



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
ISSN 2560-824X
Volume 5 no. 17 - November 24, 2021

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Online version : [Volume 5 no. 17 - November 24, 2021](#)

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Celebrating 175 years of helping persons in need in Canada

Saturday November 13, 2021, in Québec City, celebrations were held for the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada in 1846. To commemorate the event, a special Mass was celebrated followed by a banquet. With the Mass, the Society in Canada was placed under the holy protection of Saint Marguerite d'Youville, Mother of Universal Charity. Saint Marguerite d'Youville, woman of action, is the example of someone who drew from the very Heart of God and made it visible through the care given to the persons in need regardless of age, sex, nationality or religion.

For the occasion, the Grey Nuns of Montréal presented to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul a relic from Saint Marguerite d'Youville. The National Council of Canada is very grateful for this priceless gift.

The mass was broadcasted live on the National Facebook page. A short video of the event was created and is visible from the National Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SSVPCanada/>

A series of events will be occurring over the coming months to celebrate 175 years of perseverance and determination to continue assisting persons in need.

A booklet on the History of the Presidents of the Society of Saint-Vincent de Paul in Canada has been revealed during the weekend celebrations; this booklet will be shortly available in the National catalog for ordering. In the last three newsletters, you have been privy to some of these presidents who have impacted the Society. Some dates in our history for our memory:

- the first conference in Canada, Notre-Dame, was founded on November 12, 1846;
- the Superior Council of Québec was established on November 5 1849;
- the Superior Council of Québec became the National Council of Canada on September 27, 1971.

And, to further celebrate the 175th, on Friday November 12, a new National web page was launched, accessible at www.ssvp.ca

*Richard Pommainville, Executive Director
National Council of Canada*



BRITISH COLUMBIA FLOODS

British Columbia has been severally hit by extreme weather events during 2021. In November, severe downpours have resulted in catastrophic associated flooding which will take months to recover; not only have people lost their homes, they've also lost their jobs, their schools and their communities. Conferences and councils in British Columbia are working to assist in whatever way possible; in the lower mainland and in the Kamloops and Okanagan regions, they are responding to the influx of people needing assistance.

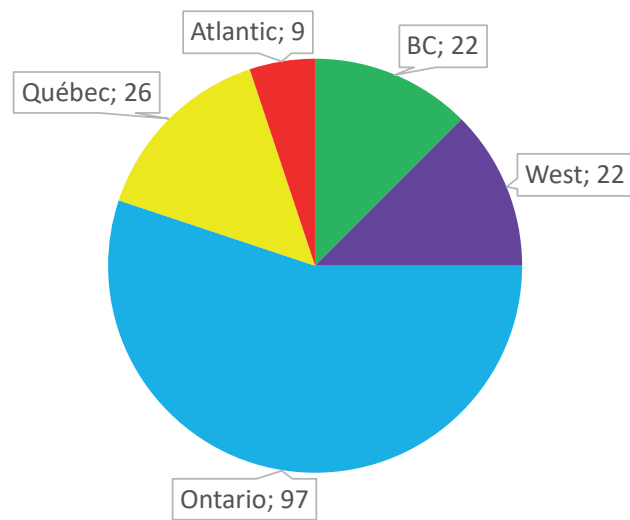
A National Emergency appeal has been established to assist with the need. Donations via ["Donate"](#) on the National web page; please direct your donation to "National Emergency – British Columbia floods"

Twinning aims to help Vincentian sisters and brothers in developing countries to achieve their mission of charity and social justice.

As the statistics below show, we still have a number of twinning applications waiting for a Canadian partner. I encourage all conferences and councils to engage in a twinning and help the most underprivileged.

Clermont Fortin, National Twinning Chair - Twinning-Chair@ssvp.ca

176 (20%) of our 848 conferences and councils in Canada are twinned



In 2020, our 175 Canadian twinned conferences and councils sent a total of \$208,505 to their twinning partner.

“We, in St Lucia, are struggling with the pandemic affecting every aspect of our Vincentian task, however we have not given up completely. Home visits are put on hold but we do assist the less fortunate by preparing the grocery hampers and asking them to collect or have a family member, close friend or neighbor to collect, not as often as we would like to. However, funding continues to be an issue with very little funds coming in yet the demands are getting greater; no fund-raising activities are able to be held due to the policies in place of no mass crowd gathering or curfews. In light of that I am very pleased that the Canadian twins are willing to assist the conferences in St. Lucia.”

