

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada

Annual Report

2013 - 2014



Table of contents

National President	3
Atlantic Regional Council	5
Quebec Regional Council	8
Ontario Regional Council	10
Western Regional Council	14
BC & Yukon Regional Council	18
Twinning Committee	20
Emergency Relief Committees	22
Education/Formation Committee	23
Social Justice Committee	24
Property Management Committee	25
Finance Committee	25
Youth Committee	26
Statistics	28
Vincentian Activities across Canada	30
Presidents of the Council General International	32
Presidents of the National Council of Canada	32

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

One year has gone by already since I started my term, and I must say that there was never a dull moment. I am surrounded by a formidable team, from administrative assistants, to Executive Committee, to members of the Board. They are a group of motivated and dedicated women and men who never count their hours and all work towards one purpose: ensuring that we give you the best service possible.

Indeed, we are here to serve you as well as support you in your mission to help needy people, and that is what we try to do as best we can.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

All national committees have been very active this past year, and I invite you to read their annual reports in the following pages. However, wishing to give you an overall picture of their achievements and at the same time hoping to arouse your curiosity, I am giving you a brief overview of the tremendous work that was accomplished.

Education Committee

Basic training modules were updated and posted on our website. We still believe that group training with a trained instructor is preferable, but when that is not possible, you can always go to www.ssvp.ca and access the training modules.

Social Justice Committee

We think that by regrouping the Voice of the Poor, Systemic Change and Prison Ministry committees, we will become more efficient and consistent. In reality, even though those three committees can easily work separately, we think the three of them working together will allow a better understanding of national issues that need to be addressed.

Moreover, that committee works jointly with representatives from the North American Vincentian Family that includes the following religious congregations and organizations:

- Congregation of the Mission
- Daughters of Charity
- Sisters of Charity
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
- Vincentian Marian Youth
- Vincentian Lay Missionaries
- Miraculous Medal Association
- Vincentian Mission Corps
- Religieux de Saint-Vincent de Paul (only in French countries)



One of the main objectives pursued by that group of committed Catholics is to fight injustice by raising awareness.

Strategic Planning Committee

That Committee was very active in the last year, and during the coming months, you will hear more and more about strategic planning. The reason being that your opinion is essential to the development of a strategic plan. The strategic plan that will guide our actions for the coming years can only be built upon everyone's ideas.

Youth Committee

Our National Council Youth Representative, Jason Hunt, worked very hard this year to recruiting young members from all Canadian regions to put together a National Youth Committee. That Committee will help us develop programs intended to aid us to recruit more young people and better serve that specific age group.

Twinning Committee

As you will see in Clermont Fortin's report, there was a lot of work done to increase the number of twinned conferences, and I can tell you that the results are very encouraging.

Finance Committee

This past year, the objective of the Committee was to rejuvenate our methods, by using available technological tools to reduce delays required to complete transactions, but particularly to help us access real-time data on our financial situation.

National President

In addition to that, thanks to the generosity of a supporter, the Finance Committee was able to renegotiate our mortgage on the national house, at a much more favourable rate.

National and International Emergency Committee

It is a Committee that we would prefer not to need, but given the reality of things and the force of recent natural disasters, that Committee has been increasingly active.

Spirituality Committee

That Committee has the heavy task to ensure that we never forget who we are and what we have chosen to do. We are Catholic lay people who have chosen to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by serving needy people with love, respect, justice and joy.

Because we have selected to work with an organization based on the Christian faith, it is essential that sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ guide us, to help us remain in touch with that reality. My opinion is that the members of that committee do an excellent job in this respect.

At the end of April, they organized a day of retreat for the Board members. It was a great way to help us establish a very clear link between the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our mission to help needy people.

Expansion

There is a team from the Western Region who, under the leadership of Peter Ouellet, work very hard at bringing help to Northern Canadian communities. The project, known as North of 60, is for now limited to the Western Region, but I believe that all regions should participate in the effort, and help those Canadian people who live in a state of poverty that is unacceptable in a country as rich as ours. Children regularly remain as long as 48 hours without food. How can we not react when we are aware of that situation?

That is why the Board has accepted that this initiative becomes a national project, and that all regions participate to the effort and help those people who are abandoned by everyone. In the coming months, various initiatives will be undertaken to collect and send supplies

to the North before winter makes operations more difficult. I invite you to participate in those initiatives, thus ensuring that as many people as possible receive the help they need.

Communication

All of us agree that in order to serve more people, we must increase the number of Vincentians, as well as our revenues. One of the things we can do to achieve those objectives is to increase our visibility so that more people find out who we are and what we do. We have started doing just that and for now, we limit our interventions in those parishes where we are the most active, where we recruit and where our benefactors are.

So, to start with, we make sure that we do everything we can to reach as many people as possible in those communities. Once that is accomplished, we will look into disseminating information in parishes where the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is not established. Finally, we will determine how to increase our visibility among the public in general, by using the media and other means of communication.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, all Vincentians across the country, for the fantastic work that you have accomplished once again this year. To our two employees, Nicole and Josée, many thanks for your support and your dedication.

To all our donors, thank you for allowing us to realize our mission, to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by serving the needy with love, respect, justice and joy.

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

History is really about our decision to say yes or no to the love of God and others? The real heroes of history are the Saints and those who will join the family of holy folk like Frederic Ozanam?

The saints are my heroes because they say yes to love by serving Jesus and others in their hearts, homes and community. They accept the gifts of others in gratitude. It does not seem to matter where they hail from, the group or race they belong or what age reached in life. Young Elizabeth of Hungary, came from a family of great wealth, threw her crown down knowing poor Mary and Joseph gave birth to poor Jesus our King. Saint Therese climbed ladders others do not climb, went where many feared to tread, and trusted the present moment for good sent in this epiphany's feast. She said 'you know my dearest God, to love you, I only have today.' And 'It is your arms Jesus which are the elevator to carry me to heaven. So there is no need for me to grow up. I must become less and less.' And love is everything, and because it is eternal, embraces all times and places. My vocation is love. Love will descend into my nothingness and transform the nothingness into living fire.'

Peter Kreeft and others have noted love is given and received, joy sought and experienced, in the company of others.

All of this brings me to say a word of thanks on the special contributions made by youth to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Atlantic. We all know grace is given to young people to serve and love the poor, Young people see Christ in the poor and we all welcome the support given by Vincentians who are ten, twenty, or thirty years our junior over the years. I applaud the work done by young persons in the founding of our Society, for serving the poor at a time of their lives when career work and self esteem call for so much attention. Adam Doyle, can be found with the St. Clement's Conference team filling and delivering boxes of food to those challenged by poverty at Christmas. Adam is a young man and his light beckons others to serve the Saint Vincent way. Recently the staff of Sobey's in Dartmouth made two major donations to St Clement's

Conference and the donors who gave the cheque were young and were raised no doubt by those who cared for those challenged by poverty. Recently four young musicians raised needed funds for St. Peters Conference in Dartmouth.

Young people from that same community supported efforts aimed at bringing Christmas to the needy, the lonely the forgotten last December.

Look for a moment at Conference at Carbonear in Newfoundland. Young and old sit with President Kerri Abbott planning and working for the needy. The poor are now fed at Christmas and throughout the year, the walls are painted, shelves stocked with food, floors scrubbed, donations obtained from citizens of all ages -- Canned goods, Pampers, formula, Turkeys, pasta with milk soon to flow. The youth are not hiding their light under a lamp stand. The old have reminded the young that our work is valuable and the young listen and are stepping on stage at the appropriate hour. To quote President Kerri.

'Our conference is continuing to grow with the addition of new, enthusiastic volunteers from the community. Since becoming President of the Conference in August, we have reached out and partnered with community groups in our area to both raise awareness and accomplish increased donations and programs. We are currently hosting a Nutrition Class with community mentors volunteering to assist families learn the fundamentals of buying, cooking, and storing healthy, nutritious and affordable meals. We have also partnered with other organizations to host a monthly Community Meal with admission being a food bank donation. Leftovers are packaged and shared with clients of the food bank.

..We have increased our numbers in the last few months through an increased visibility in the communities and outreach. We hosted our first Volunteer Information Session. Those in attendance learned about the Food Bank and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and those interested began the volunteer application process...



Atlantic Regional Council

We hosted two sessions- 1:00 p.m and 6 p.m. We cap the sessions at 12 and we are almost near the limit. I've found the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a well-kept secret outside those who need our services. With increased awareness of our services, we are also seeing an increase in need.

