

Frédéric Ozanam

Paul Lamache

Emmanuel Bailly

185th
anniversary
of the foundation
of the SSUP
in Paris

Jules Devaux

Rosalie Rendu

Félix Clavé

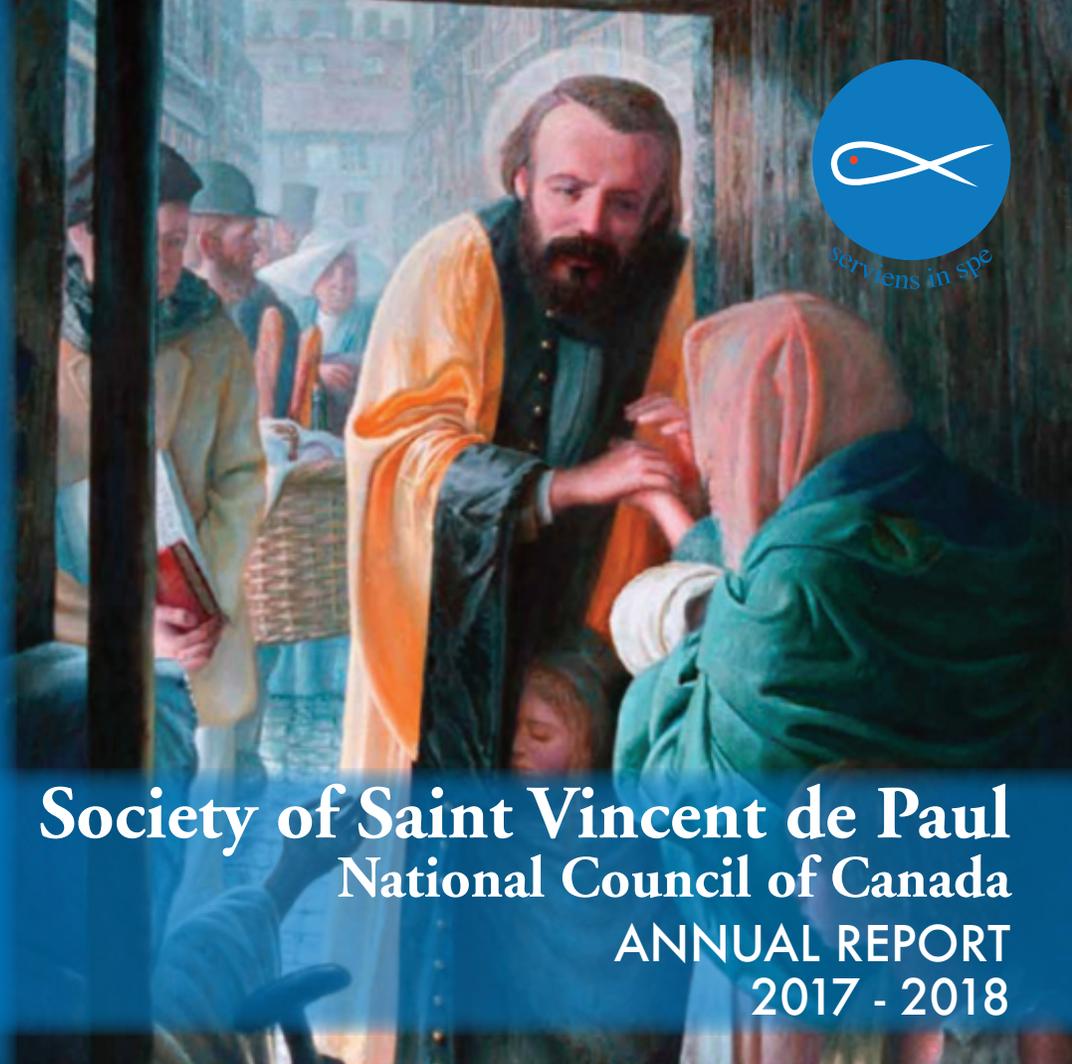
Auguste Le Tallandier

François Lallier

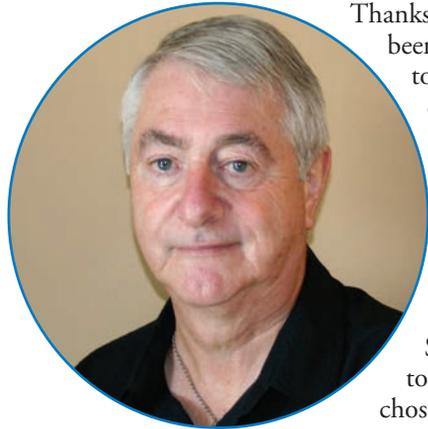
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2018

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada

ANNUAL REPORT
2017 - 2018



Message from the President



Thanks to the devotion of Vincentians from all over the country, once again this year, people in need have been admirably served. Whether by distributing food or other types of help, they did their best to respond to various requests as adequately as possible. Taking the time to listen to people remains the big difference between us and other support organizations. The time we spend with people who need our assistance is often as important as the material help we provide. For them, we are often the only organization where they can experience a human contact.

On another note, I would like to give you a brief overview of the excellent work accomplished by a few of our committees.

Our social justice committee worked hard to develop tools intended to help members who are interested in taking that approach. If that is the case for you, please visit our website, under the heading Social Justice. You can also contact Jim Paddon, in charge of that committee, at jpsvvp@hotmail.ca, to let him know of your interest and discuss the possibility of joining the group of Vincentians who have chosen to engage in social justice.

Our twinning committee has accomplished much again this year. The number of twinning conferences and councils is increasing steadily, and I think that we can be proud of this success.

Another important undertaking is our North of 60 project, created to bring assistance to people in northern Canada who live in extreme poverty. At the beginning of the project, eight years ago, we served two locations, and last year, we were able to bring help to 14 villages. The more conferences and councils that participate in the project, the more we will be able to help people in those remote locations of our country.

In conclusion, I encourage you to read the annual report, where you will find details of all the excellent work accomplished by Vincentians across the country.

