

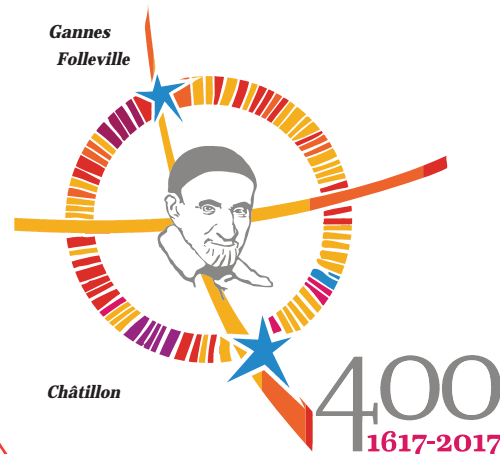
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



170th anniversary
of the Society
of Saint Vincent de Paul
of Canada



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Mission

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

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a worldwide Christian community, founded in Paris in 1833, by a group of young Catholic lay people.

Membership is open to men and women, young and old. The SSVP asks that members accept fully the Christian ethos and are committed to express their love of God through personal service to their neighbours in need. The service provided by a conference is usually concentrated on home visits, the person-to-person contact with the needy. This is a fundamental part of the Society's mission. However, activities may include "Special Works", which serve people in a wider area or provide specialized service to those living in poverty.

In Canada, more than 14,200 volunteers are serving about 400,000 people each year. Where appropriate, members offer material or other type of assistance to serve those in need overcome crises, and develop with them long-term solutions to their problems.

Message from the President

We are pleased to present you our annual report for 2016-2017. It was a pivotal year for the Society since we were celebrating the 170th anniversary of the foundation of the first Conference in Canada.

It was on November 12, 1846, at the Québec Cathedral, that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was founded in our country. Since then, we have expanded throughout Canada and are now present in all of its provinces and territories.

One hundred and seventy years later, the Society has more than 850 Conferences and some 15,000 members from coast to coast to coast. In 2016, Vincentians donated almost 1.5 million volunteer hours and helped over 390,000 people in need.

Through our home visits, stores, clothing counters, soup kitchens, food banks, shelters, drop-in centres, affordable housing, prisoner outreach, summer camps, as well as our projects: North of 60 and Seeds of Hope, and our twinning program with developing countries, we find many ways in which to help others. Vincentians put so much love and energy into realizing their mission that those who see them at work have no choice but to want to join them.

The face of poverty is constantly evolving, but we have found ways to adapt and meet the new needs. I am convinced that in the future, there will still be women and men who will want to live the Gospel message by helping others without judgement, with a heart full of love, justice, and joy. Let us ask Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Saint Vincent de Paul to guide us on this mission.

Jean Noël Cormier, National President

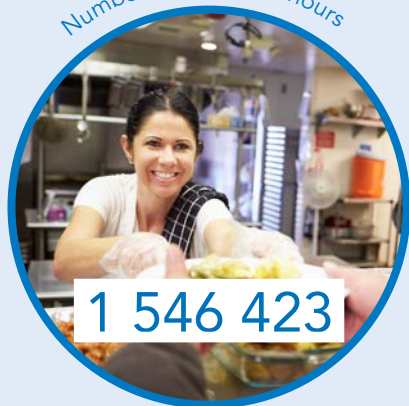


2016 - 2017 in Numbers

Financial Regional Contributions

		# central councils	# particular councils	# active conferences
BC & Yukon Regional Council	\$ 13,511	1	6	45
Western Regional Council	\$ 13,985	2	6	57
Ontario Regional Council	\$ 120,000	5	38	341
Quebec Regional Council	\$ 70,000	5	33	294
Atlantic Regional Council	\$ 14,580	0	5	56