We have partnered with another organization in the community to host a Knitters Circle at our Food Bank once a month. The knitters will create mug cozies and brightly colored dish cloths which will then be included in hampers for the isolated clients that avail of our services. They will also work together to create knitted art pieces to decorate the building.

Once a month we have the local community youth network facility, The Splash Centre, drop by with kids enrolled in their Changing Lanes program. The youth help us sort donations, package personal hygiene & kid's lunch packages. They were an awesome help with our Christmas Hamper program this year.

We have a rotating list of front-line service providers we are building stronger relationships with - who set up once a month in one of our rooms. Clients can drop by and avail of their services in a friendlier, less imposing environment. We are continually searching for new connections to make and strengthen. With cutbacks in the region to many of the employment programs and services, we are seeing a large uptake in the resume writing and interview prep sessions we offer.

The appointment of Jason Hunt to chair a National Committee on Youth of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the recent appointment of a national committee of youth from every region in Canada simply points to the reality that young and old are part of the Vincentian family sustained by fraternity and service to the needy.

The future is in good hands. In Glace Bay area young people continue to draw posters depicting the founders of our society. The road to membership in our society may be long but it is sure.

The elderly are not strangers to the water and the towel. Some serve by listening, others provide food to needy persons. The wonderful work done by Dorothy Knight and the fourteen Vincentians of Saint Joseph's Conference Grand Falls Windsor is a case in point. They work closely with Pastor Father Houlahan in providing emergency relief including clothing, to the needy. The young are deeply influenced by Vincentians.

For over fifteen years Debbie Farrell and Vincentians of Immaculate Conception of Harbor Grace, have been serving residents of this beautiful out port. In less than ten minutes I realized this group of Vincentians cared deeply for the needy and were doing more than thriving and surviving. They serve the needy in justice love, joy and truth.

Twinning

Since our last report. Conferences have assisted those affected by the Typhoon in the Philippines, and those whose homes were destroyed by the Calgary floods/ they also helped our neighbors struggling to put the pieces back together following the train disaster in Quebec. I thank the conferences who made generous donations to the cause. They were indeed generous to persons of all ages in our land.

Twinning is a word filled with meaning. Mark Carew president of St Rose of Lima Conference Fall River and the Vincentian team work closely with Jennie Martell of St Anthony's Conference Dartmouth to provide support for the needy through home cooked meals served at a central facility in North end Dartmouth. I am not surprised to learn of this wonderful event. The presidents of these conferences are searching for answers to fundamental questions. They know Vincentians from different conferences can help one another provide a host of services to the needy. Helen Keller once said 'alone we can do so little, together so much and Thomas Aquinas found that true progress is made through the sharing of reason and resources with others.

Advocacy and the Halifax Particular Council

Advocacy is well done by Conferences who wish to do it. The Halifax Particular Council under the leadership of David O'Connor, with strong support from the Halifax office outreach staff and Vincentians from Dartmouth Particular Council, obtained a matching grant of twenty-five thousand dollars from Nova Scotia Power. All conferences in Nova Scotia may now apply to Nova Scotia Power for funds to help needy person cope with power costs. Nova Scotia power will match the contributions made by the conference to the individual in need.

On February 17th members of St Clements Conference, Dartmouth Particular Council attended an important meeting on housing sponsored by the Halifax Particular Council Advocacy Committee. The committee is dedicated to reducing the number of persons in Halifax living on the street with no place to call home. Staff of the Metropolitan Housing Authority answered questions from those in attendance. Times are changing and we sensed the problem of homelessness must be seriously tackled by governments and charitable organizations.

North of 60

I want to thank Chris Ryan and Jim Macintyre for their support of this important initiative under the overall guidance of Peter Ouellette President of Western Regional Council. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, in cooperation with governments and private business, can provide needed services to residents of our Northern communities. Faith hope love and charity will be needed to carry out this project. One day North and South will care for one another in new way, resources will be shared, and the thoughts of all Canadians appreciated like never before.

The Annual meeting of Atlantic Regional Council was held at the Slemon Park Hotel and Conference centre Summerside Prince Edward Island- May 30 to June 1. The guest speaker this year was Father John Molina. He spoke on global poverty and poverty we see in our local communities. I would like to thank Vice

President Pat Cody, Cynthia MacDonald and the entire team who worked on the annual meeting. I thank the executive of Atlantic Regional Council, Jim Guilford, Lorraine Bartlett, Gary Hollett and Carol Ann Larade, John Row and Shirley MacKinnon for her support of our Twinning program. Also I thank the dedicated Presidents of Particular Councils, Chris Ryan St. John's, Barb Boutilier of Dartmouth, David O'Connor of Halifax, Jim MacIntyre Glace Bay, and Cecil Snow of Northside particular Council. Your wonderful support and your donation of funds in support of Atlantic and National Council is appreciated. Also I thank Jean Noel Cormier and the members of national Council for their support and advice over the past year.

Finally I thank the presidents of the fifty-six conferences of Atlantic for serving those challenged by poverty in love, justice, hope and joy. You bless me with your leadership and service to those who need a helping hand in times of trouble, Hard Times.

● **Dennis McCormack, President**

Quebec Regional Council



The Regional Quebec AGA took place in the city of Québec in September, and more than 100 Vincentians from across Québec were in attendance. Jean-Noël Cormier, President of the National

Council, honoured us with his presence.

Another guest was also present, from Bordeaux, France, Mr. Charles Mercier, a renowned expert on the life, and the spiritual and human experience of Frederic Ozanam and Misery. We present here an excerpt of that speech (The entire videotaped presentation is available on the site LE RÊVE D'OZANAM).

The moral lesson of the poor calls Frederic Ozanam to hope, *"You, who saw hard times confiscate the unnecessary, and you who lack the necessities of life, can do more than any other person to alleviate the suffering you are familiar with. All those who have experienced public charity know that the poor are never better served than by the poor."*

However, Frederic also sees the need for political action, through legislation. He advocates for progressive income tax, based on wealth, and invites elected representatives to use creativity against misery,

"Elected representatives [...] you will not have worked one day if you overlook the formidable issue of misery, which cannot be belated."

Ozanam's solution against misery is converting individuals to a spirit of sharing and service, rather than a spirit of enjoyment and domination.

It is an individual and collective moral sense. In their fight against misery, Frederic and his friends were heirs, as well as innovators. They found their roots in the experience of Vincent de Paul, adapting it to the realities of the 19th century. Today's Vincentians, heirs to Ozanam, must be faithful to his message: to remain as creative as he was, and find new ways to deal with 21st century misery.

As well, a delegation from Québec travelled to Paris in April 2013 to attend a **conference on the Blessed Frederic Ozanam**.

In the picture,

The **Les Milles et Un visage de Frédéric project** took place in the Saguenay area and was a great success. The project was designed to highlight the vital forces of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Thus, Vincentian members were photographed during specific activities and situations, with the purpose of emphasizing their engagement, but also to show the beauty of their sense of cooperation. A true success.

The great traditional SSVP-Québec activities took place again this year in every conferences and council. BRAVO.

1. LA GUIGNOLÉE: A Food Drive, generally taking place during the month of December (or the end of November for some conferences) – this activity is an exceptional fund raising campaign for Québec councils and conferences. Congratulations again this year for a successful operation.
2. OPÉRATION BONNE MINE: With the help of major partners, Québec conferences dedicate through that program tens of thousands of dollars to provide young people with financial assistance, with the purpose of helping them achieve academic success.
3. SSVP WEEK: Every year, during the third week in September, conferences and councils are encouraged to make themselves visible, holding open house events, and organizing visibility and welcoming activities in particular, with the intent of recruiting new members.

Quebec Regional Council



Mrs. Lise Boyer, President of the Saint-Jean sur le Richelieu Particular Council, and member of the Québec delegation in Paris.

The sad event in Lac-Mégantic and Vincentian solidarity.

An exceptional Vincentian initiative was launched in solidarity with the people in the Lac-Mégantic area. Shirley and William Graham travelled from Ontario to Lac-Mégantic, taking concrete action in a spirit of cooperation, after soliciting SSVP conferences in their region. CONGRATULATIONS and thank you. We offer prayers for the victims and the deceased, following the tragic events in Lac-Mégantic during the summer of 2013.

