



Community Impact Report

2022-2023

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada

Message From the National Interim President

As the year drew to a close, it became clear once again that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is determined to serve in hope: indeed, Vincentian activities in Canada are many and varied. But the most important are the members of the SSVP, you who every week are ready to take action to accompany, support and get involved in Vincentian activities.

In this post-pandemic period, when food prices are constantly on the rise, as well as the cost of rent and other services for families and individuals, the SSVP, more than ever, has an important role to play in this difficult context, particularly for people with a lower socio-economic profile, for people who are alone, sick or older, for people who have lost their jobs and for people who have recently arrived in Canada, as well as for families experiencing financial difficulties in particular, and for people living in the North who are in a more difficult material situation.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors of the National Council, I would like to thank you for your active participation, and this impact report is the result of your work.

I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Council, in particular Philippe, Nicole and Josée, for their support and their active presence in the affairs of the SSVP at national level.

May Mary, to whom Blessed Frédéric entrusted our Society, continue to intercede for the development and support of Vincentians, may Sainte-Marguerite d'Youville, our patron saint in Canada, watch over us, and may Frédéric support every one of us in carrying out our mission here in Canada.

Finally, let us pray for each other, in a spirit of charity and mutual respect, and let us pray for the people who need the help of the SSVP, that the God of love will fill them, and us, with his peace and joy.

Thank you to every one of you, have a good summer and join us in prayer,

Serviens in spe,

Pierre Morissette, Interim President

Message From the Executive Director

As my first year at SSVP Canada begins, I am awed by the impact of the Society in Canada and by how much our members and volunteers accomplished in the past year to take care of the needy.

Our work is never done, and I am committed to expand horizons and reduce barriers to accomplish our objectives: to take care of the people in need more effectively and to ensure that no request goes unanswered, for lack of funding or resources.

Our horizons must broaden, and we are planning to increase the visibility of our Society's brand and great works. That starts with our stores, our most visible presence in our communities. "Chez Vincent" represents our opportunity to take a visible stand to reduce the impact of poverty, instill hope and contribute to save the planet. We will begin this branding transition along with a communication plan to educate our customers.

We will also establish a philanthropic fundraising process, to show our appreciation to our donors, expand our funding options, and be counted as a key contributor in the fight to alleviate poverty in Canada.

Finally, we will work on advocacy and engaging our communities, by intensifying and extending our social media communications, thereby recruiting new followers, donors, members and volunteers, as well as directly calling for corporate businesses to get involved.

A key challenge our members face is completing the required paperwork and reporting requirements. Our Western region has successfully tested the online member Portal and has proven that it is a time and effort-saving tool. We are eager to get the tool into other regions and provide relief from those tiresome tasks.

As blessed Frédéric Ozanam said: "In my life I want to become better and do a little good". Our work in the coming year will reflect that approach. These efforts will help our Society become better in its approach and do a lot of good work.

Philippe E. Blain, Executive Director



11,050

volunteers



1,000,100

volunteer hours



145,000

homes assisted



213,000

people served at home



84,100

children served at home



62

stores and outlets



10,100

friendly visits and
visits to the sick



98

food banks and
soup kitchens



96,350

people served
at food banks



112,200

meals served at
soup kitchens



254

low-cost
housing units



10

shelters and
drop-in centres



1,450

people served at shelters
and drop-in centres



6,810

children given education
assistance



\$58,040,000

total revenues



\$48,608,000

total expenses



\$14,000,100

worth of food given



\$6,600,000

worth of merchandise given

Volunteers in Action



Vincent, Cynthia & Guerlyne, Québec QC

La Table du pain (the Bread Table), run by members of the Marie-Guyart Youth Conference, students at Laval University, is a food counter for students who are living in a precarious financial situation. They offer basic foodstuffs (bread, canned goods, starchy foods, vegetables...) put together in a basket.



Linda, St. Albert AB

North of 60 - Ulukhaktok NWT

The six-metre sea can is filled with goods as varied as mattresses, medical supplies, crutches, hula hoops, and clothing items. The food is mostly for both the food bank in Ulukhaktok and the school's meal program.