Number of volunteer hours



Number of members



Number of people served



2016 - 2017 in Numbers

Number of home visited



Active external twinning



Number of food banks and soup kitchens



Number of stores and outlets



Number of inmates visited



Vincentian Activities across Canada

	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
Home Visitations	2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017
Number of homes visited	4,416	3,614	12,234	12,433
Number of visits to these homes	7,483	6,124	13,384	15,970
Number of adults served	8,489	4,923	18,543	21,329
Number of children served	9,118	5,741	17,584	16,159
Total of persons served	17,607	10,664	36,127	37,488
Other visits				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hospitals)	3,937	1,233	113	330
Number of friendly visits to persons	1,527	875	54	50
Number of inmates visited in prison	20	15	0	0
Activities				
Number of stores	10	10	0	3
Number of outlets	10	10	2	0
Number of soup kitchens	2	3	3	1
Number of food banks	5	6	7	2
Number of shelters	0	0	0	0
Number of drop-in-centers	0	1	0	0
Number of low cost housing units	95	137	0	0
Number of children attending summer camps	16	0	0	0

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017
36,257	32,444	169,479	149,399	7,055	7,035	229,441	204,925
68,228	67,964	169,479	149,399	7,055	7,035	265,629	246,492
75,273	73,154	120,841	100,452	14,369	14,259	237,515	214,117
58,797	54,146	57,878	43,037	8,010	7,892	151,387	126,975
134,070	127,300	178,719	152,011	22,379	22,151	388,902	349,614
3,531	3,293	0	0	593	552	8,174	5,408
2,372	6,456	40	0	198	195	4,191	7,576
1,767	2,798	0	0	0	0	1,787	2,813
32	31	86	88	2	2	130	134
30	30	0	0	1	1	43	41
15	16	4	4	1	1	25	25
37	51	2	2	6	4	57	65
6	6	0	0	0	0	6	6
0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1
121	121	27	27	0	1	243	286
2,489	2,200	489	0	0	0	2,994	2,200

Vincentian Activities across Canada

BC & YUKON

WESTERN

Financial operations	2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017
Receipts	\$ 8,068,403	\$ 8,710,496	\$ 3,148,889	\$ 3,405,747
Expenditures	\$ 7,834,406	\$ 8,755,168	\$ 2,610,090	\$ 3,513,736
Members				
Number of full members (age 36+)	594	590	984	1,189
Number of young adult members (18-35)	25	10	89	82
Number of youth members (under 18)	10	5	97	79
Number of auxiliary members	218	210	304	456
Total members	847	815	1,474	1,806
Spiritual advisors	26	23	27	34
Number of volunteer hours	107,077	50,874	149,024	129,921
# of councils and conferences included in report				
Central councils included in this report	1	1	2	2
Particular councils included in this report	5	5	6	6
Aggregated conferences	43	43	55	55
Non-aggregated conferences	2	2	1	2
Inactive conferences	20	20	6	5
Total number of conferences	65	65	62	62
Conferences included in this report	45	30	54	58

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017	2015/2016	2016/2017
\$ 21,886,434	\$ 21,609,636	\$ 22,829,642	\$ 23,455,831	\$ 1,450,312	\$ 1,598,417	\$ 57,383,680	\$ 58,780,127
\$ 23,143,986	\$ 21,145,154	\$ 24,728,422	\$ 20,376,146	\$ 1,427,325	\$ 1,475,337	\$ 59,744,229	\$ 55,265,541
4,333	4,211	3,245	3,309	975	970	10,131	10 269
127	111	34	66	22	22	297	291
111	83	0	0	0	0	218	167
573	565	3,147	2,939	405	404	4,647	4 574
5,144	4,970	6,426	6,314	1,402	1,396	15,293	15 301
201	196	267	267	0	0	521	520
389,168	381,156	636,961	858,672	126,180	125,800	1,408,410	1,546,423
5	5	5	5	0	0	13	13
38	37	37	32	5	5	91	85
324	329	272	268	52	52	746	747
15	12	24	26	3	4	45	46
22	22	23	20	2	4	73	71
361	363	319	314	57	60	864	864
307	292	267	266	46	46	719	692

Twinning

Twinning is the sharing of prayers, contacts and resources by 139 Conferences and Councils in Canada with those of 22 emerging countries. A total amount of \$124,301 was sent to these twins. Several twinning applications, from our 11 Designated Countries of our hemisphere, are awaiting a partner from Canada.