● **Pierre Morissette, President**



Shirley and William Graham with city councillor Roger Garant, receiving a book of signatures sent by SSVP members in Ontario to express their condolences, a \$2,400 cheque, and a truck load of first necessity articles.

Ontario Regional Council



2013 was a most productive year in Ontario as we continued to develop programs through our committees and with the support from our councils, conferences and members across the province. I would

like to thank our Vincentians for their financial support as well their works of charity and social justice but above all for their prayers and inspirational devotion to the mission of our humble Society.

We would not have been able to achieve these accomplishments this year without my executive committee:

- Spiritual Advisor, Bishop William McGrattan.
- Past President, John Staley
- Secretary, Geraldine Campbell, chair, Public Relations Committee
- Treasurer, Don Grad

Vice-Presidents

- Mary Grad, chair of Communications and Council / Conference Procedure Review Committees
- Theresa Riccardi, North of 60, Toronto Central council liaison
- Jason Hunt, Youth Committee

Committee chairs

- Spirituality- Sister Janine Rocheleau
- Twinning- Guido Kelly
- Stores-Phil Bondy
- Formation-Bill Graham
- Disaster Relief-Bill Graham
- Social Justice Office committees
- Voice of the Poor Advocacy-Danny Bourne
- Systemic Change-Jere Hartnett
- Prison Apostolate -Frank Boscarol
- Senior Advisor-Bernie Hartlin

Support staff

- Administrative Assistant-Sarah Davidson
- Webmaster-John Ketelaars

In addition I would say thank you to our 5 Central council presidents, 36 Particular council presidents, 332 conference presidents, 47 store managers and staff, shelter staff and over 4600 members. It is the dedication of these individuals that inspires me to continue in our mission to serve Jesus Christ by our person to person contact with our friends and neighbours in need.

COMMITTEE REVIEWS

Spirituality

This committee now has 5 members and has achieved some real progress in their plans. They continue to work on having a spiritual advisor for all councils and conferences. A handbook has been developed for spiritual advisors which will enable them to enhance the spiritual element of all conferences. A wake service is now available for use for deceased members. In order to gain further information about all conferences a survey was sent out which will provide the committee with a better idea of the spiritual needs of our members. The Ontario Council continues to emphasize the importance of both a spiritual advisor and the need for a reflection period at all meetings that puts the focus on our spirituality. Sister Janine can be counted on to do a wonderful reflection at the start of all Ontario council meetings. We find that this reflection at each meeting sets the tone for the entire day.

Twinning

We have had an increase in the number of twinning partners in Ontario but still encourage more councils and conferences to consider joining this worthy program. Guido Kelly has also visited councils to explain the twinning program and the advantages of joining this program. We are challenging all Ontario councils and conferences to consider twinning as part of our worldwide network of charity.

Stores

Phil Bondy has continued to make store visits across Ontario. He has also done several store profiles which then appear in our quarterly newsletter. There is now

a special store manager link from our Ontario website which managers can use to stay in touch and ask or answer various questions raised by others. There is no doubt about the important factor our store are in our mission as they are also our face to the public. The potential of our stores to further enhance our name in the communities we serve is full of possibilities.

Formation

Bill Graham has a team of 4 trainers who continue to respond for requests for presentations of the national training modules. In addition we had success with a recent workshop in London for new members. This would appear to be a viable program in all areas. While the modules always receive a good response wherever they are presented, there is still a problem in getting more councils and conferences to request the presentations.

Disaster Relief

Bill Graham chairs this committee which was formed in response to the absence of any internal disaster response plan. While still in the formation stages, the plan includes having district coordinators to address local disasters. There is a need to partner with local first responders and become one of the organizations that would be contacted in the case of a disaster. We need to realize a local disaster can be a house fire or other such occurrence. Bill demonstrated what we do best by his trip to Lac Megantic last year with a truck loaded with essentials which he gave to those in need by person to person contact.

Youth

Jason Hunt continues to develop plans for further youth development in Ontario. We now have active youth membership in Windsor, Waterloo, Brantford and Port Colborne. The second annual BAM was held in November of 2013 with plans for a 2014 BAM. The 2015 AGA in Hamilton will give us an opportunity to attract youth from across Ontario. Jason continues to work on ways to attract youth at the parish level. Our current members must also understand the need to be more active in youth recruitment.

Public Relations

Geraldine Campbell has worked closely with Sarah Davidson, our Administrative Assistant and Mary Grad (Communications) and John Ketelaars (webmaster) to maintain a high level of informational material for our members and the public. We have also used the Catholic Register for articles and paid advertisements. We continue to explore possible fund raising projects that could enhance our ability to help our friends in need and raise the awareness of poverty in Ontario. Our quarterly newsletter, Vincentimes, has been very popular and we receive some excellent local news for inclusion in the newsletter. We now also offer Vincentimes in French.

Communications

Mary Grad, along with John Ketelaars, our webmaster have maintained our revised website at a very high level with lots of new material and updates. Our store managers now have their own website through which they can maintain regular communications. The Social Justice section has also been enhanced with a lot of new material added to it. We are always open to new ideas and revisions to our website and other ways to improve our communications with our membership and the public.

Council/Conference Procedure Review

Mary Grad chairs this new committee whose main goal is to address the need to develop more EFFECTIVE and AFFECTIVE leadership at all levels. The Ontario Council has an obligation to develop and distribute resources that will enable our presidents to become true leaders to their members. This committee started its work, which we expect will be an 18 month journey, with a special half day presentation at our Ontario spring meeting on April 12th in London. We feel very strongly that whatever this committee develops has to include input from our membership. Our success must be driven from our grass roots members rather than from the top down.

Ontario Regional Council

Social Justice Office

We have grouped 3 committees and other related special works under this heading. We now have quarterly meetings of these 3 committees in order to maintain a strong collaborative effort in regards to social justice issues. In addition all councils and conferences have been asked to place social justice as a topic on all meeting agendas. Our Ontario meetings now include a social justice hour to further emphasize the importance of this work. We are also developing a network of social justice by recruiting coordinators across Ontario. While Systemic Change is a committee under this heading, the spirituality of systemic change should be an integral part of how we operate and plan for the future. Our own systems and ways of doing things often require some change if we are to continue to serve our friends in need in today's world.

Advocacy

Danny Bourne chairs this committee which is based in Toronto, which makes meetings easy to hold. The committee looks at various issues that are in need of advocacy. These include affordable housing and a living wage. This committee also distributed a survey to all conferences this past year as a means of giving members an opportunity to address issues they feel require advocacy. The committee will then take the results of the survey and consider what the main issues on a province wide basis as well as examining local topics.

Systemic Change

Jere Hartnett chairs this committee and with all members based in the Halton region, they too are able to meet regularly. This committee is also the governing body that reviews and approves all applications to our Ozanam Education fund. This fund has been very successful with over \$60,000.00 given out in education grants to applicants who may never have been able to further their education. There are several other excellent and replicable projects that can be found on our website. These include the Vinnies Wallet loan program and the RESP education savings program.

Prison Apostolate

Frank Boscariol's committee has members in the Toronto, Windsor and London areas and has been very active in the past year as they concentrated on the preparation and publication of a Jail Ministry Handbook. This handbook has been a real success and is available on our website. The Ontario Regional Council is also a member of the Catholic Connection in Restorative Justice (www.CCinRJ.ca) which is a new organization which consists of various Catholic groups whose goal is to address various concerns about the current conditions related to prison ministry. We look forward to being very active with this group and encourage to support it by joining CCinRJ through their website. We also encourage anyone interested in this ministry to contact us for further information.

In addition to these committees Theresa Riccardi and Michelle Jenkinson are working on the development of our North of 60 and Ontario 1st Nations projects.

We have included these two projects under social justice and we look forward to being an active supporter of the outstanding work done by our Western Regional Council with their North of 60 project. Theresa Riccardi will work with the North of 60 projects.

Our own Ontario 1st Nations peoples also need our support as we demonstrated last year with the help we provided to Attawapiskat. (approximately \$30,000.00) Michelle Jenkinson will lead our efforts in this area and has continued to develop our partnership with Attawapiskat.

