young volunteers' concerns, and to enhance the presence of youths within our organization.



## Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship

Since 2011, the Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship rewards the work of young Vincentians who have to juggle studies, social life, and volunteering. After highlighting the work of Adam Roath, and then of Adam Keating, the National Council will be proud to award the third \$1000 scholarship at the 2013 AGA.

## World Youth Days

After enjoying participating and acquiring much experience at the 2011 WYD in Madrid with the Canadian delegation, it was already time for me to start working on preparing the 2013 WYD in Rio de Janeiro. In order to financially help the young Canadian Vincentians wishing to attend, the National Council is organizing two events. The Sleepwalk and Michael's Dinner are two financing activities that will take place during the 2013 AGA, in Ottawa. All profits collected will finance the Canadian pilgrims' trip to Rio.

The Rio de Janeiro WYD will take place from July 23 to 28, right after FamVin taking place from July 18 to 21.

## Twinning with Guatemala

For many years, youth conferences in Ontario have been keeping afloat an ambitious twinning project with Guatemala. Unfortunately, activities had to be suspended, since the South-American group is not reachable anymore.

## End of a term

It is now time for goodbyes. In spite of some "departure anguish", I am sure that the person who will take over as youth representative will have all the skills and aptitudes necessary to meet the challenges ahead. I am stepping down and tipping my hat to you, brothers and sisters, who give all your heart for a common cause.

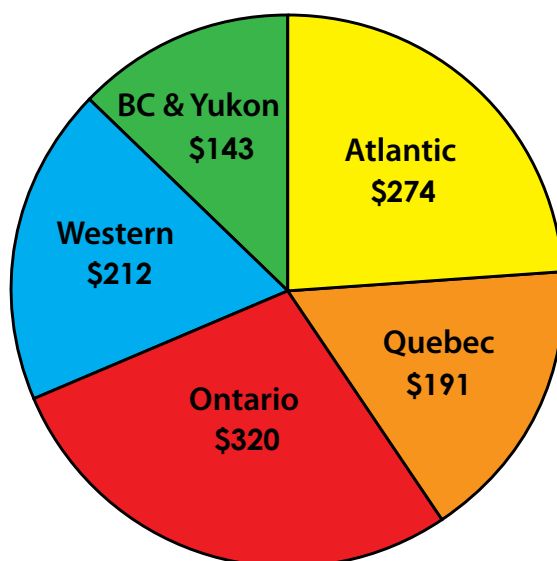
● **Caroline Gilbert, Youth Representative**

# Statistics

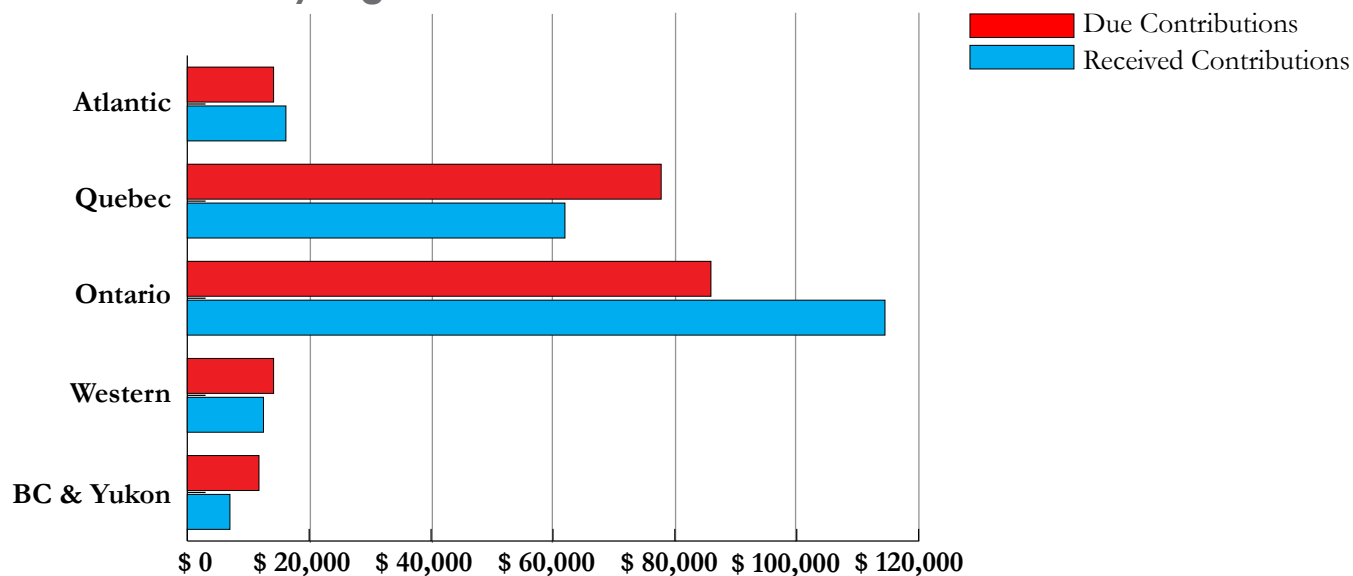
## Financial Contributions

		# central councils	# particular councils	# conferences
Atlantic Regional Council	\$ 16,180	0	5	54
Quebec Regional Council	\$ 61,965	5	37	282
Ontario Regional Council	\$ 114,480	5	36	317
Western Regional Council	\$ 12,500	1	6	52
BC & Yukon Regional Council	\$ 6,995	1	6	43