Thank you for your commitment.

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

Message from the Executive Director

The pleasure of serving with love, respect, justice and joy! That is imbedded in the values that each Vincentian draws from the social teachings of the Church, to live the message of the Gospel by serving Christ through the poor.

In January 2018, I had the honour and the privilege to become Executive Director of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, National Council of Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the National Council for allowing me to support the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. I am proud to work with you in creating a better world. It is a tremendous responsibility, which I do not take lightly. Incidentally, even though I began my term late in our financial year, I can assure you that the year was particularly eventful, bringing a fair share of hope and opportunities. One of our priorities is to make our Society more visible, so that more people become aware of who we are and what we do; we are working on that. Our Facebook pages are very active and our website continues to evolve.

Since the beginning of my term, I have been able to note the energy, commitment and creativity of Vincentians, motivated and dedicated women and men, who never count their hours.

Together, we will continue to work with the needy, to build together a world of justice and promote human dignity. Thank you for your dedication to our mission and for your relentless generosity. I also wish to thank all Vincentians for their excellent work, as none of our accomplishments would be possible without the support, dedication and firm commitment of our members, benefactors, National Council members, as well as the entire team.

*Richard Pommainville, Executive Director
National Council of Canada*



2017 - 2018 in Numbers

Financial Regional Contributions		# central councils	# particular councils	# active conferences
BC & Yukon Regional Council	\$15,965	1	6	45
Western Regional Council	\$14,820	2	6	55
Ontario Regional Council	\$120,000	5	38	342
Quebec Regional Council	\$62,220	5	33	284
Atlantic Regional Council	\$9,760	0	5	55