Jaqueline Tobierre, Twinning representative, SSVP St. Lucia
October 21, 2021

	# of twinning by country	# waiting for twinning
Antigua	2	
British Virgin Islands	1	
Cayman Islands	1	
Colombia	15	6
Commonwealth of Dominica	17	
Dominican Republic	14	15
Grenada	8	
Guatemala	14	
Guyana	2	
Haiti	33	8
India	4	
Jamaica	15	
Nicaragua	9	1
Peru	11	1
Sri Lanka	1	
St. Kitts	1	
St. Lucia	5	
Trinidad & Tobago	18	7
Uganda	1	
Ukraine	2	
Zambia	1	
	175	38

38 foreign conferences and councils are waiting to be twinned with Canada.



Canada Learning Bond (CLB)

Did you know that by age 17, about 66% of Canada children are eligible for at least \$500 in Canada Learning Bond funds but only 45% have received it. Vincentians can help to change that!

In 2022, Canada Learning Bond (CLB) eligible children born in 2004 will be turning 18, and those with unclaimed amounts of the CLB can **request the education savings incentive as Adult Beneficiaries**.

This will be like a 'guaranteed bursary' for each student pursuing post-secondary (who hasn't received the funds as yet)!

"The **Canada Learning Bond** helps children from families with low income, or children in care, pay for the future costs of full- or part-time studies after high school, whether in a trade program, college or university. For those eligible, the Government of Canada provides **between \$500 and \$2,000 for education-related expenses after high school** into a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). Most importantly, no contributions into a RESP are required to receive the CLB.

"The process to access the funds is clear, but awareness is low. All that would be required to access these monies would be to open an RESP. By applying for the CLB, these young adults can take a step to finance their own post-secondary education, and set themselves up for better careers, and a brighter future.

"These education savings incentives play an essential role within the continuum of federal supports for students entering Post-Secondary Education. While non-repayable grants, needs-based loans, and loan repayment supports offered by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program help make education more affordable for students from low- and middle-income families when they are transitioning to PSE, the education savings incentives encourage early planning and saving. Education savings can have a positive impact on children's grades and aspirations for future education. Ultimately, they reduce inequalities in PSE participation, lessen reliance on loans and decrease student debt."

Click on link to read the rest of the latest [newsletter from Employment and Social Development Canada](#).

Help the students you serve get access to the **Canada Learning Bond** and much-needed hope for their educational futures!

Please reach out to set up a **Zoom coaching session** for your conference or for an individual coaching session. The session content runs just under 20 minutes, with time available for questions after the presentation, as well as support by email or phone after the presentation.

Join the growing number of conferences who are getting informed, making a list of families with students 18 years of age and younger and then reaching out to the families one by one to explain the opportunity and to walk alongside them to access!

For access to the Seeds of Hope toolkit, [click here](#).

Go to the next page for the new CLB Adult Beneficiary infographic.

Linda Alexander
Seeds of Hope Project Manager
seedsofhope@ssvp.ca



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada

CANADA LEARNING BOND

18 TO 20 YEARS OLD?



NOT SURE HOW TO PAY FOR THE COST
OF EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

The Government of Canada can help



You could get up to

\$2,000

with the Canada Learning
Bond for your education
after high school



About two-thirds of
those born in 2004 or
after are eligible for
at least **\$500**



No contributions
are necessary

You can apply for the Canada Learning Bond as soon as you turn 18
You have up until the day before you turn 21 to apply

If you are eligible for the Canada
Learning Bond, you will receive

\$500

deposited into your
Registered Education
Savings Plan (RESP)



an additional
\$100
for every year you
were eligible up to
the age of 15



YOU COULD
RECEIVE UP TO
\$2,000
TOTAL!