Vincetians of Prince George BC

The members are handing out lunches at their window, serving on average 75-140 lunches a day! Loaves of bread and emergency items of clothing are also distributed when available.



Pat, Brian and Ken, Harbour Grace NL

These three men were volunteers for the day. They helped unload a major food donation of food, both frozen and tinned, to the Harbour Grace food bank, from Clearwater Seafoods .

Special Projects

Weekender Program for Kids

The Weekender Program for Kids (WP4K) is one of the 4 main giving programs of the Brockville Conference in Ontario.

The WP4K provides food assistance on the weekends, during the school year, to children with food insecurity in their lives. These children often benefit from school breakfast and/or lunch programs during the week, but on the weekend, they are at risk of going hungry. That's where we come in!

The WP4K provides the kids enrolled in our program with a large baggie containing a variety of food items for them to take home each Friday during the school year, to help fill their tummies over weekends. Pasta, juice boxes, oatmeal, granola bars, fruit snacks, soup mix, Bear Paws and a fruit cup are among the items in each bag, each weekend. In total it costs a little more than \$200 per year to sponsor a child.



North of 60 - Papal Visit

We were blessed with a visit by Pope Francis. Thanks to contributions from the Archdiocese of Edmonton and Edmonton Central Council, Edmonton Vincentians hosted 45 Pilgrims from NWT and Nunavut with food and lodging at Kings College. This provided our Arctic friends access to this beautiful event.

On day one, they attended the Pope's apology at the Cree pow-wow grounds at Maskwacis, Alberta. It was very moving and many wept to hear the Holy Father's words of heartfelt remorse for the RC church's role in the colonization of Canada's FNs, Metis and Inuit.

On the second day they attended Mass with the Pope at the Commonwealth Stadium home of the Edmonton Elks (formerly, Eskimos). This was a huge event attended by around 50,000 people. Later in the afternoon they bussed to Lac Ste Anne. The Pope addressed the crowd and blessed the waters of the lake. It was amazing to see so many different nations of Native peoples as well as many others all celebrating this wonderful event in honor of our ancestors.



The North of 60 project continues to assist 16 Northern communities by sending food and material.

More information:
ssvp.ca/special-projects/north-of-60/

Special Projects

Seeds of Hope Canada Learning Bond

Halton reaches a wonderful milestone of helping 350 children get access to the Canada Learning Bond! That is up to \$700,000 of federal funding that has been brought into Halton to improve educational outcomes.

We have celebrated every precious child who has received this hope by providing a \$100 contribution cheque into the RESP (which then was matched by 40% by the federal government, leveraging donor funds).

Making families aware of the Canada Learning Bond opportunity and explaining the steps to take to open up a RESP to get access to their funds was the first social justice project that Halton embarked on.



Twinning - Haiti - Educational Project Saint Vincent de Paul School

The project involves subsidizing the canteen of a primary school in Haiti, attended by approximately 120 students from very poor families, and 7 teachers. The Conférence Jésus-Marie-Joseph of Orléans, ON and the National Council of Canada have contributed an equal amount of \$2,500 CAD per year to the project since 2014.

The Saint-Vincent de Paul School is located in Port-à-Piment, a small community located on the South coast of Haiti. It is a very poor region, the inhabitants subsist on fishing and agriculture. Payment of canteen fees is the key to enabling children to attend school because parents do not have the money to pay for the cost of a hot lunch. The provision of a meal to children resulted in an increase in the number of students regularly attending school, therefore a greater percentage of youth literacy. A school administrative committee is responsible for the canteen service. This aid project for the students at the Port-à-Piment school is very important for the education, development and health of its young beneficiaries.



**\$204,560 has been sent by SSVP Canada to its
195 active twinning engagements
over 21 recipient countries.**

More information: ssvp.ca/members/twinning/

Thank you

We'd like to thank all our donors and volunteers for their commitment to helping our communities this year. It's people like you who make this all possible. Whether you donated money, food, goods or time this year, know that your contribution has truly made a difference.

Find out how to get involved at ssvp.ca.



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