Number of twinning by Regional Councils:

Councils	2016	2017
BC-Yukon Regional Council	17	18
Western Regional Council	12	12
Ontario Regional Council	75	80
Quebec Regional Council	19	23
Atlantic Regional Council	6	6

Activities promoting the program continued throughout the year, particularly at the June 2016 AGA, by presentations and invitations to Councils to join the program. 13 new twinning were established during the year.

Articles on various aspects of twinning were published in the VincenPaul-Canada magazine. Many messages about twinning experiences and announcing new partnerships were posted on the Facebook group SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage. Vincentians are

encouraged to subscribe to and post their comments on this social network.

The tri-partite agreement Canada-USA-Haiti, signed in April 2013, aimed at twinning 22 Haitian Conferences and Councils within 4 years. This objective was achieved in September 2016.

Administration: Changes to twinning policy were approved by members of the Board of National Council to bring the program up-to-date. The Internal Twinning program was abolished by decision of Board of the National Council in favour of assigning responsibility for support to Conferences and Councils in need to Regional Councils.

Clermont Fortin, Chair
Twinning Committee
chair-twinning@ssvp.ca



Join us on Facebook :
SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage



North of 60 Project

This has been the year of collaboration as we see the support of Vincentians from across Canada reaching out to support those in need in the Arctic.

Conferences and Councils from Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Okanagan Valley, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, St. Catharine and Windsor are actively providing donations to fill sea containers and forward them to the far north.

Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Fort Good Hope, Tsiigehtchic, in the Northwest Territories and in Nunavut Territory - Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Rankin Inlet, Whales Cove, and Nauyasat - these Communities received support from Vincentians. Much of our access to these Communities comes through the Inuvialuit Corporation and the Kivalliq Inuit Association representatives who show us how to get things done. Additionally, Community visits by Vincentians who eat and sleep with those in the Arctic have increased our awareness of how to listen and to do things the right way.

Over the last several years the North of 60 Program has grown through the support of Corporations and Foundations, who share our mission of serving those in need. Special thanks to the transportation industry truckers and marine shippers, without whose help this program would not be within the financial capacity of our



Society. This support is shown in more detail on the tour of the Arctic that is featured at :

<http://ssvp.ca/newsletters/ssvp-national-council-canada-news/north-60-video>

As we continue, the level of support grows. This year we have a new effort from Vincentians in BC as we work with the Canadian Coast Guard to provide dehydrated vegetables to some of the farthest Arctic Communities.

As we continue to build our relationship with these Arctic Communities and grow in support of others we see their trust growing and new found hope can be seen in their smiling faces.

*Submitted by Pegg Leroux and Peter Ouellette
from the North of 60 Committee*



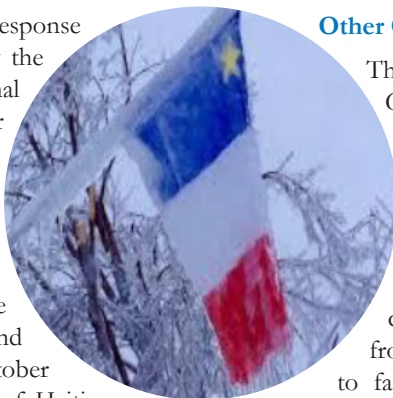
Emergency Relief

The Committee is responsible for ensuring a response and follow-up to financial assistance requests by the International Council General (ICG) and National Councils as a result of natural disasters and for humanitarian aid.

Haiti

The National Council continued sending funds to the National Council of Haiti to support victims of the January 2010 earthquake. These contributions are taken from the emergency fund established following this major disaster. In October 2016, hurricane Matthew hit the southern region of Haiti causing hundreds of deaths and important damage to habitations and cultures. Members of the Board of the National Council decided to forward \$600.00 more per semester to Councils of Haiti, 5 Regional Councils and the National Council. A total amount of \$10,800.00 was transferred to Haiti for emergency aid this past fiscal year.

The National Council, with an Ontario Conference, is involved in an education project in Haiti since 2014, for a period of 5 years. A contribution of \$2500.00 was forwarded to Haiti for this project.



