



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
National Council of Canada  
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Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada  
2463 Innes Road Ottawa ON K1B 3K3  
Tel: (613) 837-4363  
Toll-free: 1-866-997-7787 (1-866-997-SSVP)  
[www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca) - [editor@ssvp.ca](mailto:editor@ssvp.ca)  
Charitable Registration Number: 132410671 RR0001



## THANK YOU RICHARD

It is with a heavy heart that I announce to all the members of the Society that Richard Pommainville, Executive Director, has tendered his resignation effective Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> Immediately following the Annual General Meeting. Richard will assume his new position as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, reporting to Archbishop Marcel Damphousse, starting Monday September 19, 2022.

Richard is a tireless worker and a fountain of knowledge who will be greatly missed. He dedicated a lot of time outside his regular working hours when he felt it was needed. I am sure many of you received phone calls or emails from Richard when you least expected it. Thank you for all that you have accomplished in this short period of time with the Society. We are truly grateful for all the time you spent with the Society.

Richard was not only an employee but a brother and a friend to all in the Society. His empathy and compassion for persons in need along with a deep desire to alleviate distress wherever and however it may be found are the true marks of a Vincentian vocation.

Please join me in wishing him Godspeed in his new position and in all his future endeavors.

Serviens in spe

Claude Bédard, President, National Council of Canada



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - SSVP NATIONAL OFFICE

[Administrative Assistant, SSVP – National Council Canada, Part-Time](#)

[Executive Director, SSVP – National Council Canada, Full-Time](#)



## WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY!

Canadians are living longer and healthier. However, Canada is getting older. Today, nearly one out of every five Canadians is over the age of 65.<sup>1</sup> This trend we see across Canada is also one we see in the pews of Catholic parishes across the country. It's a trend that will soon lead to what some commentators have called "the greatest wealth transfer in history", as billions of dollars are transferred from the baby boomer generation to their children and grandchildren via inheritance.

It is hard to talk about death but is a reality we will all individually face. Why are we bringing this to your attention? Because for the sake of those we serve and the future of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, we have to pay attention to the growing importance of charitable donations through wills. They are an opportunity for our most passionate supporters to continue assisting persons in need beyond their own lifetime. That's why it is important we raise awareness among our leading donors of opportunity to designate the Society as a charitable donation as part of their wills.

Many Canadians do not realize the extraordinary opportunity their wills provide for offering a generous gift to their favourite charities. We call these donations through wills "legacy gifts", as they can leave a powerful legacy of making the world better even after we are gone. Consider that designating just 5% of a \$845,000 estate—the current Canadian average—would result in a whopping \$42,000 gift, vastly more than most Canadians will ever give in their lifetimes! That's an incredible opportunity to make an impact. That impact also includes tax-savings opportunities right now, so Canadians can preserve a larger part of their wealth for their children, grandchildren, and other loved ones.

Put simply: Wills are going to be an increasingly large portion of total charitable giving in Canada in coming years, with many advantages for those who include charities as part of their wills. It's critical for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to proactively seek out opportunities for legacy gifts from long-standing supporters, sharing with them these beneficial opportunities.

To that end, I'm excited to share that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has joined again the **Will Power** campaign. Will Power is a national public education effort designed to inspire more Canadians to make a significant impact on the causes they care about, with a gift in their will to charity. The aim of the campaign is for at least 8.5% of all Canadians designating a charity as part of their will, which would represent \$40 billion for important causes across the country. Please refer to the Will Power National Portal as a reference <https://www.willpower.ca/charities/society-of-saint-vincent-de-paul/>

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<sup>1</sup> [Statistics Canada](#)



We've created simple tools to empower you as a Vincentian leader to encourage your leading supporters to consider designating the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as part of their will. In this email you will find:

1. A draft, template letter you can send to your most loyal donors, asking them to designate the Society in their wills. This letter can also be sent via email;
  - *We recommend sending this letter to any donors who have donated to the Society consistently for several years, and who give a significant amount. That said, even modest donors might consider giving a sizeable legacy gift. Think about who your most passionate and consistent donors are—these are most likely to be supporters who would most be interested in offering a gift to the Society through their wills!*
2. A template message you can insert as a postscript or short paragraph in another regular communication with your donors—for instance, a thank-you letter accompanying their tax receipt, or a letter as part of an annual appeal.
  - *We have written two messages for you—one asking them to consider a legacy gift, the other specifically highlighting the tax benefits of a legacy gift. Think about which might be most attractive for a donor.*

These templates are meant to make the process of seeking legacy gifts easier for you. They are not meant to be a comprehensive suite of tools for seeking legacy gifts. Consider what approach might work best for your conference or council. For instance, if you have deep, personal relationships with your most loyal donors, you might want to set up a phone call or meeting over coffee to discuss a legacy gift. You might also consider discussing legacy giving with your fellow Vincentians at a conference or council meeting. Whatever approaches work best for you, our hope is to make the process as easy as possible—and to help you secure the incomparable benefits of legacy gifts for the future of your conference and council.