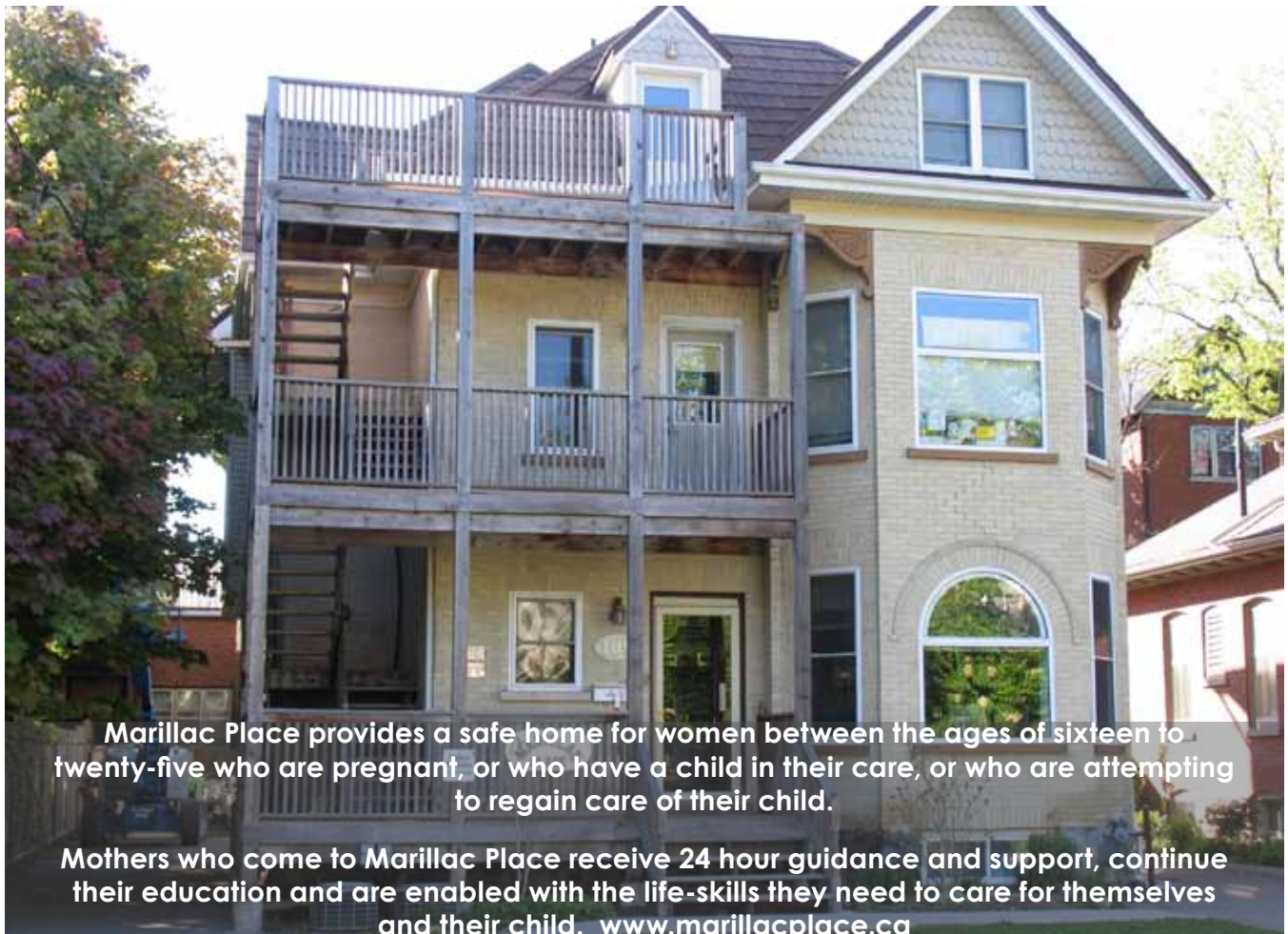
We have also discussed the various needs and opportunities to help in the areas of migrant workers and refugees here in Ontario.

Summary

Our Ontario Vincentians have again demonstrated their love for our friends in need by their day to day services and they have also stepped up when disasters occur. Our membership provided a total of close to \$100,000.00 to Lac Megantic, Calgary and Alberta flooding and the Philippines. While our works of charity are an essential part of our Vincentian mission, we must also look forward and address the root causes of poverty through our various social justice works. In addition, we find a real need to provide resource material and education for our leaders of today and tomorrow which will enable them to become more effective leaders.

Respectfully submitted

● **Jim Paddon, President**



Western Regional Council



It is so exciting to work with others to grow an organization. That's what your Society has been able to do in the Western Region over the last year. Our help for those living in poverty continues to increase with the growth of our Vincentian Family.

	2012	2013
# of Conferences Reporting	42	57
# of Young Adult and Youth	80	185
# of Total Members	998	1243
# of Spiritual Advisors	23	33
Number of adults served	13747	15184
Number of children served	9958	14907
Number of visits to prison	3	55

St Timothy's Conference in Winnipeg has a dynamic group of Vincentians that will continue to lead service and development in Manitoba. They demonstrate the value of a strong Spiritual Advisor who leads them not only in support of those in need in their parish but also in fund raising and mentoring the Arctic Communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak in Nunavut - thank you Father Phil and the Vincentians at St Tim's.

On March 23 St Tim's Conference held a Gjoa Haven/Taloyoak fundraiser which consisted of a chili lunch and cake auction. Over 140 parishioners and friends attended. They cooked 140lbs of chili. Final count on funds raised was \$5,400. The cake auction alone brought in \$2,300.

In **Brandon Manitoba** Vincentians at St Augustine continue their support to the community with food and furniture distribution after their weekly Conference meeting.

St Josephine Bakhita Conference in Regina is promoting expansion to other parishes in their Community. Their promotion efforts are joining a multi Faith initiative called "I Love Regina".

In **Prince Albert SK**, the Vincentians at St Francis of Assisi continue their work to supply food and furniture

to those in need. Their reputation has been growing since 1999. They are actively collaborating with Woman's Crisis Centre, Children Haven Centre, Kids First Centre, Indian Métis Centre and CWL.

The two **Councils in Edmonton and Calgary** with the help of the Particular Councils and Conferences have capital expansion plans that will raise the profile of SSVP and increase the volume and character of the "works" that they can provide to these communities.

Calgary is in a transition with a new Central Council Board and Executive Team that will provide growth and development in their renewal process. With the support of Bishop Henry who is encouraging Vincentian education, training and recruitment, the Vincentian Family in Southern Alberta will grow stronger. The Bishop will be celebrating an All Conference Commissioning Mass later this year.

Calgary youth development under the coordination of Connie Mackenzie has been spectacular. St Francis Youth Conference has over 70 members in four different High Schools. 10 Adult Advisors and 3 Spiritual Advisors have made this happen.



Pat MacDonald, the Vice Principal from Holy Spirit School in High River was full of love and gratitude for the support and donations of a few hundred school backpacks from Edmonton Vincentians. Vincentian Ben Macht who was our Calgary Flood Coordinator was there to provide the first of financial assistance that was requested.

Western Regional Council

Last year, several members of this Youth Conference attended the National AGA/AGM in Ottawa. Most of them had just personally experienced loss from the disastrous flood that hit the Calgary area. They appealed for support and from that appeal the SSVP Southern Alberta Flood Relief Fund was initiated. Thank you to all members of our Vincentian Family across the country that made donations to this fund. Over \$26,000 was raised and most of this has been distributed from the Western Region to Conferences in Southern Alberta that needed financial assistance for food and shelter provided to victims of the flood.

Edmonton has brought on new Conferences enlarging their Vincentian Family and working in collaboration with other faith groups and secular organizations to raise the community awareness of our Society.

St Thomas Aquinas Conference at the University of Alberta has applied for aggregation after over a year of successful operation. These young Vincentians are doing home visits and working with Vincentians throughout Edmonton providing the enthusiasm and entrepreneurial support that is a reflection of the way it was done by Ozanam.

Yellowknife is the location of **St Patrick Conference**. They are getting calls for assistance from all over the NWT. As the Western Region grows North of 60 the

centre of control will focus on St Pat's as a consulting and coordinating centre.

The North of 60 Project continues to expand into other Communities. The needs are large and far greater than the Western Region can support. Your Canadian National Council Board agreed last year that all Regions of SSVP will support this initiative to provide mentoring, financial and material assistance to more Communities in the Canadian Arctic North. Currently Western Region is working with Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. Ontario Region has provided funding to support the SSVP Healthy Food for Children Program that started last year. Help is needed at many more communities that can be reached from the Atlantic and BC Regions as well as directly north from the Ontario and Quebec Regions. If your Conference has interest in learning and sharing with one of the Northern Communities then please get in touch with the Western Region to help get started. Learn more at www.ssvpwrcc.ca/News?mode=PostView&bmi=1368544.