## Amounts received per conference/council

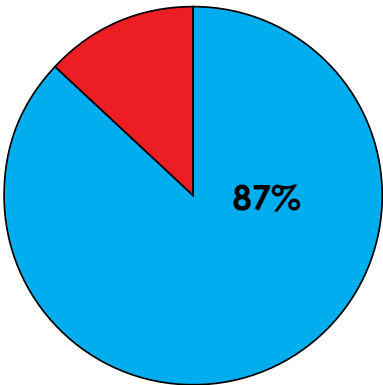


## Contributions by region

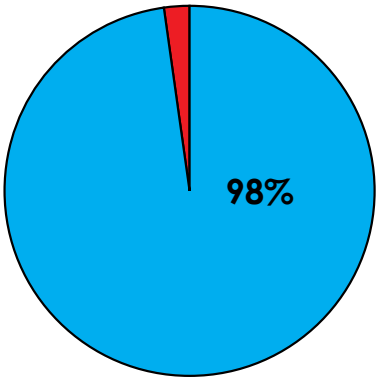




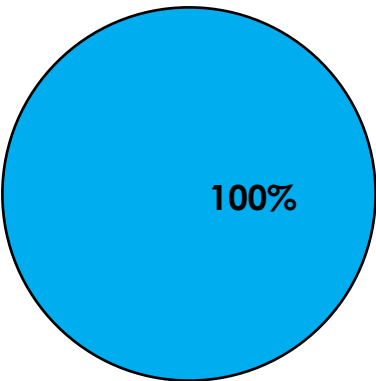
Rate of conferences responding to this annual report



Rate of particular councils responding to this annual report



Rate of central councils responding to this annual report



# Vincentian Activities across Canada

	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013
<b>Home Visitations</b>				
Number of homes visited	5,739	2,730	8,994	10,438
Number of visits to these homes	9,943	5,880	14,080	13,436
Number of adults served	9,256	3,593	15,545	13,747
Number of children served	4,605	2,716	12,693	9,958
Total of persons served	13,861	6,309	28,238	23,705
<b>Other visits</b>				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hospitals)	3,172	1,759	110	217
Number of friendly visits to persons	561	1,334	356	475
Number of inmates visited in prison	624	1,650	2	3
<b>Activities</b>				
Number of stores	9	8	-	-
Number of outlets	1	1	-	2
Number of soup kitchens	5	2	-	-
Number of foodbanks	3	3	6	3
Number of shelters	2	2	-	-
Number of drop-in centres	1	1	1	2
Number of low cost housing units	46	46	-	38
Number of children attending summer camps	-	-	-	-
<b>Twinning</b>				
External (outside Canada)	11	12	6	7
Internal (inside Canada)	2	1	1	1
<b>Financial operations</b>				
Receipts	\$ 4,790,955	\$ 5,143,966	\$ 824,864	\$ 1,369,921
Expenditures	\$ 4,965,447	\$ 4,992,270	\$ 817,600	\$ 1,241,150
<b>Conference Membership</b>				
Number of full members (age 36+)	403	447	805	738
Number of young adult members (18-35)	13	12	58	54
Number of youth members (under 18)	0	10	11	26
Number of auxiliary members	0	165	185	180
Total members	416	634	1,059	998
Spiritual advisors	-	17	-	23
<b># of councils and conferences included in report</b>				
Central councils included in this report		1/1		1/1
Particular councils included in this report		5/6		6/6
Conferences included in this report		34/43		42/52



ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013
56,406	35,853	102,457	104,021	8,960	5,800	182,556	158,842
84,580	68,541	102,457	104,021	15,197	7,862	226,257	199,740
98,815	82,271	135,102	142,359	10,906	9,058	269,624	251,028
72,122	61,723	77,483	72,365	7,941	5,427	174,844	152,189
170,937	143,994	212,585	214,724	18,847	14,485	444,468	403,217
3,418	3,573	-	107	10	5,144	6,710	10,800
4,780	5,957	-	-	-	1,213	5,697	8,979
3,124	489	-	15	-	-	3,750	2,157
21	30	106	93	1	2	137	133
4	26	-	-	-	-	5	29
11	11	1	1	1	1	18	15
62	62	1	2	13	13	85	83
19	4	-	-	-	-	21	6
2	2	2	-	-	-	6	5
202	202	-	-	-	-	248	286
2,450	2,474	200	775	-	-	2,650	3,249
65	70	11	10	6	6	99	105
19	17	-	-	3	3	25	22
\$ 8,246,603	\$10,001,915	\$ 14,386,344	\$ 16,751,950	\$ 1,330,742	\$ 1,362,584	\$ 29,579,508	\$34,630,336
\$ 7,871,204	\$ 9,112,382	\$ 14,902,662	\$ 16,186,073	\$ 1,324,166	\$ 1,183,757	\$ 29,881,079	\$ 32,715,632
3,608	4,050	2,569	2,864	686	n/a	8,071	8,099
92	91	61	96	33	n/a	257	253
85	70	0	0	6	n/a	102	106
472	532	1,125	1,749	53	n/a	1,835	2,626
4,257	4,743	3,755	4,709	778	1,024	10,265	12,108
-	168	-	250	-	n/a	-	458
	5/5		5/5		0/0		12/12
	35/36		37/37		5/5		88/90
	275/317		254/282		46/54		651/748

# Presidents of the Council General International

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 - 2010
Michael THIO	2010 -

# Presidents of the National Council of Canada

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 - 2013
Jean-Noël CORMIER	2013 -