If you have any questions or comments, or your conference, or your council needs assistance with a presentation on the importance and potential impact of legacy giving through wills, please do not hesitate to contact Linda Dollard at [l.dollard@rogers.com](mailto:l.dollard@rogers.com).

Thank you for participating in the **Will Power** campaign. It is exciting to see work to secure the financial future of the Society across the country, and support the work for Canada's most vulnerable people for many years to come.

Sincerely,

*Richard Pommainville, Executive Director  
National Council*



[Template letter/email to major donors](#)



[Template postscript \(P.S.\) and/or short paragraph message for inclusion as part of another donor communication](#)

## Template letter/email to major donors

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Dear [NAME],

You have been one of our most loyal supporters of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at [CONFERENCE OR COUNCIL LOCATION] these past years. You have been a passionate supporter of our Mission to serve the poorest and most vulnerable members of our community. We would like you to continue making an impact on this mission for many, many years to come. To that end, I'm writing to ask if you would be willing to make a legacy gift to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Making a legacy gift is incredibly easy, and there are a couple simple ways you can do so:

1. Contact your estate planner or lawyer about adding a charitable gift to the Society as part of your will. All you will need to share is our charitable number, which is [INSERT YOUR CONFERENCE'S CHARITABLE NUMBER OR THE CHARITABLE NUMBER OF THE SSVN NATIONAL COUNCIL: 132410671 RR0001]. If you haven't yet taken the time to write a will, you can visit [www.willpower.ca/profession/lawyer](http://www.willpower.ca/profession/lawyer). There you will find a list of lawyers in your community/province who can help you. Alternatively, you can find an online will service by visiting <https://www.willpower.ca/will-writers/>.
2. Naming the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as a partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy. As above, you can contact your life insurance provider directly and share our charitable number.

Why consider doing this? Your generous gifts to the Society have helped us make life better for those struggling in our community today. A legacy gift will empower us to make life better for those struggling years from now. By helping us secure the future of our services, you are ensuring that the Society's volunteers can uplift persons in need, wherever they live—in their homes, on the street, in shelters, in hospitals, or in prison—for decades to come.

As well, many Canadians aren't aware of the [incredible tax savings made possible by legacy gifts](#). Inheritance taxes in Canada can be enormous, leaving less for your children and loved ones. Strategically giving a portion of your estate to a charity—creating a sizeable charitable tax receipt—and then replenishing your estate through a life insurance policy is just one example of how legacy giving can be used to your advantage for tax planning purposes. Ask your estate planner or lawyer for further details about this. You can also visit [www.willpower.ca](http://www.willpower.ca) to learn more.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us "You will always have the poor with you." Through your legacy gift, you will help ensure that the poor will always have the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

God bless you and thank you for your consideration, [NAME]. If you have any questions, please give us a call at [PHONE NUMBER]. Whether or not you choose to make a legacy gift, we are so grateful for your gift and your ongoing participation in our mission. We couldn't do this work without people like you.

Sincerely,

**Template postscript (P.S.) and/or short paragraph message for inclusion as part of another donor communication (i.e. a thank-you letter accompanying a tax receipt)**

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[CONFERENCE/COUNCIL PRESIDENT]  
[CONFERENCE/COUNCIL]

*General message:*

P.S. Have you considered giving a legacy gift to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul? It's as easy as contacting your estate planner or lawyer and asking them to add the Society as a beneficiary in your Will. Simply share our charitable number [INSERT YOUR CONFERENCE'S CHARITABLE NUMBER OR THE CHARITABLE NUMBER OF THE SSVP NATIONAL COUNCIL: 132410671 RR0001] with them or visit [www.willpower.ca](http://www.willpower.ca) to learn more about the benefits of giving to charity through your Will. As a generous donor to the Society, you have made possible our mission to serve the poorest and most struggling members of our community today. A legacy gift to the Society will help us serve them for years to come. Please reach out to us if you have any questions!