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE IF

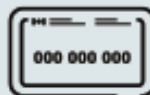
You were born on or
after Jan. 1, 2004



You are a resident
of Canada



You have a valid
Social Insurance
Number (SIN)



Your family income met
the eligibility criteria
for at least one year*



*Visit www.canada.ca/education-savings for more details.

canada.ca/education-savings

LC-179-07-21E

Canada

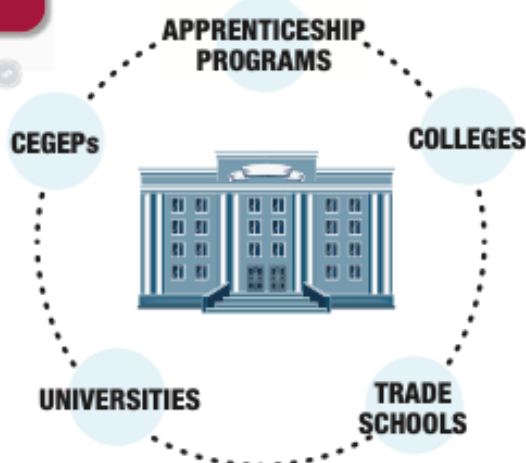


Where can you use this money?

You can use the money to pay for a wide variety of expenses from your full- or part-time studies in:



To get the Canada Learning Bond, you will need a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)



What do you need to do?

1

Find an RESP promoter that offers the Canada Learning Bond. Some offer options to open an RESP online, over the phone, or in person. For a list of participating RESP promoters, go to www.canada.ca/list-resp-promoters.

2

Open an RESP and request the Canada Learning Bond - you will need your Social Insurance Number to apply. If you qualify, all eligible Canada Learning Bond funds will be deposited in your RESP.

3

Take money out of the RESP for education-related expenses such as tuition, books, and transportation.

Where can you find more information?
www.canada.ca/education-savings

Canada Learning Bond – Adult Beneficiaries

Available upon request in multiple formats (large print, braille, MP3, e-text, DAISY), by contacting 1 800 0-Canada (1-800-622-6232). By teletypewriter (TTY), call 1-800-926-9105.

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PDF

Cat. No.: Em4-29/2021E-PDF
 ISBN: 978-0-660-39719-1

ESDC

Cat. No.: LC-179-07-21E



GEORGE MANLY MUIR 1866-1881

Founder of the First Conference in Toronto



Mr. George Manly Muir was born in 1807 in Amherstburg, in southwestern Ontario, to a Québec Catholic mother and a Protestant father. He died in Québec City in 1882.

He studied law and was admitted to the bar. In 1867, with the advent of Canadian Confederation, he was appointed Chief Clerk of the Québec Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Muir became a member of an Irish conference in Québec City in 1849, after having been a member of a conference in Montréal in the same year. In 1850, as part of his employment, he moved to Toronto, where he undertook the founding of a first conference at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto.

A man of generous faith, he was concerned with the plight of the less fortunate. With his wife he created several aid organizations such as the Good Shepherd Society, for which he was soon assisted by Marie Fitzbach (1806-1885). This work, whose purpose was to receive women who wished to leave the profession of prostitution, was entrusted to the direction of Ms. Marie Fitzbach. Having become independent of the Society, the work expanded and in 1856, Marie Fitzbach and her companions decided to found the congregation of the Sœurs Servantes du Cœur Immaculé de Marie, better known as the Sœurs du Bon-Pasteur de Québec.

Mr. Muir was President of the Québec Council and the Superior Council of Canada from 1866 to 1881. In fact, in the early days of the Society, the National President was also President of the Council of the city in which he or she resided.

In 1870, under his direction, the patronage Saint Vincent de Paul acquired a building and thus, this patronage became the nerve center of the Society in Québec City. Hundreds of young people attended the patronage each year and were educated, trained and supported in their development by members of the Society and a few committed teachers.

Mr. Muir was an instrumental President in the Society's early development in Québec and Ontario.

Mr. Muir was made a Knight of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Pius IX. He died in Québec City and was buried in the church of Saint-Charles-Borromée in Charlesbourg, which has since been merged with Québec City.

In 2004, a street in the Notre-Dame-des-Laurentides district of the Charlesbourg borough of Québec City was named in his honor.