Number of volunteer hours



1,674,217

Number of members



14,771

Number of people served



325,410

2017 - 2018 in Numbers

Number of homes visited



226,485

Active twinning



153

Number of food banks and soup kitchens



102

Number of stores and outlets



160

Number of inmates visited



3,034

Vincentian Activities Across Canada

	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018
Home visitations				
Number of homes visited	3,614	4,058	12,433	12,155
Number of visits to those homes	6,124	6,078	15,970	8,130
Number of adults served	4,923	7,483	21,329	16,451
Number of children served	5,741	4,505	16,159	12,591
Total of persons served	10,664	11,988	37,488	29,042
Other visits				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hospitals)	1,233	487	330	45
Number of friendly visits to people	875	834	50	0
Number of inmates visited in prison	15	0	0	0
Activities				
Number of stores	10	10	3	2
Number of outlets	10	8	0	0
Number of soup kitchens	3	3	1	1
Number of food banks	6	3	2	2
Number of shelters	0	0	0	0
Number of drop-in centres	1	1	0	0
Number of low-cost housing units	137	143	0	0
Number of children attending summer camp	0	22	0	0

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018
32,444	31,495	149,399	171,757	7,035	7,020	204,925	226,485
67,964	62,938	149,399	171,757	7,035	7,020	246,492	255,923
73,154	65,561	100,452	108,878	14,259	14,214	214,117	212,587
54,146	48,437	43,037	39,337	7,892	7,953	126,975	112,823
127,300	113,998	143,489	148,215	22,151	22,167	341,092	325,410
3,293	2,698	0	0	552	562	5,408	3,792
6,456	5,436	0	0	195	201	7,576	6,471
2,798	3,034	0	0	0	0	2,813	3,034
31	27	88	80	2	2	134	121
30	30	0	0	1	1	41	39
16	15	4	3	1	1	25	23
51	56	2	10	4	8	65	79
6	6	0	0	0	0	6	6
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
121	121	27	27	1	0	286	291
2,200	2,289	0	24	0	0	2,200	2,335

Vincentian Activities Across Canada

Financial operations	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018
Receipts	\$8,710,496	\$8,325,167	\$3,405,747	\$3,040,649
Expenditures	\$8,755,168	\$8,169,668	\$3,513,736	\$2,932,377
Members				
Number of full members (age 36+)	590	488	1,189	1,399
Number of young adult members (18-35)	10	15	82	31
Number of youth members (under 18)	5	0	79	8
Number of auxiliary members	210	213	456	174
Total members	815	716	1,806	1,612
Spiritual advisors	23	23	34	23
Number of volunteer hours	50,874	73,463	129,921	116,096
# of councils and conferences included in report				
Central councils included in this report	1	1	2	2
Particular councils included in this report	5	4	6	6
Aggregated conferences	43	43	55	54
Non-aggregated conferences	2	2	2	1
Inactive conferences	20	20	5	8
Total number of conferences	65	65	62	63
Conferences included in this report	30	27	58	53

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018
\$21,609,636	\$23,422,672	\$23,455,831	\$17,982,544	\$1,598,417	\$1,583,056	\$58,780,127	\$54,354,088
\$21,145,154	\$22,081,335	\$20,376,146	\$17,399,419	\$1,475,337	\$1,541,427	\$55,265,541	\$52,124,226
4,211	4,319	3,309	3,064	970	972	10,269	10,242
111	120	66	26	22	34	291	226
83	76	0	0	0	0	167	84
565	477	2,939	2,957	404	398	4,574	4,219
4,970	4,992	6,314	6,047	1,396	1,404	15,301	14,771
196	192	267	267	14	14	534	519
381,156	442,217	858,672	917,457	125,800	124,984	1,546,423	1,674,217
5	5	5	5	0	0	13	13
37	35	32	30	5	5	85	80
329	331	268	263	52	53	747	744
12	11	26	21	4	2	46	37
22	23	20	21	4	5	71	77
363	365	314	305	60	60	864	858
292	309	266	261	46	46	692	696

Twinning

Twinning is the sharing of prayers, contacts and resources by conferences and councils in Canada with those in a number of poorer countries in our hemisphere.

The program has been promoted by the Regional Coordinators, giving presentations and inviting councils to join. In addition, a workshop was held at the June 2017 AGA.