Other Catastrophes and Humanitarian Aid

There was no transfer of funds to the International Council General for humanitarian aid or as a result of natural disasters this past year, and no specific request for help was received from the ICG.

Canada

An ice storm hit the Acadian Peninsula of New Brunswick in January 2017, isolating several communities during several days. A Conference from Moncton brought comfort and material aid to families in distress. A \$1000.00 contribution was forwarded to the Conference in reimbursement of expenses.

Clermont Fortin, Chair, Emergency Relief

Social Justice

The past year has seen Social Justice continue to grow as an integral part of the mission of the Society of Saint de Paul. While there are many areas we must address in our efforts to advocate and initiate changes that will effectively address the root causes of poverty in Canada there is one main topic for which we need your help and support. The need to educate our members and to encourage their acceptance and support of Social Justice is still a challenge. You can help us by including Social Justice on the agenda of every meeting and by delegating one or more members to act as your rep and lead all Social Justice discussions within your Conference. You can access Social Justice resource information on the national website

(www.ssvp.ca) or by joining our Facebook group and subscribing and reading Vincenpaul – Social Justice newsletter (published online 3 times each year).

In this past year we have been part of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle dedicated to actions in response to the Truth and Reconciliation committee report related to

the Indigenous peoples of Canada. We have developed a North American paper on climate change which was a combined effort of the Society in Canada, the USA and Mexico. There is no doubt the effect of climate change has the ability to place even more challenges before the most vulnerable. Restorative justice is also an important issue which seeks to address the complex issues with the criminal justice system, former inmates and the families of victims. We encourage members to step forward and become involved in any of these efforts. We must also help in any possible way we can in welcoming and helping refugees coming to Canada as they try to escape turmoil and begin their lives anew.

Social Justice is also an attractive recruitment tool for new members, both old and young who want to make a difference. We also continue to make contact with other Catholic organizations, as well as other groups, who are also working on poverty issues.

*Submitted by
Jim Paddon, Chair, Social Justice Committee*



Spirituality Committee Report

I am pleased to announce the following regional appointments to the Spirituality Committee: Msgr. Peter Schonenbach, Spiritual Advisor; Parnell Kelly, Atlantic Regional Council; Michel Olivier, Québec Regional Council; Sophia Mutuc, Ontario Regional Council; Joseph Tsui, Western Regional Council; Joe Rigby, BC & Yukon Regional Council.

Following is a list of the items I hope to act on during my term as chair:

- Create a training and education program for all spiritual advisors;
- Create and maintain a list of spiritual advisors;
- Confirm the usage of opening and closing prayers at all meetings;
- Confirm the usage of spiritual reflections at all meetings;
- Stimulate the celebration of Vincentian feast days;
- Inspire annual retreats;
- Create and maintain a Vincentian Blog;

Thank you to Fr Mark Slatter, Associate Professor of Theological Ethics Faculty of Theology Saint Paul University for acting as retreat master for the annual National Council retreat held on March 17th at Notre Dame de la Providence, Orleans, ON. Fr Mark guided us through a realistic account of what is an actual crucifixion not the romanticized version we are all most familiar with. For many this was a rude and disturbing awakening, which took some time to rationalize within our own minds.

I have made initial contact with Newman College in Edmonton to set up a fact-finding meeting for the development of an online training program.

I have also contacted a Vincentian with a demonstrated interest in developing and maintaining a Vincentian Blog.

*Joseph Claude Bédard, Chair
National Spirituality Committee*





Training Committee

The members of the National Training Committee decided to rename the committee and restate our purpose and responsibility to the members of the Society. We also revised the duties, functions and areas of responsibility; to refocus our actions on developing and promoting new training objectives

as decreed by the National Board; and to assist Regions, Councils and Conferences to deliver new and revised training materials and training recommendations to their members. These changes were approved and adopted at the National Board meeting.

Other recent training initiatives and changes that Region, Council and Conference Presidents should be aware of.