(Source WIKIPÉDIA and La Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul à Québec, Éditions GID, Réjean Lemoine, 2011, pages 40 et 45-48)



 Vincenpaul
CANADA



Multicultural Diversity

Our national social justice committee has recently formed several sub committees to properly address specific issues. One of these is the topic of diversity and inclusion. The national council approved a diversity & inclusion policy earlier this year, which every member should read:

[GOUV-016 Diversity and Inclusion Policy.](#)

There are many issues regarding this topic and the issues related to systemic racism and how it is closely aligned with many poverty issues. I would encourage every conference to review the diversity & inclusion policy and consider ways your membership can embrace and celebrate the many diverse cultures that make Canada a great nation. You can also look at ways your own conference may become more diverse and inclusive and in doing so, enable our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to look more like those we serve every day.

I would like to invite you to read the other articles and material included in this edition of the national SSVP news.

Jim Paddon, Chair

National Social Justice Committee



Multiculturalism: A Right Call for Vincentians

We are different, but that's the beauty and our strength!

Multiculturalism is a trending topic and tends to generate debates consistently. Some are sceptical, some afraid of change, while others believe it is a good course to achieve freedom, equality and equity among people from different cultural backgrounds. Multicultural society is akin to different pieces of a quilt, standing alone yet joined together at some point. These are people from different backgrounds, with different histories and stories, yet embracing a middle ground for coexistence without apathy towards the centrepiece. It does not imply conflict of cultures, although with diversity in its strict sense, cultural conflict might be inevitable. The idea behind multiculturalism allows individuals to participate fully in the commonality of life practices, while at the same time maintaining ties and connection within their individual heritage. There is an instinctive intention of compromise – live and *let live*.

“A multicultural society does not reject the culture of the other but is prepared to listen, to see, to dialogue and, in the final analysis, to possibly accept the other’s culture without compromising its own.” – Reuven Rivlin, President of Israel, 2014-2021

So, why should the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada think and talk about multiculturalism at this time? Why not?

Canada is a nation of immigrants, and for immigrants, where ‘everyone is welcome’. Canada is made up of so many different ethnic groups and each possesses its uniqueness that deserves recognition and respect. Canada recognized this, hence the Multicultural Policy of 1971 under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and the Multicultural Act of 1988 that aimed to address certain loopholes recognized in the policy. Multiculturalism is one of Canada’s unique features. Apart from being the first country in the world to adopt a Multicultural policy, Canada is said to be one of the 20 most diverse countries in the world and the only western country to break into that record. It is our pride and worth celebrating, and more so for Canadian Vincentians. The Society of Saint Vincent De Paul is a lay Catholic charitable organization. Therefore, the Society should and must reflect Catholicism, another word for universality. Our core value promotes justice in line with the teachings of Christ, which encompass respect and dignity for all, no room for prejudice or bias in any form. Our work and service should be accompanied with respect and empathy without being judgemental; this applies to dealing with fellow Vincentians and/or with our neighbours in need

As Vincentians, we need to recognize our individual unique attributes and characteristics, as largely formed by our distinct cultural background. The Society must be on mark in every aspect with multiculturalism. Multiculturalism will help us to redefine the way we have been doing things and propel us to more openness, while recognizing and discouraging unconscious bias towards people of different cultures. It will remind us of our unique cultural differences and backgrounds. In addition, it will enable us to consider the diversity among persons in need as we serve them. Our membership and our method of service to the community must recognize

existing diversity. Membership drives should focus on local content. It is not enough to applaud multiculturalism while only a fraction of our community is represented in our membership. We would be paying lip service, if our service to the community fails to consider cultural diversity. This is a call for every level. The different cultural patterns present among us must be reflected from the national level down to the conferences. Leadership roles and employment positions should not be excluded from this wave of beauty. We must harness and utilize the potentials of our diverse population for healthier relationships with less friction and competition.

However, multiculturalism has its challenges. There are bound to be fears, suspicion, inherit prejudice and tokenism, to mention but a few. Hence, we must constantly strive to use virtues and skills for managing such challenges. There has to be open-mindedness, readiness and willingness to listen and equitable power distribution. We must ensure that no particular group assumes dominance or control, but rather promote equitable access to opportunities and resources.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the gains of Multiculturalism cannot be overemphasized.