Number of twinning by Regional Council:

Councils	2017	2018
BC-Yukon Regional Council	18	19
Western Regional Council	12	13
Ontario Regional Council	80	89
Quebec Regional Council	23	26
Atlantic Regional Council	6	6

Articles on twinning were published in the online newsletter **Vincenpaul-Canada**. Many messages about twinning experiences and announcing new partnerships were posted on the Facebook page **SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage**. Vincentians are encouraged to join and post their comments on that social network. Eighteen new twinings were approved over the past year, increasing the total number to 153 as of March 31, 2018. Canadian twins contributed over \$160,000 to conferences and councils in 19 countries.

As for the administration of the program, changes to the Twinning Manual and related policy were made, following a decision by the Board of the National Council to assign to Regional Councils the responsibility for any needed support to conferences and councils.

Several twinning applications from designated countries are awaiting a partner from Canada.

I extend my thanks to the Regional Twinning Coordinators and Mrs. Nicole Schryburt, Administrative Assistant, Twinning, for their commitment to the program.

*Clermont Fortin, Chairperson
National Twinning Committee*
chair-twinning@ssvp.ca



Potable water rehabilitation/distribution project in a small community in Nicaragua



Join our Facebook group:
SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage

Western Region

When the Lieutenant Governor of Canada recognizes one of the Founders of our North of 60 initiative, it is a testimony to all Vincentians that our outreach to those in need is a noticed sign of Catholics in action. Sister Fay Trombley started what is developing into a national Vincentian support to all Arctic Canada.



Sister Fay Trombley

Our North of 60 team in the Western Region has developed rapport with the people of Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour. Starting as a food security program, Vincentians have supported systemic change programs related to driver education, sewing lessons for youth, restoration of a building to create an SSVP distribution centre, support to new mothers and their infant children and more.

Collaboration with other charities and foundations have allowed the team members to visit, learn and work with our Arctic friends to support change. No two communities are alike. Each community has different needs. Our Vincentians continue to see those needs and provide help.

*Peter Ouellette, North of 60
Western Regional Council*

Ontario

Spring has sprung and North of 60 is blooming. First, we have increased our family by one new community: Baker Lake. Next, Whale Cove, supported by St. Raphael's Conference, will be receiving a full sea container, and Naujaat, supported by St. Catharines, is receiving a second container based on their family needs.

Ottawa is gathering for Rankin Inlet, and Windsor-Essex, for Gjoa Haven. Taloyoak will receive food skids, supported by your much needed pass-ups to Ontario Regional Council. Thank you.

South Western Ontario Gleaners has joined in our support of the Arctic. Eight skids of dehydrated vegetables and soup base were donated. How this will enrich their caribou stew!

The Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Inuit Associations, along with Nunavut Sealink Supply Inc. (NSSI), are working with us to cover the marine transport expenses. All containers leave in early July and will arrive in early September. A huge THANK YOU!

*Pegg Leroux, North of 60
Ontario Regional Council*



Ottawa's sea container for Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

International Emergency Relief

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

Haiti

The National Council continued to send funds to the National Council of Haiti to support victims of the January 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. The contributions, taken from the Haiti emergency fund, totalled \$12,000. The National Council, along with an Ontario Conference, is involved in a 5-year education project in Haiti that started in 2014. A contribution of \$2,500 was forwarded to Haiti for that project.

Other Catastrophes and Humanitarian Aid

The National Council sent \$25,000 to the International Council General for humanitarian aid to Caribbean countries devastated by two hurricanes in the fall of 2017. Twinning partners in Canada also sent funds to their twin conferences in areas affected by natural disasters.



Canada

The committee dealt with two requests related to emergency relief in Canada during this period.

In the spring of 2016, forest fires ravaged large areas of northern Alberta, including the City of Fort McMurray. Thousands of persons, including Aboriginal people living on reserves, were evacuated. The National President called for financial assistance in June 2017. As a result of consultations and agreement with representatives of the Northland School District and the Athabasca Tribal Council, a plan to assist Aboriginal youth victims of the fires was developed. The plan called for the provision of workshops on trauma for children (K-12) with the participation of parents at five schools in the Northland School District. Reports received have demonstrated that the workshops met their goals. The Committee approved a \$100,000 expenditure for the project; 50% of the budget had been disbursed by the end of the fiscal year.