St Joseph's Conference in Tuktoyaktuk has great support from Sister Fay Trombley. Her Vincentian Family runs a food and clothing distribution centre out of a permanent sea container.



Edmonton Central raises much of their annual funds from an antique and collectable sale twice per year



Sea Containers loaded with food and other items in Edmonton on the way to the Arctic by truck and barge

Western Regional Council

An interesting SSVP **systemic change program** is active at Tuk - a driver education program. With a Jeep that was donated by an Auto Dealer and the cooperation of Aurora College in Inuvik these Vincentians are helping the population prepare for better jobs in the community. A Memorial Fund set up in memory of Eileen Orysiuk in Calgary last year dedicated the necessary dollars to pay for the long term maintenance costs of this vehicle. Read more at www.ssvpwrc.ca/News?mode=PostView&bmi=1301333



In 2013 we completed the **systemic change project in Dominican Republic** as part of our International **Twinning Initiative**. The Micro Loan Tricycle Program provided 38 tricycles for poor street vendors to acquire a tool for work, thus becoming independent and able to support themselves. The program plans to hand over the tricycles to the vendors after they have carried out training in business studies. The aim is for them to set up their own business. The repayment of the tricycle is undertaken through a micro-credit system, with staggered payments in line with income from their sales. The products to be sold are basic food items, made or grown locally including: bread, fruit, vegetables, coconuts as well as the sale of basketwork. For several pictures that show the project in action go to www.dropbox.com/l/mU8xxKZsha8HzFWrzDaIE71

It's our responsibility as Catholics to extend communion beyond the safe borders of our churches and homes and into the lives of the addicted, the poor, the wounded and the incarcerated. Bishop Gary Gordon along with

a team of prison ministry veterans is creating **Catholic Connections in Restorative Justice**, a network of Catholic volunteers and professionals to work with convicts and ex-convicts. Your Western Region Council has Vincentians that have done over 50 prison visits last year. This WRC Prison Ministry will increase in the future as these Vincentians coordinate their efforts with the National effort headed up by Bishop Gary Gordon.

The **Edmonton Remand Center Phone Based Spiritual Ministry Program**, in short PBSM is developed in cooperation between Edmonton Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the Remand Center Chaplaincy office. This is a pilot program to make available an additional level of spiritual counselling and support to the inmates during their time of incarceration at the Remand Center. In doing so, the Vincentian volunteer and inmate relationship is intended also to provide a practical link and support to the inmate during re-integration into society upon release.

Our Region is large and too costly for Vincentians to regularly meet for Council meetings. We are fortunate



to have a Vincentian donate **communication services of both teleconferencing and web broadcasting** to overcome this problem and to allow for frequent sharing of best practice and training across the Region.

With this telecommunication technique and the use of our website www.ssywprc.ca we are able to provide a significant improvement in communications.

The future will see the passion of Ozanam spread throughout this Region. Our focus will continue to be increased communication and expansion so that the mission of our Society will be known by more and the works that we do will help those that live in poverty.

● **Peter Ouellette, President**



Archbishop Richard Smith helped dedicate the clothing room at the Edmonton Distribution Centre in memory of Terrence Mahon, a well-known volunteer and top Knights of Columbus recruiter at Good Shepherd Parish. Recently the DC underwent \$38,000 worth of renovations and needed repairs to make it brighter and better organized

BC & Yukon Regional Council



The Power of Prayer

As many of you are aware Bill Clendinning, Our Regional Treasurer, was admitted to hospital in October with an unknown disease affecting his lungs. The prognosis was not good and his family was warned that there was a possibility that Bill would not survive. We started a prayer chain across Canada. Bill was placed in an induced coma while the medics worked to determine what disease he had contracted. Upon establishing that Bill had contracted Wegener's Auto-Immune Disease, or Granulomatosis (GPA), the medics brought Bill out of the coma and started a regimen of drugs and chemotherapy. His progress to all of us was extraordinary. I personally believe all the prayers to Bl. Frederic from all across Canada certainly helped, and I wish to thank everyone who participated in the prayer chain. We all realize Bill has a long way to go in healing and ask that you keep praying for Bill and Gloria.

The Regional Council enjoyed good growth and established better communication channels in Calendar year 2013. The individuals and activities that contributed to our success include:

Spirituality

The Regional Board was very pleased and blessed when Rosalie Wells of Kamloops agreed to become the Regional Spiritual Advisor. Since taking up her duties Rosalie has provided us with thought provoking meditations. Rosalie also organized the annual Regional Retreat in Sept 13. The Regional Board is still discussing the celebration of feast days.

Communications

In September 2013 the Regional Board held its first Teleconference meeting. It was very successful and since then we have scheduled Teleconferencing to take place every three months. I and the other members of the Board wish to thank Peter Ouellette, the President of Western Region for his invaluable assistance in helping us to utilize teleconferencing.

Twinning

Through the good offices of Kathy Weswick, the Board was able to Twin with the Regional Council in Haiti. Kathy also assisted in establishing Haitian twin for Our Lady of Fatima conference in Coquitlam. We would also like to thank Kathy for agreeing to act as the Regional Twinning Rep.

Youth

We are in contact with Jason Hunt, The National Youth Chairperson. Richard Lange, the Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council Youth Advisor, is working with the various parishes and school youth coordinators to establish a youth conference in the Archdiocese. We are also looking at all areas of the province and the Yukon Territory to select a youth representative to attend the National AGA in Edmonton this year.

Extension, Education & Training

Last fall Dana Webster from Kelowna travelled to Williams Lake to present the Orientation Modules to the conference President Lynn Paterson and the conference Vincentians in Sacred Heart conference. In January 2014, Bill Clendinning, still undergoing chemotherapy and medical treatment, produced two implementation plans outlining how to proceed with establishing conferences in the Yukon Territory and how to ensure that the training and education of conference and council executives is conducted on an ongoing basis throughout the province. Bill's two proposals were introduced to the Board members at our last teleconference. The Board agreed to take the proposals back to their conferences and councils, and the proposals will be presented at our AGA in May for adoption. In February 2014, Claude Bedard of Comox requested the Regional Training Team present the Orientation Modules to 25 Vincentians from across Vancouver Island. The presentation was well received and teams are now being formed to extend the Society as well as keeping council and conference executives up to date annually on the Society's Policies and Procedures.

BC & Yukon Regional Council

Prince George & Mackenzie Isolated Conferences (Northern BC)

St Francis of Assisi Conference continues to perform an extraordinary ministry in Prince George's downtown area. St Peter's conference in Mackenzie has received their CRA charity number and operates a very busy food cupboard with participation from the whole community.

Kamloops & Williams Lake Isolated conferences.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help conference in Kamloops manages a Thrift Store, a drop in centre and an Out of the Cold shelter, while continuing to meet the needs of the surrounding community. The conference will be hosting the 2014 Regional AGA in May. Sacred Heart conference in Williams Lake continues with home visits and distributes food and goods in the town's central park on Sundays.

Okanagan Valley PC

The Okanagan Valley PC consists of 6 conferences, 4 conferences in Kelowna, one conference in West Kelowna and one conference in Penticton. The conferences participate in home visits and facilitate the operation of Ozanam House for men recovering from substance abuse.

Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council

The Central Council consists of 3 Particular Councils and 24 conferences. The central council runs 2 Thrift Stores as well as operating and Outreach program in the Downtown Eastside area three times a week. We wish to welcome Ralph Thompson, the new East-West PC president along with Susanna D'Sousa, the new North Fraser PC president. Since assuming office Susanna has rejuvenated Our Lady of Mercy Conference in Burnaby and began discussions with St Patrick's parish in Maple Ridge. I am very pleased to welcome Fr. Tumbeleka as the spiritual advisor to the North Fraser PC.

Victoria and Northern Vancouver Island PCS

Victoria recently elected Megan Misovic as their Victoria Particular Council President. Between the two Particular Councils there are 11 active conferences. Besides requests for emergency assistance through the Social Concern Program, Victoria manages a Housing Program; 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 program; and advocacy for those in need. Island Catholic School students joined the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul 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 svdpvictoria.com

BC & Yukon Regional Council President Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee will begin the process of sending out nomination forms to all Vincentians in BC to elect a new BC & Yukon Regional Council president for 2015.