Nationally there are changes and additions made to the Screening and Duty of Care documents and procedures; and a new form added, the Abuse Prevention Checklist and Acknowledgment form, to be accompanied by a training session on the various Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment guidelines. These changes are in effect now as part of the screening process for new members. The full details and revised documents and forms can all be accessed

from the Operations manual – forms section #s 9.9, 9.10, 9.11, 9.12, and 9.23.

Presidents of all Councils and Conferences are urged to review their local screening processes to make sure they are following the latest procedures as mandated by National and required to maintain continued Insurance coverage.

As well, Region Presidents were asked to ensure that all Council and Conference Presidents have held training sessions to explain to their present members, volunteers, employees, and special works personnel, the necessity of taking this training on avoiding potential Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment situations, and comply with the requirement to read and sign the Abuse Prevention Checklist and Acknowledgment form # 9.23. It is a compulsory Insurance requirement that everyone must understand and agree to abide by the declarations made on this form.

If you have any training or follow-up questions on this annual report please contact one of us on the committee.

*Mary Grad, Ontario; Judy Peddle, Atlantic;
Kathy Weswick, British Columbia;
Madeleine Lafrance, Québec (temporary);
Peter Ouellette, Western*

Youth

In July, 11 young Vincentians representing our youth conferences in Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Windsor embarked on a pilgrimage to Poland for the Vincentian Youth Days and World Youth Days. This year marked the fourth time SSVP Canada has participated in this global event, meeting other Vincentian youth from around the world.

The pilgrimage focused on the topic of mercy, given the city of Krakow's connection to Pope John Paul II and St. Faustina, who experienced visions and conversations with Jesus and inspired the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Part of the World Youth Day experience, is an artistic interpretation of the Way of the Cross, which included reflections on each station on a different corporal and spiritual work of mercy – a very Vincentian way of reflecting on the crucifixion.



There was also the opportunity to visit, pray and venerate at the relics of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who in his youth was a member of the Society and now is a patron of World Youth Day.

As with every World Youth Day, the young Vincentians who attend come home invigorated with the Holy Spirit and inspired in the desire to serve the poor and this year was no exception. Planning is already underway for the next Vincentian Youth Days and World Youth Days celebrations in January 2019 in Panama. Conferences and Councils are encouraged to consider how they can support youth in their conferences to attend to learn more about the Society, the Vincentian family, and to encourage our young members to build and explore their faith.

For more information, please contact youth@ssvp.ca.

*Jason Hunt, Chair
Youth Committee*

B.C. & Yukon Regional Council

Fellow Vincentians, Sheran and I thank you all for your prayers during this time of health adversity – God Bless You All.

On March 17th (Paddy's Day) not Scottish day, Victoria celebrated the grand opening of Rosalies Village and Mary's Place Childcare Program. What a spectacular building and program. Well done Victoria.

We in B.C. are working hard to improve our communication skills, not only from the top down, but also from the bottom up. We get tied up in the local issues, forgetting that sharing knowledge is required to understand the wisdom of our Mission Statement. To enhance this our 2017 AGM/Retreat was "Joy in Service".

Due to unforeseen circumstances the AGA had to be moved from Prince George to Hope. The retreat centre in Hope B.C. was chosen for its geographic location, so as many Vincentians that can make it will do so. This years Retreat/AGM was held from Monday, May 15th to Wednesday, May 17th. We have over 60 Conferences and Councils in the Region, and we expected each one to send a delegate. Mass was celebrated by the local Pastor Fr. Cook., followed by supper and a talk by Kathy Weswick, national Board member on Rejuvenating our Society at local levels. The following day was devoted to our Annual Retreat reflecting on parts of the Rule with presentations of Service to the Poor and Vincentian Spirituality. The day was devoted to presentations followed by silent reflection on the topic and small

group discussions. Our last day began with Mass and the morning was devoted to the AGM.

We are moving forward in our plans for the Yukon by doing proper due diligence. We will find out if they want us and need us before a final decision is made. We would like a North of 60 ending.

We are an aging group with volunteers getting harder to find. We are all challenged by this and other needs that crop up. But, I thank all the volunteers for their dedication to making this world a better place to live in.