Forest and brush fires ravaged large areas of central British Columbia in the summer of 2017. The Okanagan region and north to Williams Lake were severely affected. Thousands of people were evacuated and properties burnt to the ground. The National President issued a call for financial assistance in August 2017. A sum of \$40,000 was collected. After consultation with local emergency relief organizations and pastors, a food assistance plan for 300 families was approved at a cost of \$54,000 taken from the emergency fund. The project got underway at the end of March 2018.

*Clermont Fortin, Chairperson
National Emergency Relief Committee*

Our national social justice committee continues its efforts in raising awareness of social justice and the various areas we are involved in. These include systemic change, advocacy, restorative justice (prison ministry), Indigenous people and North of 60, environmental change, as well as national issues, such as affordable housing and a living wage for all citizens.

We are growing the social justice network by the appointment of social justice representatives or committees in many of our councils. In addition, we recommend that every conference also appoint a representative and add social justice to all meeting agendas. Regarding supporting our representatives with information, we now have the Social Justice Guide available on the national website

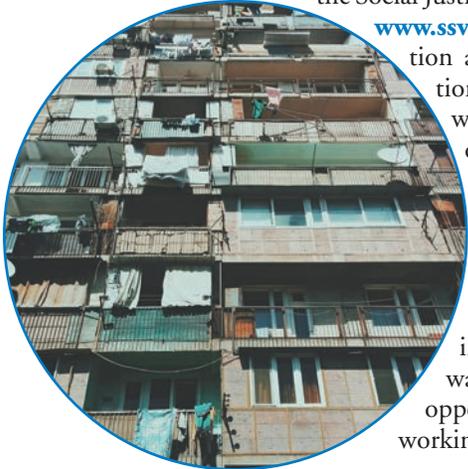
www.ssvp.ca. The guide contains lots of information about social justice as well as a description of the social justice representative. We would like to maintain an accurate record of social justice representatives/committees and ask that councils and conferences forward the contact information for your social justice representative (if not already done).

It is encouraging to see several provinces working toward a higher minimum wage. While such increases have seen some opposition, the bottom line is that it helps the working poor to better provide for their families.

There are initiatives at the federal, provincial and local levels to address homelessness and affordable housing. We applaud these efforts and encourage our members to keep informed about the effect of such plans in your community. Collaboration is also important, and we recommend joining local poverty reduction or homelessness strategies in your community. Your involvement helps to keep you updated on such activities while also making other organizations aware of our interest in those efforts.

In closing, I would like to thank our members who have joined our social justice efforts by taking on an active role at your council or conference level. If we can always keep in mind the importance of the right to human dignity, which all Canadians are entitled to, I believe we can be successful. Please join our efforts.

*Jim Paddon, Chair
National Social Justice Committee*



Join our Facebook group:
SSVP Canada Social-Justice-Sociale

Spirituality

The following is a series of questions for reflection during the coming year, together as members of the conference or council, or individually as you strive to deepen your own personal spiritual life.

Has our conference or council

- appointed a spiritual advisor?
- sought assistance from the next higher council spiritual advisor to fill a vacancy?
- invited the next higher council spiritual advisor to a meeting?
- have a budget for spiritual training, attendance at seminars, workshops, lectures or retreats?

Does our conference or council

- pray the opening and closing prayers at meetings?
- have a spiritual reflection at meetings?
- foster adherence to the moral and social justice teachings of the church?
- celebrate annual Vincentian feast days?
- have a mass said when a member passes away?
- have an annual mass said for all deceased members?
- have an annual mass said for all benefactors, the poor, the marginalized, the forgotten and the oppressed?
- foster prayer before and after a home visit?
- foster personal prayer for the poor, the marginalized, the forgotten and the oppressed?
- provide aids and services to assist in the development of your personal spiritual life?
- participate in an annual retreat?