Disaster Relief in the Philippines

We had a very successful fundraising campaign for the Philippines Disaster Relief, raising nearly \$30,000.00 in BC. We would especially like to thank Christ the King Conference and Parish in Comox for their \$10,000 contribution.

Special Events

Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council's Main Street Thrift Store will celebrate its 20th anniversary this May. To commemorate this occasion and to acknowledge Tom O'Flynn's lifetime dedication to the Society, a dinner and dance will be held on Saturday May 31st at St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Hall in Vancouver.

Respectfully submitted

● Nora Criss, President

Twinning Committee



Introduction

This is my first annual report for this program, since I was put in charge of the committee in June 2013 by our new National President.

Twinning is a fundamental Special Work of mutual assistance dating back to the beginning of the Society, based on the statement that “all monies collected in the name of the Society anywhere, belong in principle to the poor of world” (from the Twinning Manual, Council General International - CGI, 2013). The ICG officially launched Twinning, as a formal program, in 1954. Twinning consists in helping brothers and sisters in developing countries by sharing prayers, sincere friendship, and material resources, with the purpose of creating a global Vincentian community of love and solidarity. Communication between twinning partners, at least twice a year, is an essential part of the program. The Canadian Society is hoping to twin as many conferences and councils as possible with partners appearing on the list of designated countries, or Canadian regions, where the economy is the weakest.

Activities

During the first months of my mandate, we completed an update of the twinning manual, policies, and guidelines, in order to comply with the new CGI Twinning Manual, and to the amendments to the TW-002 policy, approved by the National Board. A revision of internal (Canada) twinning records was completed, in collaboration with the Administrative Assistant – Twinning, Nicole Schryburt. Administrative measures were taken to maintain the integrity of this part of the program.

A few articles were published in the VincenPaul Magazine – Canada and the national web site (www.ssvp.ca) with regard to specific aspects of twinning, to clarify the program and generate new partnerships. I was in contact with several Presidents and Coordinators in different countries, in order to address mutual concerns and initiate new twinning partnerships. For Vincentians in developing countries, twinning remains an essential tool in serving the poorest.

The tripartite agreement USA – Haiti – Canada, signed in April 2013, aims to twin all conferences and councils in Haiti within the next four years. I received 22 Twinning Applications from Haiti in October 2013. The process was undertaken with councils and conferences in Canada to move the project forward. Four (4) twinning partnerships with Haitian conferences were approved during that period.

Thanks

Those first few months as National Twinning Chair allowed me to learn much about this important SSVp program. I wish to thank my predecessor, Sister Kathy Weswick, who advised me during the transition, as well as Mrs. Schryburt, Administrative Assistant – Twinning, who is in charge of the program administration. Regional Coordinators remain important agents for the program, contributing to educate the members and expand twinning. Thank you for your cooperation.

Solidarity and Sharing

Several twinning applications from designated countries are waiting for a twinning partner from Canada. A substantial number of people in those countries live in extreme poverty, and the Society, in spite of limited means, try to fill their basic needs and give them back some dignity. Twinning is to develop an awareness and to act, in order to alleviate the misery affecting families in the countries that were assigned to us. Increasing the number of twinning partnerships remains the priority objective of the program. People living in poverty expect that Vincentians give them compassion, prayers, and material assistance.

Faternally,

● **Clermont Fortin - Chairperson**

Statistics

- 19** Number of countries twinning with Canada: historic twinning and designated countries
- 9** Number of designated countries: Antigua, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Trinidad & Tobago

89 Number of active external twinning on March 31, 2014

81 903 \$

Total of funds sent by Canadian partners in 2013-14

3 Number of active internal twinning partnerships: (incomplete data)

15 New twinning partnerships

Active twinning partnerships by region

- 9** BC & Yukon Regional Council
- 7** Western Regional Council
- 65** Ontario Regional Council
- 6** Quebec Regional Council
- 3** Atlantic Regional Council



Dominican Republic



Haiti



Activity Centre for Seniors, St John's Basseterre, Antigua. The containers are used as warehouses.

Emergency Relief Committees

INTERNATIONAL

The Committee is responsible for ensuring response and follow-up on Council General International (CGI) and National Councils financial assistance requests, following all types of disaster.

Haiti

During this fiscal year, the Committee continued sending funds to the National Council in Haiti, to help victims of the January 2010 earthquake. Those funds were divided equally among the National Council and the four Regional Councils in Haiti, according to an agreement between the two national councils. Funds were also transferred to cover the cost of renting offices for the National Council of Haiti in Port au Prince. A sum of \$14,093.00 was spent to cover expenses incurred by the election of the National President and the training of more than 160 members of the Society in Haiti by Canadian Vincentians. A total of \$32,440.05 in assistance was transferred to Haiti during the fiscal year. The balance in the Haiti Emergency Assistance fund was \$79,530.55 on March 31, 2014. The National Council of Canada has received during the year reports on the activities undertaken with the money received.

Philippines

Two major natural disasters struck the Philippines during the last 18 months, typhoons *Bopha* and *Haiyan* that swept across the centre of the country in December 2012, and on November 8, 2013.

Following typhoon *Bopha*, the Council General International asked Canada to participate in a small house construction project by the Society in the disaster area. A sum of \$6,000.00 was sent to CGI in June 2013, allowing the construction of two small houses. The super typhoon *Haiyan* caused the death of over 10,000 people, hundreds of thousands of injured or missing people, and major damages to properties and infrastructures. CGI launched an international financing campaign of one million euros in reaction to the disaster. The National President responded to the appeal by launching a similar campaign across the country. The great generosity of Vincentians was apparent once again and a sum of \$140,000.00 was transferred to CGI in

March 2014. As well, the National Council registered the amount of contributions received with the Canadian government's Typhoon *Haiyan* Relief Fund program. On April 3, 2014, the federal government announced a contribution of 85 million \$ for the program. CGI and the President of the National Council of the Philippines sent to the National Council of Canada a report on the activities undertaken with the funds received following the passage of typhoon *Bopha*.

Mexico

A sum of \$5,500 taken from the International Disaster Fund, was sent to the National Council of Mexico on October 15, 2013. In September 2013, a hurricane caused major flooding and landslides in the south-west of the country. We are waiting for a report from the President of the National Council of Mexico on the assistance provided to the victims, following Canada's financial contribution.

NATIONAL

Two major disasters happened in 2013 in Canada. Floods in southern Alberta in June 2013, and the derailment of a train full of oil in Lac-Mégantic, Québec, that caused a terrible fire, destroying the downtown district and killing 47 people.

Following those two disasters, on July 17, 2013, the National President launched a financing campaign to all conferences and councils in the country. On March 31, 2014, the amount of contributions received amounted to \$22,041.00 for Alberta and \$17,340.00 for assistance to the victims in Lac-Mégantic. Those contributions have not yet been requested by both the Western and Quebec regional councils, because the relevant civil authorities have not completed the rehabilitation and reconstruction works allowing families to reintegrate their district. The Society is planning material assistance when the families reintegrate their house. Many thanks to all councils and conferences who expressed solidarity by sending funds following those disasters.

● **Clermont Fortin - Chairperson**

Education/Formation Committee



The National Education/Formation committee has just finished its first year under our new president, Jean-Noel Cormier. The committee's mandate will continue to be developing materials at the national level to be used throughout the conferences in Canada. Entwined in this manual we will continue to have practicable and spiritual components very much in keeping with Frederic's vision. The committee will also continue to coordinate the workshops held at all the national AGA's.

There is a need to do further train-the-trainer in both the Western and Atlantic Regions. This has been put in place as you read this report. Lynn L'Heureux is in charge of training in the Western Region and I will be in charge of training in the Atlantic Region. It is hoped that this can be accomplished at the region's AGM.

The committee was asked to look at developing a youth manual. We have begun this task and are pleased to have Jason Hunt, youth rep, as part of the committee while we develop this manual. He has already proved to be a good addition to our committee.

A president's booklet has been completed and in development are booklets for the rest of 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. This past year we have met for weekends in Ottawa. At these times we were privileged to have Jean-Noel working with us.

Because of commitments to his religious community, our spiritual advisor, Fr. Joe Quinn, CBS is no longer able to serve on this committee.. He was very much a working partner and his expert advice and gentle manner have been greatly missed.

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.