*Scotty MacLaren, President
B.C. & Yukon Regional Council*



Western Regional Council

Last year the world saw pictures of the fire that destroyed homes and families in Fort McMurray. Our call for help was answered by many Vincentians who donated to help those in need. Our greatest support came from Ontario Region. Phil Bondy provided home visitor training to local Catholic parishioners who have been able to reach out to hundreds of families suffering from the after affects of this disaster

Winnipeg Vincentians are active with St Timothy's Conference mentoring our latest family addition, la Conférence de Sainte-Catherine Labouré et de la Divine Miséricorde, and more growth is expected in Manitoba. Additionally, they collaborate with Salvation Army using their mobile equipment to provide outreach to homeless.

Our two Saskatchewan Conferences in Regina and Prince Albert continue to provide to those in need.

The Calgary Central Council covers a large area including the Banff Rockies, down to the USA border and over to Saskatchewan with 800 Vincentians in 3 Particular Councils and a new Youth Particular Council awaiting approval. Details of their activity can be found at <https://ssvpcalgary.org/>

The Edmonton Central Council is actively supporting the North of 60 Project, the First Nations initiative which is well underway, and many other activities best described by viewing the website (<https://ssvpedmonton.wildapricot.org/>). A particular mention however goes

to one of their newer Conferences; Saint-Frère-André Conference was initiated three years ago. This is the only French speaking Conference in Alberta. Its members, all French speaking, originate from three different continents and vary greatly in age. Reconciliation of the different cultures and building intergenerational relations was a challenge and a success.

The first store in the Western Region was started recently in Yellowknife – St Patrick's Vinnie with the collaboration of Sue Armitage and SSVP Stores in Ontario. Their guidance and model for success was the foundation for moving forward.

As I come to the end of my five-year term as President of the Western Region I am humbled by so many Vincentians who have shown a passion to participate; I am excited to have had the opportunity to learn so much; and I am glad that I have had the opportunity to serve.

*Peter Ouellette, President
Western Regional Council*



Ontario Regional Council

Ontario was busy with many activities in 2016 serving our friends in need including home visits, our friends visiting our SSVP food banks and soup kitchens, as well as visiting the sick and our friends in prison. Our 45 stores helped fill vouchers providing basic necessities for many friends. Our 3 SSVP camps provided an amazing camp experience for children, as well as teenagers who volunteered as camp counselors.

As Blessed Frederic Ozanam stated, we know that charity alone is not enough. Social Justice is also needed – this is the justice we seek in society for those we serve. Systemic Change is the process we use to implement changes to improve social justice for our friends whom we serve.

In Ontario, some Systemic Change projects in place include Seeds of Hope and the Ozanam Education Fund to help our friends overcome the barrier of access to education. Vinnie's Wallet is also in place offering mini loans to our friends dealing with an emergency financial need.

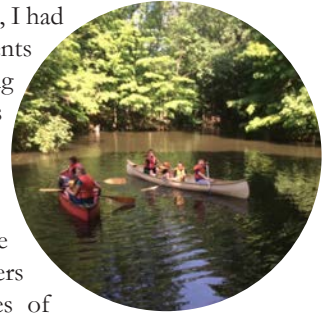
In addition to our Prison Ministry where Vincentians visit inmates, the Dismas Ministry was started in 2016 which provides assistance to returning citizens (former inmates) to help them re-integrate into the community once released from prison.

After my term as President began in 2016, I had the pleasure of making calls to 50 Presidents to hear about the work SSVP is doing in their community, and the challenges they face, such as recruiting members, rejuvenation and succession planning. I am touched by the level of dedication and passion of our Presidents, and the commitment of our many SSVP members who believe in our mission and values of serving the poor.

After hearing from Vincentians across Ontario, our new Executive team will be focusing efforts on spirituality, Council and Conference rejuvenation, member recruitment, youth recruitment, communication, social justice and advocacy, stores and North of 60 helping our friends in the north.

With the 170th anniversary of SSVP in Canada on November 12, 2016, a number of Councils and Conferences celebrated this milestone by holding a special Mass and having Vincentian Family Time.