Do I

- pray morning and evening?
- pray the rosary?
- pray for our pope, bishops and clergy?
- pray for our Vincentian executives and members?
- read daily from the bible and other spiritual materials?
- take time for silence and reflection during the day?
- retain the presence of God during the day?
- obey the moral and social justice teachings of the church?
- take time for a daily examination of conscience and reflection before retiring to bed?
- attend Sunday Mass and, occasionally, weekday masses?
- frequently celebrate the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and partake of the Holy Eucharist?
- participate in an annual retreat?

“Without Christ, there is no access to the Father. Without the Church, there is no participation in Christ.” — Hans Urs von Balthasar

*Joseph Claude Bédard, Chairperson
National Spirituality Committee*



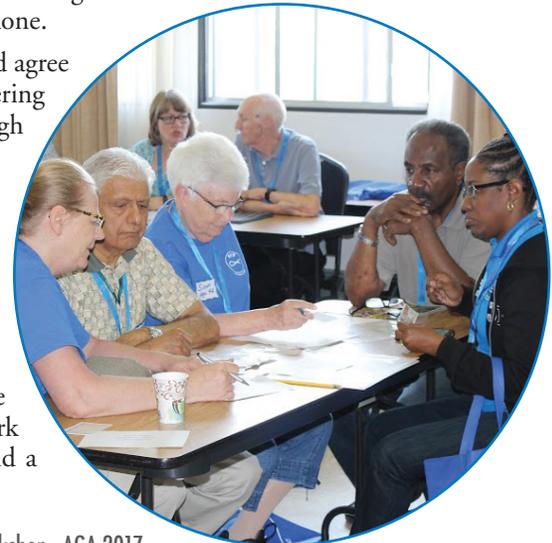
Our training committee has spent the past year encouraging all conferences and councils to wrap up any outstanding training sessions needed to ensure that all members, conferences and councils are aware of the components of the Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment Prevention policies and have signed the necessary checklist and acknowledgement form #9.23 confirming that this training was done.

We remind you that it is an insurance requirement that all members must understand and agree to abide by the declarations made on this form. We have been part of the teams delivering this training across the country, and we have enjoyed getting to know many of you through those training sessions.

Our next endeavor is to conduct a review of our mandate and responsibilities, and a reorganization of our numbers, our roles and our committee structure, in order to maintain adequate and accessible training resources for all regions and localities. We will be discussing this potential reformation with the National Board and the regions, to ensure we continue to produce and deliver adequate training materials as required.

Our committee was also actively involved in recruiting, organizing and ensuring the delivery and success of the workshops given at this annual AGA assembly in June 2018. We want to publicly thank all the presenters of these workshops for the dedication, hard work and ingenuity that they put into their presentations. You all get a big “Shout Out” and a “Mugs Up” for your efforts.

*Mary Grad, Chairperson
National Training Committee*



Workshop - AGA 2017,
Québec, Quebec

British Columbia and Yukon Regional Council

As time goes by, we grow stronger and acquire the resources we need to carry out our mission to help those in need.

The BC fires were our main focus during the summer. As Jean-Noël, our national President said, “We cannot remain indifferent to the fires that are devastating vast areas of Central BC.”

Reports have it that about 35,000 people had to be evacuated and over 300 homes were destroyed. This will affect people, businesses, the economy, the environment and the way of life for many in the months to come.

A committee was formed, under the guidance of Les Atwell V.P. BC/Yukon, to ascertain the needs of the fire victims. During meetings, it was soon realized that the devastation to the land created a problem, as many were used to living off the land. To this end, food and supplies were distributed. \$55,000 were available for this assistance.

Port Alberni welcomed the arrival of a family from Iraq. When they signed up to settle as “refugees”, wrote Chair Michele Fraser, “little did we know how long the process would be, but it has been the greatest adventure of our lives.”