*Message specifically discussing tax benefits of a legacy gift:*

P.S. Have you considered giving a legacy gift to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul? It's as easy as contacting your estate planner or your estate planner or lawyer and asking them to add the Society as a beneficiary in your will. Simply share our charitable number [INSERT YOUR CONFERENCE'S CHARITABLE NUMBER OR THE CHARITABLE NUMBER OF THE SSVP NATIONAL COUNCIL: 132410671 RR0001] with them. Legacy giving can offer enormous tax savings benefits, allowing you to leave more for your children and loved ones while supporting your favourite charities. Learn more by visiting: <https://www.willpower.ca/tax-benefits-of-charitable-gifts-in-wills/>.



## ANNUAL DUES APPEAL - MORE THAN HALFWAY ACHIEVED

We are slowly returning to “normal” after two years of following different local/regional/provincial Public Health requirements. As 2021 financial and statistics reports are being received, we have a better understanding of the impact the pandemic had on conference life, where certain conferences have managed to continue and even thrive, while others went dormant. This latter situation implies that some conferences are not in a position to cover their annual dues.

Since multiple conferences are not in a position to cover their dues, this ultimately has an impact on the National Council of Canada revenues since a significant portion of these dues cover the day-to-day operations. Based on current information received, there is a contributions gap in the order of \$35,000.

We are therefore reaching out to conferences and councils that are capable of providing some financial coverage for sister conferences who would not be in a position to pay their annual dues. Currently, we are more than halfway there; thank you. Funds can be sent to [National via the donation portal](#).

Or by sending a cheque to the National office at: **2463 Innes Road, Ottawa ON K1B 3K3**

*Dave O'Connor, Treasurer  
National Council*





## 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We are pleased to invite you to the Annual General Assembly of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada.

The AGA will be held virtually, via Zoom, on Saturday, September 17, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Please register before Thursday September 15: <https://ssvp.ca/events/annual-general-assembly/>



## WEBINAR ON VINCENTIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Rule plainly states that it is our Vincentian responsibility to identify the root causes of poverty and to contribute to their elimination. In order to bring about a more equitable society, it is important that we educate our local communities about the poverty in their midst and to suggest meaningful and practical ways of alleviating the suffering it causes.

To help us undertake this important aspect of our mission of charity, the Advocacy Circle, representing Vincentian social justice representatives from across Canada, is inviting all Vincentians to participate in an informative Webinar on Vincentian Social Justice. This will take place on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Participants will gain a better understanding of what the Church's 'preferential option for the poor' actually means. In addition, we will offer suggestions as to how we might engage our fellow Vincentians, friends, parishioners and decision makers in the task of eliminating the poverty we bear witness to as Vincentians.

Please join us for this opportunity to learn and engage with your fellow Vincentians.

[Register here](#) or through the website: <https://ssvp.ca/events/vincentian-social-justice-webinar/>



## CULTURAL CONTEST –

### VINCENTIAN YOUTH COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY

The International Youth Committee of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is convinced that when young people are committed to an important goal, they are capable of great and wonderful actions, so we officially launch the [CULTURAL CONTEST – VINCENCIAN YOUTH COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY](#).

The topic of Quality Education can be found in Goal 4 of the global pact that defines the Sustainable Development Goals, proposed in 2015 by the United Nations (UN). This global pact proposes a sustainable development agenda until 2030 with 17 major goals and, as previously reported, Quality Education is defined as follows: “Ensure access to inclusive, quality and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

This contest is truly a concrete gesture of the Vincentian Youth who will actively participate in the International Youth Meeting of the Vincentian Family and in the World Youth Day to be held in Lisbon in 2023, together with the Holy Father Pope Francis. We hope that the various projects of the SSVP aimed at facilitating Quality Education, especially for the poor, will be effective means to promote a real Systemic Change and strengthen the participation of the youth, as the seven young students friends of Paris who founded the SSVP in 1833.

We invite all Vincentian Youth from 18 to 35 years old to participate in this contest and to send their projects focused on Quality Education as an effective means to fight poverty. Together and committed to the Mission, we can be young people on the move, promoters of social justice in order to materialize here and now the dream of Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam: “to embrace the world in a great network of charity”.



## FUND DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The Fund Development Committee continues to work on creating resources to help share successful initiatives for your SSVp community.

We recently created the Fund Development Toolkit, sharing promising practices that have worked for some Councils/Conferences across Canada, which can be found at [Fund Development - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada](#)

We suggest that your Council / Conference appoint or recruit someone knowledgeable in raising funds as a volunteer Fund Development Coordinator. This person will then recruit members to be part of your Fund Development Committee to implement new ways of raising funds.

Should you have any questions or other successful initiatives to raise funds that can be shared across Canada, please [reach out to me](#).