Always with gratitude, thanking them for their continued commitment to this committee:

Nora Criss, British Columbia

Lynn L'Heureux Western Region

William Graham Ontario

Michel Olivier Quebec

Yours in Christ,

● **Carol Horne, Vice President, Chairperson**



Social Justice Committee



The NCC Executive passed a motion at the executive meeting held on February 7th to rename the Advocacy Committee to the Social Justice Committee. The Social Justice Committee mandate was also increased to include advocacy, systemic change and prison ministry with the option to add ministries in the future.

The National President appoints the committee chair. The committee will comprise of National Council President (ex-officio), two or more members, appointed by the National President, National Council Spiritual Advisor and one member from each region, appointed by the respective Regional Council President.

This change of name and mandate led to a review of the ADM 002 – Advocacy Committee; 4.3.10 – Committee Terms of Reference; and 8.1 – Guidelines for Advocacy policies. The revised policies were approved at the April 25th Board meeting held in Ottawa.

As chair of the committee I have been asked to create a National Social Justice organization. The prospective objectives identified are:

- Advocate from a Gospel point of view;
- Provide National Council leadership;
- Generate and distribute official position papers on various issues;
- Create a Social Justice webpage;
- Open networking lines of opportunity;
- Adding Social Justice as a line item on all meeting agendas;
- Branding and marketing SSVP Social Justice
- Publish handouts on current issues of concern;
- Partner with other groups on issues of common interest;
- Promote advertizing Social Justice issues in Parish Bulletins;
- Promote letter writing campaigns;

- Create checklist for Conferences/Councils;
- Create opportunities or programs to educate and inform members;

to mention a few that come immediately to mind.

To date I attended two Ontario Regional Council Social Justice Committee meetings held at the offices of the Toronto Central Council on January 22nd and April 22nd. I met with the regional president and members of their social justice team representing prison ministry, advocacy and systemic change.

As chair of the Social Justice Committee I am also the national representative on the Sisters of Charity Federation and Vincentian Family Social Justice Committee. We meet once per month via teleconference calls. Their goal is to share information and to collaborate whenever possible on social justice and advocacy issues of common concern to all VinFam members. As your representative I also attended the Vincentian Family Gathering held in Indianapolis, IN on October 25th – 27th 2013.

Once the policies, guidelines and terms of reference are approved by the members at the 2014 AGA we will need to identify issues of national, regional and local concern to all Vincentians and begin building the structures that will support the work of national, regional and local social justice committees.

Respectfully submitted;

● **Claude Bédard, Vice President - Chairperson**

Property Management Committee

The committee is responsible for the management and maintenance of the property, and the structures and equipment of the National Council of Canada, located at 2463 Innes Road, Ottawa, Ontario. The buildings include a bungalow-type house and an adjoining building housing a large garage and a one-bedroom apartment. The main house is used for offices, meeting rooms and stocking our promotional items inventory and archives. The apartment is rented with a lease. The garage and outside parking spaces are also rented at different times of the year, most of the time to store vehicles. The total rental revenue for the period amounts to \$9,275.00, and maintenance/services expenses amount to \$ 10,439.00.

The National Council took out a mortgage when the property was bought in June 2009, and the balance of the loan amounts to \$192,106.00 on March 31, 2014.

● **Clermont Fortin - Chairperson**

Finance Committee



Last September, I accepted to become Treasurer for the National Council of Canada. We have improved the presentation of financial statements to the Board members, and that allowed to make a few changes that will help everyone understand financial statements better. In addition, we try to make use of available technology, for example, we do more transactions via internet. I continue to work in order to limit the cost of bank fees.

In the coming year, all the products that we sell will be registered in the accounting system. Invoices will be sent to clients by e-mail, through that same system. Inventory follow-up of our products will therefore be made easier.

Financing of the National Council largely depends on contributions from conferences and councils. It is therefore important that every conference does its share to help support the National Council of Canada. We thank all councils and conferences who assiduously send their annual contribution.

In view of the need to balance the budget, we are planning to set up virtual meetings for Board members, as well as for some of the committee meetings, with the purpose of reducing travel costs.

The Finance Committee is composed of our national President, Jean-Noël Cormier, François Dufault, Certified Accountant, and myself. I thank all Vincentian members for their commitment towards our organization.

● **Solange Fortin, Treasurer**

Youth Committee



It has been an exciting year for youth across Canada this past year. We have young members who are active in their local conferences across the country and have seen an increase in the number of active, aggregated youth conferences with lots of growth and activity in both the Western and Ontario Regions. Below is only a sample of some of the youth activities from the past year.

Vincentian Family Gathering/World Youth Days

In July, six members of the Society in Canada travelled to Brazil to participate in the Vincentian Family Gathering and World Youth Days. This is the third time that the National Council of Canada has sent a delegation to attend this event, with representation from both the Ontario and Western Regions. Our youth were able to connect with other Vincentian youth from around the world, while learning more about Frederic Ozanam as we celebrated his 200th birthday. And on the beaches of Copacabana, we heard Pope Francis speak about learning to serve the poor and become missionaries of the word of God.

We look forward to being able to participate in the next Vincentian Family Gathering as part of the World Youth Day celebrations in 2016 in Poland.

Calgary and surrounding area

Calgary is the fastest growing area for youth involvement under the leadership of their Adult Advisor, Connie Mackenzie. Overall, Calgary has four conferences running with ten adult advisors, three spiritual advisors, and approximately 70 members. All of their conferences are meeting once per month, while also doing deliveries at least once per month with adult conferences in the area, while doing various fundraisers and other service projects in each conference that are specific to the needs of their area.

Windsor

The Windsor-Essex Youth Particular Council is comprised of conferences in high schools across Windsor and the surrounding area, as well as a conference at

the University of Windsor. The dedicated youth spend their time making bagged lunches weekly for the local shelters as well as partnering with adult conferences in the area for deliveries on weekends. For a number of years now, the Windsor youth have organized and participated in a sleep walk fundraiser, raising money that they use to buy beds for those in need in their area. Their youth conferences also do their own fundraising, volunteer at the Windsor stores, and collaborate with other organizations to serve the poor.

Kitchener-Waterloo

The Kitchener-Waterloo Archangels Youth are a smaller youth group, but have doing a number of large projects over the past number of years. 2014 marks the 5th year that they have been doing their monthly Sandwich Project, serving over 150 bagged lunches to the poor in downtown Kitchener. The Archangels also coordinate the annual Pencil Case Project for collections across the Waterloo Region and across Ontario by youth and non-youth conferences. Under the leadership of their Adult Advisor, Carmela Addante, 5,667 pounds of supplies was sent to the Dominican Republic in 2013.

BAM (ONRC Youth Retreat in November 2013)



Youth Committee

Port Colborne

Port Colborne is the newest youth conference in Ontario, having just starting as a SSVP group in the fall of 2013. They have been very active in recent months though learning the way of the Society and deciding what service projects they are going to be participating in. They have been active in trying to raise money to start their projects, with breakfasts and the sale of goods to help them get started. They have a group of very active and willing youth.

Summary

This is just a sample of what our youth did in the past year. I encourage each and every council and conference to have youth on the agenda in 2014-2015 to discuss how each of us can find ways to welcome youth into our conferences, encourage their development, and realize our full potential to serve the poor with their creative ideas under the help and guidance of our adult members.