Victoria continues to be the flagship of the province, under the guidance of the SSVP Particular Council, and a very active board. Yates St. residents continue to maintain a stable and positive attitude. Mary’s Place provides a safe and warm place for children from 6 months to 5 years. Our brothers and sisters continue to need our help so we have put aside our grief and despair and follow our mission

statement. The Frédéric Ozanam Centre strives to lead people with various disabilities from dependence to independence.

Prince George, with the support of donors and volunteers, served more than 120,000 in their drop-in centre, distributing 1,416 food hampers. Their new thrift store gave out 4,027 vouchers worth \$65,000, providing clothing and household items.

During the past winter, a major focus of the North Island Particular Council (with four active conferences) was to establish an outreach program in the isolated village of Tahsis, on the west coast of the island. A delegation of that group met with the locals to develop a program to assist them. The program has been implemented and is proving to be successful. The other three councils continue to provide for those in need and are adding new members as they grow.

Rosalie’s Village in Victoria provides housing for many single mothers who follow a program of agreement to establish their goals for independence.

To conclude, we are pleased that our National President, Jean-Noël Cormier, attended our AGM in Hope, BC. Ms. Pegg Leroux was our guest speaker on the subject of the North of 60 Program.

Following the AGM, Claude Bedard and I travelled to the Yukon to evaluate the needs and concerns of our brothers and sisters in the North.

*D.A. (Scotty) MacLaren, President
BC/Yukon Regional Council*

Western Regional Council

The Vincentian family grew in 2017 as two new conferences received their letter of aggregation:

- Saint-Catherine-Labouré et De La Divine Miséricorde in Winnipeg.
- Saint-Frère-André in Edmonton.

The Western Region Council (WRC) comprises Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories. Coming together as family is done mainly by teleconference and Skype.

The first meeting of the new Western Region Council (WRC) was held in Red Deer in November 2017, with 10 members in attendance. Spiritual Director, Fr. Dennis Vavrek, OFM, led the reflection. WRC is most grateful that outgoing president, Peter Ouellette, will continue to lead Vincentian works in the North of 60 program.

The Vincentian spirit is alive in the region and manifests itself in various ways:

- Edmonton has a very active distribution centre which supplies food, clothing and furniture. It is also the base for the North of 60 program.
- Calgary has developed good cooperation between the three particular councils who share financial and human resources with areas where the need is greatest. They also share, via internet, information on where donations and household requests are matched.
- Prince Albert harvests two acres of potatoes annually for donating.
- Medicine Hat cooperates with another religious group to help.
- The Yellowknife store is a success and a prototype for more in WRC.

Annual development days are important for Vincentian renewal of spirit. Edmonton and Calgary are active in this regard.

Pastor Fr. Jerome Lavigne addressed Vincentians in St. Peter's Catholic Church in Calgary on September 23rd, 2017.

Vincentians from WRC are always happy to travel across Canada to share experiences and learn from others. A WRC group attended the Quebec AGA in 2017.

Sister Fay Trombley, the SSVP Spiritual Advisor for the North of 60 Program in the Western Region, received the Governor General of Canada Polar Medal on March 21, 2018 in Victoria.

*Tony Barry, President
Western Regional
Council*



Winnipeg conference's first meeting as an aggregated conference, on October 11, 2017

Ontario Regional Council

Thank you to our 5,000 Ontario members who serve our friends in need.

Our spirituality committee has been busy creating resources, and will be organizing workshops to share these resources with our lay spiritual advisors.

Succession planning is a challenge for many conferences and councils. A succession planning workshop has been developed, which helps to identify and invite a new leader to step into the role of president. That workshop has proven to be very successful in Ontario. If you would like more information on the workshop, feel free to contact phil@ssvp.on.ca. We have a rejuvenation committee that looks at ways to rejuvenate conferences and councils and help with member recruitment, since a number of our conferences struggle with having very few members. Our two youth representatives speak in high schools to help with youth recruitment.

In an attempt to address social justice issues, we encourage all conferences and councils to have a social justice representative to raise awareness of this topic with our members. Some conferences/councils utilize SSVP projects such as Seeds of Hope, Ozanam Education Fund, Vinnie's Wallet or free Income Tax Return Clinics to help break down some of the barriers facing our friends living in poverty.