It is important to look at various ways to raise funds to carry out our Mission of helping people in need in all possible ways.

*Linda Dollard, Chair  
Fund Development Committee*



## WHY (AND HOW) CAN WE ADDRESS MULTI CULTURAL DIVERSITY?

As Vincentians we are never concerned with a person's cultural background. We simply help them in whatever way we can that gives them some relief from poverty, and hope for a brighter future. So why should we be concerned with the concept of being more culturally diverse in our membership and volunteers?

I would suggest that being more diverse, where we may look more like those we serve, can only help us understand better some of the unique challenges and barriers people from different cultures may face every day. To have such diversity also allows us to share with one another our different cultures and how we can celebrate such diversity. Those of us who would be considered recipients of "white privilege" can only improve the way we think and act regarding such issues by having a more diverse membership to learn from.

How can we (SSVP) become more diverse? There are some very simple methods. Perhaps look within your parish for people from a different culture and invite them to consider joining SSVP. We could approach various other ethnic and religious groups to tell them about SSVP and invite their participation as members or volunteers for specific projects. Finally, how often do we consider inviting someone we have recently assisted to join us? Do we not owe it to these folks to find ways they too may have a voice in our efforts to make systemic change a reality?

Our MCDC committee would very much like to hear comments, and any success at conferences, to embrace multi-cultural diversity. If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at [ssvpjp@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpjp@gmail.com).

*Jim Paddon, Chair  
National Social Justice Committee*



## NEW CONFERENCE

Holy Redeemer Conference in Ottawa mentoring new and upcoming Conference St Michael's Corkery in their introduction process.

Training provided on June 22; trainer Bernie Hartlin, past president Holy Redeemer Conference, assisted by Patrick Nzobo, President, Holy Redeemer Conference.





## A NEW HOME FOR THE HOMELESS IN CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES – A PLACE CALLED HOME



On June 6, 2022, clients were welcomed in a brand-new building that is believed to be the only purpose-built shelter for the homeless in Canada. The clients had spent almost two years in a local motel due to the social distancing needed during the pandemic. The organization needed to raise \$1.5 million. In spite of the pandemic, the community came together, and this goal has almost been reached through grants and donations.

The new site will be able to provide two-tiered accommodations. Clients can receive services and find funding based on their needs. They can remain in the shelter for a few months. The opportunity to rent a room in a separate building will also be available. This is important as there is limited rental spaces in the region. There are counselling rooms, kitchen facilities, single bedrooms and separate bathrooms available in the shelter. It is also an accessible building.

The St. Mary's Church community in Lindsay supported the people housed at the motel with regular donations of food, baking and donations. The joint efforts of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) assisted clients that grew in numbers during the pandemic from 17 to over 100.

A Place Called Home, *Furnish a Room Project*, was supported through the generosity of citizens, churches and local business. The CWL and the SSVP donated funds to furnish two rooms. Donation plaques were placed outside each sponsored room. St. Mary's Church purchased a memorial brick that was placed on the outside wall of the entrance. Pictured are SSVP President Joanne Hough and CWL President Glenda Klein and brick sponsor, St. Mary's Church.





## QUESTION & ANSWER

**Q: If a Catholic member attends conference meetings but has no contact with persons in need, are they a Full Member or Auxiliary Member? Here is the situation: a person attends meetings regularly, and their employer provides substantial money every year to the conference, but their employment prevents them from participating in the work of the Society during the day due to work schedule. It has been suggested to let them return calls from persons in need, to support the Mission. Most of the Conference members want them classified as a Full Member for fear of losing the donation from their company.**

**A:** The International Rule, Part III, Statute 3 defines membership as

The Society is open to all those who seek to live their faith loving and committing themselves to their neighbour in need.

By extension, in the Canadian Statutes, under 1.4.1.1

A full member is defined as any person of good will, desirous of living his or her faith by loving and serving persons in need and who has successfully completed the screening and risk management procedures required by the National Council of Canada for full membership. He or she accepts and engages in formation and training as proposed by the Society, and participates regularly in the meetings and charitable activities of the conference or council in which he or she has been received, in accordance with the principles set forth in the International Rule. The full member has voting rights at meetings in accordance with the Canadian Statutes, accepts missions and tasks requested by the president and may be elected or nominated to servant-leader positions at any level of the Society's structure in Canada, if a Catholic.

If the member makes every effort to participate in the activities of the Conference in some way, this member does not need to be in direct contact with persons in need to be a Full Member. It is the Conference that ultimately decides who is a Full Member or Auxiliary Member; the only ask is to be consistent with everyone and not motivated only by money considerations.