

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada

Annual Report 2019-2020

Serving persons in need since 1846.
No offer of assistance, no offer of dignity, and no act of charity
is foreign to the Society; that is the strength of the organization.



Services to Persons in Need

- 146,000 homes visited
- 337,000 people served
- 156,000 children served at home
- 20,000 friendly visits and visits to the sick
- 3,100 inmates visited

Special Works

- 126 food banks and soup kitchens
 - 124 stores and outlets
 - 264 low-cost housing units
- 6 shelters and drop-in centres
 - 2,815 children sent to summer camps



\$4,600,000
worth of
merchandise given



\$8,900,000
worth of
food given



Our 14,500 members
offered more than
1,350,000 volunteer hours

\$48,400,000 total revenues
\$44,000,000 total expenses

Message From the National President

Although the year was rudely interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to promote the Society by increasing our online presence, working at establishing new relationships with other charitable entities and donor partnerships, sourcing new streams of income, upgrading our online banking capabilities, upgrading our online donor facilities, fostering and advertising the granting of bequests, increasing our visibility with government bodies and agencies, looking into forming a national stores committee, increasing our North of 60 efforts, reviewing and upgrading our Operations Manual to conform to the new Rule and Statutes, and reviewing our strategic plan, to name just a few goals and achievements.



Thank you to all conference and council elected and appointed officials for all your endeavors and support. Let us not forget our members and volunteers, the foot soldiers in the battle against poverty in all its forms. Without their dedication to service, in rain or shine, sleet or snow or, a pandemic, the Lord's work would sorely and sadly go by the wayside, leaving in its stead a trail of suffering and misery.

Last but not least, thanks to all our donors, benefactors and collaborators, without whose help we could not begin to respond to the needs of the forgotten, the marginalized, the oppressed or lost souls in our respective communities across the country and around the world.

Because of your hard work and contributions, we have been able to touch lives and effect changes that have lightened or lifted the burden of daily life off the shoulders of persons and families, not only in Canada, but around the world.

It is my honour and privilege to serve with you during this time of emergency, in a world struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. What a blessing to see how Vincentians are finding innovative solutions to continue serving, while protecting their health and the health of the persons and families we serve.

May God answer all your prayers and bring to fruition all your works, hopes and aspirations.

Joseph Claude Bédard, President
National Council of Canada
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www.ssvp.ca

thank you
thank you

thank you

Special Works

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.



Joni MacLean, School Principal, Monique Forster, Vincentian and School Board Trustee, and Linda Alexander

Social Justice

The SSVP held a Canada Learning Bond sign up event at St. Jude's elementary school's open house in Ajax, Ontario. We informed over 60 families about the \$2,000 of free available federal funds for an RESP for children of lower income families. Nationally, six out of 10 eligible children are missing out on this benefit to which they are entitled, due to lack of awareness. On the next day, a mother went to the bank and opened up the accounts for her five kids. That's up to \$10,000 in hope for a brighter educational future. Our goal is to keep raising awareness and increasing access. No child left behind! Every child deserves hope for a brighter educational future!

Linda Alexander, National Seeds of Hope Project Manager

Twinning

The twinning assistance has had significant impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals and families. It has allowed the conferences to assist in meeting the basic needs of persons in various ways, such as providing food baskets, assisting with school feeding programs and health and sanitation services for the elderly. The St. George's Particular Council has implemented a prison project to assist female inmates, while the Eastern PC has implemented a number of agricultural projects to boost food security. The twinning assistance is having a real and fundamental positive impact on lives in Grenada and we are very thankful for the support.

Mary Charles, President of the Superior Council of Grenada

178 twinned Canadian conferences and councils



\$177,900 sent to 17 countries

North of 60



Sharing Centre Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

While visiting Rankin Inlet in Nunavut, I met the people in the community who benefit from the Sharing Centre at Mary our Mother Catholic church, a centre supported by the SSVP in the Ottawa region. I was able to see that people greatly appreciate this food assistance service that directly meets their personal needs. The approach of dialogue with the community to properly identify their needs makes it possible to support the community well.

Claire Heal, North of 60 Project Coordinator, Ottawa-Rankin Inlet

17 sea containers

+ 73 boxes (total weight 431 kg) sent by plane to 31 northern communities

Message From the Executive Director

Thank you to all members for your dedication and firm commitment to our mission, and for your continuing generosity in helping your neighbours in need. Together, we are building a world of hope and justice, while promoting human dignity.

Vincentians provide assistance to about one per cent of the Canadian population. No offer of assistance, no offer of dignity, and no act of charity is foreign to the Society; that is the strength of our organization.



Training development continues to be a key focus for the Society. Training is a lifelong process, with regular updates necessary. The four pillars of training in the SSVP Canada curriculum are: i) Vincentian Life; ii) Leadership; iii) Spirituality; and iv) Special Works/Stores.

The first delivery of the leadership development program was held in October 2019. This material is now being further shared across the Society. The National Formation Committee is working to refresh material for the other pillars of the curriculum.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam wrote "Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. But it is justice's role to prevent the attack." Work is ongoing for the development of the National Action Plan on Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing. Vincentians see first-hand the necessity of having a good roof over your head.

During the year, partnerships were established with the Red Cross and with the National Association for Charitable Textile Recycling (NACTR).

And, as part of modernizing the office infrastructure, the national office transitioned to the cloud, leveraging the capabilities available under Microsoft Philanthropies, moving to Office365 with access to the extended suite of Office tools available to many within the Society, including the introduction of TEAMS, the replacement of Skype Enterprise, as a collaborative tool.

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