Communication is a challenge where our conference members are able to communicate with the higher levels as well as receive information from higher levels. In an attempt to improve our communications,

we have been working on updating our database to ensure we have updated email contact information for all conference and council executive members.

We have expanded our North of 60 program to continue to help our Inuit sisters and brothers in Nunavut, as well as helping our First Nations friends in the James Bay and Moosonee areas.

We celebrated the opening of two new SSVP stores, we now have 27 stores and 30 outlets that provide basic necessities to our friends.

I am truly touched by the level of commitment, dedication and passion of our presidents and members who believe in our mission and values of serving the poor.

*Linda Dollard,
President
Ontario Regional
Council*



Christmas collection,
Orléans, Ontario

Quebec Regional Council

The 2018 Vincentian year was characterized in Quebec by a major event, the National Annual General Assembly in the city of Québec. Last June, the Québec Central Council had the pleasure of welcoming International President Renato Lima de Oliveira, as well as 250 members of the SSVF from all across Canada. You came from all regions to recharge your batteries and visit our beautiful city of Québec (102 members from the Quebec region, 88 from Ontario, 14 from the Atlantic, 11 from the Western, 16 from B.C. and 19 from northern territories). On behalf of the organizing committee (see picture), Pierre Hébert, President of the Québec Central Council, Jean-Marc Vaillancourt, outgoing President, Chantal Godin, Executive Director, I wish to thank all of you for your participation in that very successful event.

On the occasion of the AGA, we had the pleasure of informing you further on the Québec region's main project from the 2016-2020 action plan: the Opération Bonne Mine (OBM) project. OBM has been operational since 2001, at the beginning mostly in Montréal and Québec, and more than 6 million dollars have been distributed since then, giving students a good start for the school year, financing related initiatives and granting scholarships to encourage perseverance.

We also undertake other initiatives from the action plan that was adopted at the beginning of our term, such as improving communication, redesigning our website and participating in the national North of 60 project.

My most sincere thanks to my team members.

*Michel Olivier, President
Quebec Regional Council*

2017 AGA organizing committee,
Québec, Québec



Atlantic Regional Council

My thanks and appreciation go out to Linda, Joanne and Chris, without whose support during the past year, my job would have been so difficult, or maybe not possible. They work tirelessly for the region. We connect with Chris via FaceTime and carry on our business. Thank you to all three of you and to my wife Ann for her endless support.

The region is doing very well. Communication between conferences across four provinces and on to Ottawa is worthy of mention. Technology is being embraced. A database of our membership is established. A social is held once a year immediately following the AGM. Our conferences are only travelling once to attend both events.

Newfoundland has a new Particular Council President, Sandra Milmore, from St. Peter's Conference in Mount Pearl. Sandra is no stranger to volunteering her time and very recently was named Citizen of the Year for the City of Mount Pearl. Holy Redeemer Conference in Corner Brook is extremely successful. Good work, Jerry and Maurice, and the rest of your executive. Kerrie in Carbonear is renovating to transform her food bank into a multi-purpose house. This endeavour is supported by the community and many levels of government.

PEI has a new conference and we should all welcome Cornwall into the family. They have 36 members and have recently received training from Jean-Noël and Richard. Welcome St. Francis of Assisi! New Brunswick has two conferences, both doing very well and growing in membership. Nova Scotia conferences are doing well. Church

amalgamation is stressing some small conferences. Halifax Particular Council continues to be successful.

I look forward to seeing so many of our "Canadian Family" in St. John's in June. I wish the Newfoundland planning committees every success.

*Parnell Kelly, President
Atlantic Regional Council*



Preparing Christmas hampers for distribution
at St. Peter's, Mount Pearl, NL

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

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 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 14,700 volunteers are serving about 325,000 people each year. Where appropriate, members offer material or other type of assistance to help those in need overcome crises, and develop with them long-term solutions to their problems.

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