*“My dream would be a multicultural society, one that is diverse
and where every man, woman and child is treated equally.
I dream of a world where all people of all races work together in harmony.”*

Nelson Mandela

*Eloho Atekha-Aideyan, St. Andrew's Conference, Etobicoke ON
National Subcommittee for Multiculturalism and Diversity*



My Relationship with Multiculturalism

A multicultural society is much like a 'colourful flowerbed' of several different species with opportunities for all to learn and enjoy its benefits. My relationship with multiculturalism began at an early age, as I was born into a multicultural nation. I am eternally grateful to my parents who had the insight to increase our awareness of, and encourage active involvement in, different cultural events. As a result, my life has certainly become more enriched as I continue to uphold and pass these ideals and values down to my children.



Today, I feel blessed to be part of Canadian society that accommodates and accepts people through peaceable coexistence of different cultures, while continuing to at least keep some of the unique characteristics of each traditional culture. Examples of multiculturalism can be seen worldwide. To name a few, homes, workplaces, places of worship and schools are increasingly made up of various cultural, racial, and ethnic groups. Moreover, I find it to be quite impressive that without a need to legislate, some countries have been actively promoting cultural diversity by keeping it alive as part of its living history. Some governments have even taken measures to ensure that respect and inclusivity are enshrined in their country's national anthems.

Cultural diversity, often used interchangeably with the word multiculturalism, is important, as it embodies strong societal ideals and actions. As such, it behooves us all to create a culture of recognition, respect, and encouragement, to celebrate and empower others. This is not only relevant to cultural differences, but plays a critical role in upholding social justice for all. With open minds we can learn, and build trust, respect, and understanding across all cultures. In addition, multiculturalism is a huge contributor to the economy, as many small businesses are comprised of people from a wide range of different groups and cultures. Its economic benefits work through the economy to benefit all sectors, particularly tourism, education and innovation. In addition, where there is more cultural diversity, there are more events representative of the population. These events successfully drive tourism in our cities and neighbourhoods, portraying to the world that we have a community of vibrancy, resilience and adaptability.

There are many ways that we can learn about and support cultural diversity. For example, effort can be made to speak with someone from a different cultural background, while listening with genuine interest. Likewise, we can extend an invitation to attend an SSVP meeting with an opportunity to become a volunteer. Most notably, it has been my experience that interfaith mingling dispels inhibition and fears that would ordinarily exist otherwise.

With this in mind, it is very important to avoid imposing values on others that may conflict or be inconsistent with their culture. Also, when interacting with others who may not be proficient in

English, recognize that such limitation in no way reflects their level of intellectual functioning. Another area of support is to intervene in an appropriate manner when we see others engaging in behaviors that show cultural insensitivity, bias, or prejudice. When this happens, the popular adage, *If you See something, Say something*, can be rightfully applied.

In summary, by Royal Proclamation on November 13, 2002, June 27 of each year was designated as Canadian Multiculturalism Day. This day is a celebration of diversity; it is Canada's strength. I encourage everyone to join in these celebrations, wherever possible.

*Valerie Alexander, St. Mary's Conference, Tillsonburg ON
National Subcommittee for Multicultural and Diversity*



QUESTION & ANSWER

Is it appropriate to offer a tax receipt for the fair market value of services received?

A: As we can see on the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) site on the topic of *receiving gifts*,

A registered charity is not permitted to issue an official donation receipt for a gift of service. At law, a gift is a voluntary transfer of property. Gifts of services (donated time, skills, or efforts) provided to a charity are not property, and therefore do not qualify as gifts for the purposes of issuing official donation receipts.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/operating-a-registered-charity/receiving-gifts.html>

Registered charities cannot issue official donation receipts for gifts of services. However, they can issue receipts under the following conditions:

- If a charity pays a service provider for services rendered and the service provider then chooses to donate the money back, the charity can issue a receipt for the monetary donation (this is often referred to as a cheque exchange). In such circumstances, these two distinct transactions **must** take place:
 - a person provides a service to a charity and is paid for that service
 - that same person makes a voluntary gift of property to the charity

A charity should **not** issue an official donation receipt to a service provider in exchange for an invoice marked "paid." This procedure raises questions as to whether in fact any payment has been transferred from the charity to the service-provider and, in turn, whether any payment has been transferred back to the charity.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/operating-a-registered-charity/receiving-gifts/gifts-services.html>

As a summary, a gift of service is not a gift of property and a receipt cannot be issued.