



North of 60 2025 – a year of impactful efforts!

Our North of 60 teams have had a blissful year supporting isolated families across the north through essential food and household items. No matter where we looked across the north hardship has not lessened, but trust and hope in the continuous work of the SSVP continues to flourish. Everywhere families echoed their gratefulness and joy, knowing we genuinely care about every facet of their wellbeing.

Quebec's North of 60 project benefited from initial funding from the Secretariat for Relations with First Nations and Inuit, and the SSVP collaborates with Ippigusugiursavik, a local partner organization.

A community thrift store was established, and Quebec Vincentians supply the store with goods that are sold to community residents at manageable reduced prices. The store is designed to be a social economic enterprise and provide job opportunities.

During 2025, approximately 6.5 tonnes of household appliances, furniture, and clothing were shipped to the store. However, due to significant human and financial resource constraints, the SSVP faces challenges in maintaining the pace of container shipments.



Quebec is committed and continues to maintain the project's essential services while expecting necessary funding to develop new interventions and ensure the project's sustainability and expansion.

Ontario Vincentians support Nunavut communities in the Kivalliq Region (Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, and Naujaat) and in the Kitikmeot Region (Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk).

Six of the communities received a sea container packed with donated essential food and household items. These communities have been adopted by Vincentian conferences/councils who specifically chose to support these families. 3 communities are not adopted – yet! They received crates of food containing food essentials. These communities are financially supported by SSVP Conferences and councils who want to be part of the project but can't fill a sea can.



Food security is a constant concern for families. Their struggle to provide for their loved ones is challenged when funds have not stretched sufficiently and exacerbated when store shelves are bare for days due to storms which cause supply planes to be grounded.

“Food” has been the key in the door to build trust and genuine friendship with our Inuit families. As said to me by a teenager years back, “We are a forgotten people”. Throughout 2025,



Ontario Vincentians joyously came together to help eradicate that sentiment.

The project does encounter challenges. Transportation costs are ever increasing but must be faced – the food must get there! Over time, partnerships with trucking companies have resulted in much needed cost reductions. The Kivalliq Inuit Association, a regional government body, annually shares in the marine costs for shipments arriving for their regional families.

Western Vincentians in Edmonton and Calgary support 9 communities across the Northwest Territories:

Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Fort Good Hope, Ulukhaktok, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, Sachs Harbour, and Aklavik. These communities encompass both sides of the Beaufort Sea, making transportation a challenging task. The low water level on the McKenzie River resulted in truck transport needed to replace the traditional low-cost barging.



The community of Sachs Harbour is a prime example of Western ingenuity. A new cost saving and efficient partnership established with the Arctic Co-Op, resulted in them preparing and shipping pallets of food to the Co-Op store in Sachs Harbour for their families. In Aklavik, SSVP supports the Band Wellness Department with food and bedding. Our Society helped the community of Tuktoyaktuk establish their own food bank and is now collaborating with them to find financial support on a “Men’s Shed” program.

The community of Fort Good Hope is only accessible by barging on the Mackenzie River. The low water level has caused a delay in shipping until the Ice Road becomes available. The community of Ulukhaktok is on Holman Island in the Arctic Ocean and is reached by ocean barge. Additional to the sea can with food, clothing and household items, another sea can of building materials was shipped to assist this community in the restoration of a building to be used, as a museum, to host the early works of the Oblate missionary priests. In Paulatuk, a similar restoration is 90% completed on Father’s House. A new centre for community food and clothing distribution. One sea can is delivered to Fort McPherson each year and the contents shared with Tsiigehtchic.

The enormous transportation challenges remain, due to the high costs for long haul ground transport and various marine transport systems. Your continued financial support makes this SSVP outreach possible.

Vincentians from the **BC / Yukon** region assisted families from Kyuquot, Zeballos, Ehattasht, Oclucje and Tahsis, who face extreme isolation in the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island.

Kyuquot is only accessible by air and water. Their rocky terrain prevents even a simple garden. This community is comprised of 56 families who receive food monthly thanks to a partnership with Sysco Wholesale Foods. Kyuquot families only have part-time seasonal employment opportunities. Now in its third year of service, Kyuquot families continue to receive much needed protein, fresh fruit and vegetables.



Essential food items are shipped each month to the communities of Zeballos, Ehattasaht and Oclucje, assisting 65 adults and 60 children. Increased food prices and utility costs have nearly paralyzed the families who have only seasonal work. The community has been impacted by a wave of addictive street drugs that is newly crippling this tight knit community.

Last year, a communal garden was initiated but it was insufficient to meet their need. A new logging license issued obtained in 2025, is percolating new hope for the community. In the spring, a Vincentian visit produced numerous grateful and happy faces.



Help is also provided to the isolated community of Tahsis, accessed through only one road. The community received 11 scheduled shipments of purchased and donated food items. The SSVP's relationship with Sysco Foods offered best pricing for fruits, vegetables and meats. This food supports 92 seniors, 18 children, a total of 70 low-income families.

Tahsis has had a communal garden in operation for 3 years. A group of volunteers delivered hampers to the shut-ins providing food and provided a wellness check. This emergency food support is extremely important during road closures due to winter storms and washouts, and it provided happy times of meal sharing at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For each of these celebrations, the SSVP was able to send up chickens with all the trimmings.

In 2025, population and economic growth remained low but hope remained high in knowing that organizations such as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was there to show they care. The rapport with the Arctic peoples has improved thanks to routine visits with local communities. Vincentians seek to understand not only the difficulties encountered by the families but also how the community can improve, benefitting everyone.

Without financial support, the entire project will come to an immediate halt. In your kindest heart, please consider helping to sustain this much needed project for our northern Families. The SSVP North of 60 project deserves your continued support.

Pegg Leroux

National Chair – North of 60