*Linda Dollard, President
Ontario Regional Council*



Quebec Regional Council

The Québec Regional Council appointed a new executive in July 2016. We have monthly Skype meetings that help us manage regular affairs and get to know each other better. To those meetings were added two main activities: first, the production and distribution of our yearly magazine, this year's special edition celebrating the 170th anniversary of the foundation of the first Conference in Québec, and secondly, we had a planning meeting in a lodge near Montreal. That 2-day meeting of the expanded executive committee, including our two employees, allowed us, after a spiritual reflection and a brainstorming session, to establish priorities and an action plan that was adopted by our Board in April.

The action plan is divided into two parts: main projects and development activities.

In the "project" section, two projects were retained: OBM (Pencil Case) and North of 60.

The OBM project has been operational since 2001. Since it began, mainly in Montréal and Québec city, over 6 million dollars were distributed to support the beginning of the school year, belonging initiatives and perseverance scholarships. We are planning to improve and financially support that project across Québec as well as make it known in the rest of Canada. The North of 60 project is still in the early stages, but we have the support of our Board to put in place an infrastructure

in 2017 and send our first containers to northern Québec in 2018.

Our development activities will focus on our communications at all levels:

better sharing of information from the top down and from the bottom up about our good deeds and our successes, but also our difficulties, the increase in participation in our local and regional meetings, revitalisation of a training committee, without omitting to insist on an important Québec participation in our national conference which will take place in Québec city in 2017. Finally, our web site makeover is expected in 2018.

*Michel Olivier, President
Quebec Regional Council*



Atlantic Regional Council

Our Region has been very active in the past six months. New Conferences, new people, new ideas and a new purpose. Newfoundland is leading our group in their embrace of electronic means of having meetings. Face time, video conferences and Facebook are becoming the norm.

New Brunswick has new Conferences in the city of Campbellton. They are having some start up hiccups but are finally on their way. The other new Conference in Moncton is doing really well. They have a twin in Quebec but now are ready to fly on their own.

Little PEI is doing well and looking to add other Conferences, the need seems to be on par with last year. The four Conferences are in good shape fund wise.

Cape Breton Island has four new Conference Presidents who are charged up. I can see really good things for the future of SSVP in Cape Breton.

The Halifax Particular Council is very strong and is expected to remain that way. It has strong leadership and ample money to take them long term. The Dartmouth Particular Council has some problems that are common to all aging parishes, with dwindling attendance at masses.

We held a very exciting AGM on October 28th / 29th in Debert, NS. I am both proud and humbled by the turnout and the input from the delegates.

*Parnell Kelly, President
Atlantic Regional Council*

Contact

National Council of Canada

2463, Innes Road
Ottawa ON K1B 3K3

Tel : 613-837-4363

Toll free: 1-866-997-SSVP (7787)

Fax: 613-837-7375

Website: www.ssvp.ca

Email addresses:

National President
president@ssvp.ca

Administrative Assistant
national@ssvp.ca

Twinning Assistant
twinning@ssvp.ca

Editor
editor@ssvp.ca

British Columbia & Yukon Regional Council

582 Island Highway
Campbell River, C.-B. V9W 2C1
Email: pres.bc@ssvp.ca
Website: ssvp.bc.ca

Western Regional Council (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut)

PO Box 18035 Shawnessy
Calgary AB T2Y 3W0
Tel: 403-968-9254
Email: pres.wrc@ssvp.ca
Website: www.ssvpwc.ca

Ontario Regional Council

585 York St.
London On N6B1R1
Tel: 519-641-1655
Courriel: pres.on@ssvp.ca
Website: www.ssvp.on.ca

Quebec Regional Council

3956 Place Jeanne D'Arc
Montreal QC H1W 1X1
Tel: 514-525-0232
Email: info@ssvp.qc.ca
Site web: ssvp.qc.ca

Atlantic Regional Council

520 North River Road
Charlottetown PEI C1E 1J9
Tel: 902-368-1761
Email:
parnell.kelly@hotmail.com

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Ghislaïne DuNord, Ellen Schryburt,
John Grocholski, Denise Miron,
Josée Lemieux,
Madelaine Soulière Brown
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