Respectfully submitted,

● Jason Hunt, Youth Rep



World Youth Days, Rio 2013

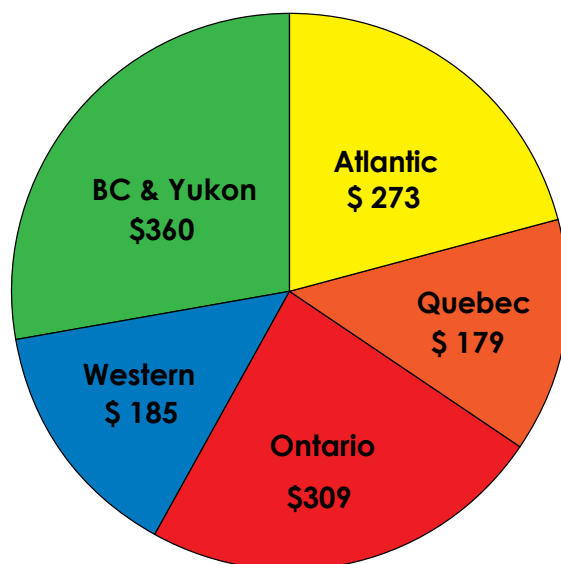


Statistics

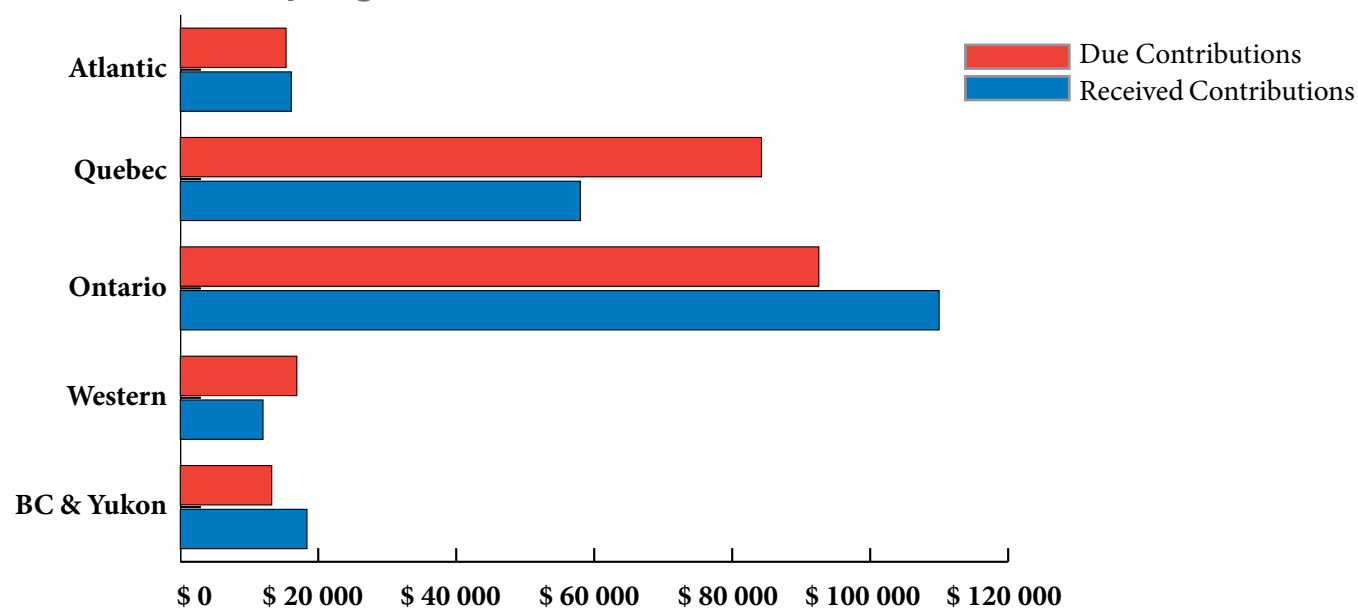
Financial Contributions

		# central councils	# particular councils	# conferences
Atlantic Regional Council	\$ 16,090	0	5	54
Quebec Regional Council	\$ 57,985	5	37	282
Ontario Regional Council	\$ 110,000	5	35	316
Western Regional Council	\$ 12,000	2	6	57
BC & Yukon Regional Council	\$ 18,370	1	6	44

Amounts received per conference/council



Contributions by region



Number of homes visited



Number of inmates visited



Number of food banks and soup kitchens



Number of stores and outlets

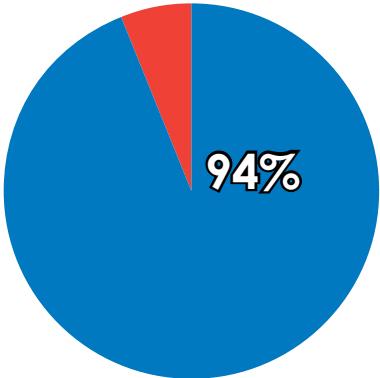


Youth membership 35 years and under

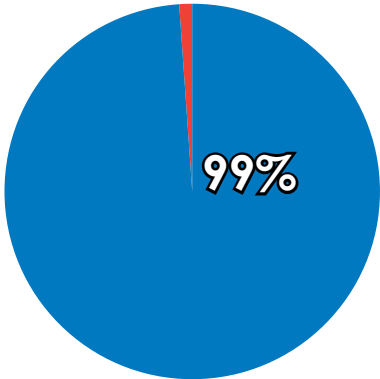


59% increase in membership

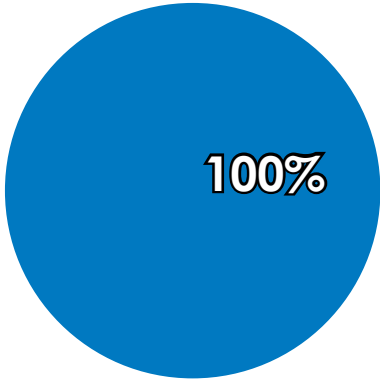
Rate of conferences responding to this annual report



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	
	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014
Home Visitations				
Number of homes visited	2,730	3,788	10,438	10,130
Number of visits to these homes	5,880	11,471	13,436	15,488
Number of adults served	3,593	10,533	13,747	15,184
Number of children served	2,716	5,821	9,958	15,007
Total of persons served	6,309	16,354	23,705	30,191
Other visits				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hospitals)	1,759	2,153	217	175
Number of friendly visits to persons	1,334	630	475	427
Number of inmates visited in prison	1,650	30	3	41
Activities				
Number of stores	8	8	0	0
Number of outlets	1	6	2	2
Number of soup kitchens	2	1	0	0
Number of foodbanks	3	6	3	2
Number of shelters	2	0	0	0
Number of drop-in centres	1	1	2	2
Number of low cost housing units	46	43	38	0
Number of children attending summer camps	0	11	0	0
Twinning				
External (outside Canada)	12	9	7	7
Internal (inside Canada)	1	0	1	0
Financial operations				
Receipts	\$ 5,143,966	\$ 5,150,734	\$ 1,369,921	\$ 2,028,823
Expenditures	\$ 4,992,270	\$ 4,573,306	\$ 1,241,150	\$ 2,017,867
Conference Membership				
Number of full members (age 36+)	447	466	738	838
Number of young adult members (18-35)	12	11	54	97
Number of youth members (under 18)	10	7	26	87
Number of auxiliary members	165	143	180	194
Total members	634	627	998	1,216
Spiritual advisors	17	19	23	34
# of councils and conferences included in report				
Central councils included in this report	1/1	1/1	1/1	2/2
Particular councils included in this report	5/6	6/6	6/6	6/6
Conferences included in this report	34/43	43/44	42/52	53/57

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014
35,853	55,753	104,021	105,179	5,800	6,400	158,842	181,250
68,541	68,354	104,021	105,179	7,862	6,918	199,740	207,410
82,271	98,008	142,359	137,467	9,058	12,455	251,028	273,647
61,723	73,989	72,365	73,905	5,427	7,285	152,189	176,007
143,994	171,997	214,724	211,372	14,485	19,740	403,217	449,654
3,573	2,709	107	2	5,144	300	10,800	5,339
5,957	7,001	-	1	1,213	1,300	8,979	9,359
489	1,856	15	0	0	0	2,157	1,927
30	27	93	93	2	2	133	130
26	25	0	0	0	0	29	33
11	12	1	1	1	1	15	15
62	46	2	3	13	13	83	70
4	4	0	0	0	0	6	4
2	1	0	0	0	0	5	4
202	202	0	0	0	0	286	245
2,474	2,454	775	338	0	0	3,249	2,803
70	65	10	6	6	3	105	90
17	3	0	0	3	0	22	3
\$ 10,001,915	\$ 19,576,996	\$ 16,751,950	\$ 17,029,261	\$ 1,362,584	\$ 1,366,559	\$ 34,630,336	\$ 45,152,373
\$9,112,382	\$ 18,456,925	\$ 16,186,073	\$ 16,427,495	\$ 1,183,757	\$ 1,146,593	\$ 32,715,632	\$ 42,622,186
4,050	4,071	2,864	2,982	n/a	800	8,099	9,157
91	136	96	68	n/a	35	253	347
70	130	0	0	n/a	0	106	224
532	739	1,749	1,419	n/a	0	2,626	2,495
4,743	5,076	4,709	4,469	1,024	835	12,108	12,223
168	189	250	250	n/a	n/a	458	492
5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	0/0	0/0	12/12	13/13
35/36	35/35	37/37	36/37	5/5	5/5	88/90	88/89
275/317	291/316	254/282	278/282	46/54	44/54	651/748	709/753

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 -