

Annual National Formation 2026  
 Formation nationale annuelle 2026  
 SSVP Canada - Halifax NS / NE



WORKSHOP / ATELIER      DESCRIPTION

Bilingual/ Bilingue <i>Richard Pommerville</i>	Chez Vincent Thrift Stores Evolution in Ottawa	Richard Pommerville will highlight the connection of thrift stores as special works of the Society to the current realities of serving people in need and the Values of the Society. Thrift stores are a key element of the circular economy and a link to our Vincentian care for creation, providing both a second life to goods, and the return of proceeds from sales and donations for continued service to persons in need.
	Chez Vincent – L'évolution des magasins d'occasion à Ottawa	Richard Pommerville mettra en lumière le lien entre les magasins d'occasion, en tant qu'œuvres particulières de la Société, et les réalités actuelles du service aux personnes dans le besoin ainsi que les valeurs de la Société. Les magasins d'occasion constituent un élément clé de l'économie circulaire et un lien avec notre engagement vincentien envers le soin de la création; ils offrent à la fois une seconde vie aux biens et permettent de réinvestir les revenus provenant des ventes et des dons pour poursuivre le service auprès des personnes dans le besoin.
English <i>Luis Chacon-Rodriguez</i>	Indigenous Issues - Red Dress Day, early Childhood Trauma and Truth and Reconciliation	Workshop participants will have an opportunity to learn and gain insights to sharing in the historic trauma, faced by our Indigenous brothers and sisters, that created a cycle of poor choices and a lifetime of generations suffering through marginalize integration into society. We will take a look at the Missing and Murdered women and girls and how we failed this group of people. Finally the movement of Truth and Reconciliation, how everyone should be responsible to advocate for equal rights for all.
English <i>Wayne Turner &amp; Stacey Gomez</i>	Migrant Workers: From Bikes to Rites	This workshop will inform and inspire Vincentians to advocate for Migrant Workers. From the Coast of British Columbia and the Migrant Farm Worker Bike Program to the Migrant Worker projects on the East Coast, the presenters will highlight their programs and the vital role they play in our national economy.

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<p>English <i>Ivan Picazo</i></p>	<p>Membership Recruitment Strategies &amp; Initiatives</p>	<p>All Conferences encounter generational turnover. If SSVP is going to achieve another 180 Years of Compassion in Action, it is critical that we constantly recruit new members. SSVP Vancouver Island set this goal in our Strategic Plan; now we are exceeding our goal of increasing membership by 20% per year. The presenter for this workshop was hired to work with one conference to support this critical strategic objective.</p>
<p>Bilingual/ Bilingue <i>Belinda Boyd, Pat Lenz, Pegg Leroux &amp; Heather Schilling</i></p>	<p>Vincentians support those experiencing housing insecurity – with diverse strategies!</p>	<p>After 175 years of compassion in action in 2021, SSVP Canada issued the document SAFE, SECURE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT: A National Action Plan. A key message was that any conference, Council or individual Vincentian can/should play a role in addressing this crisis. This program outlined several strategies, many of which do not involve directly providing shelter. Hear our conference/Council stories to inspire your own Vincentian action.</p>
	<p>Les Vincentiens soutiennent les personnes en situation d'insécurité de logement – grâce à des stratégies diversifiées !</p>	<p>Après 175 ans de compassion en action en 2021, la SSVP Canada a publié le document UN LOGEMENT SÛR, STABLE ET ABORDABLE EST UN DROIT HUMAIN : un plan d'action national. Un message clé était que toute conférence, tout conseil ou tout Vincentien peut et devrait jouer un rôle pour répondre à cette crise. Ce programme présentait plusieurs stratégies, dont plusieurs ne consistent pas à fournir directement un logement. Venez découvrir les histoires de nos conférences et conseils — une source d'inspiration pour nourrir votre propre action vincentienne.</p>
<p>English <i>Linda Dollard</i></p>	<p>Conducting a Quality Home Visit</p>	<p>For 180 years, the HOME VISIT has been the fundamental cornerstone of our Society's activities. The home visit sets the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul apart from other charities and non-profits, as we meet our neighbours where THEY live, with compassion, understanding and love. This is where our Mission and Values are demonstrated to the people we reach. Come join this thoughtful and inspirational workshop with National President Linda Dollard. You will leave feeling the love of God.</p>
<p>Français <i>Stéphane Badeaux &amp; Romain Duguay</i></p>	<p>Des projets de support qui font la différence au Québec</p>	<p>1. Le Programme Le Marginal permet d'aller rejoindre directement dans les rues des itinérants et de leur donner non seulement un service alimentaire mais aussi de bénéficier du soutien psychologique des intervenantes sociales. 2. SOLID, le logiciel pour bénévoles gratuit du conseil central de Montreal, permet aux conférences une gestion numérique des bénéficiaires, des distributions et des budgets, et bien plus encore.</p>

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<p>English <i>Carolyn Boerboom &amp; Willis Langford</i></p>	<p>Guarding the Flame - Led by the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>The flame to sustain compassion in action must be guarded and nurtured through prayerful leadership and faithful spiritual accompaniment. This workshop explores practices such as spiritual reflections at meetings, prayer tables that remind us of Christ's presence, Vincentian source material, the celebration of Vincentian feast days, spiritual retreats and more.</p>
<p>Bilingual/ Bilingue <i>Larry McKenzie &amp; Ray Burke</i></p>	<p>Housing: One Size Does NOT Fit All!</p>	<p>The SSVP's ever increasing role in providing solutions to the national housing crisis is a testament to the Society's commitment to improve the lives of those we serve by providing the very basic need of housing, allowing people to live in dignity.</p>
	<p>Logement : une approche unique ne suffit pas</p>	<p>Le rôle sans cesse croissant de la SSVP dans la mise en œuvre de solutions à la crise nationale du logement témoigne de l'engagement de la Société à améliorer la vie des personnes que nous servons en répondant à ce besoin fondamental qu'est le logement, permettant ainsi à chacun de vivre dans la dignité.</p>
<p>English <i>Derek Pace &amp; Mark Ryski</i></p>	<p>Turning Store Traffic into Greater Mission Impact</p>	<p>Thrift stores are more than retail operations — they are mission engines. In this practical session, SSVP Vancouver Island will share how measuring and understanding store traffic helped improved decision making and ultimately generated greater support for neighbours in need. Through a real-world case study and practical tools, participants will learn how simple thrift store traffic insights can help improve daily operations, increase conversion, and inform decision making.</p>
<p>English <i>Marion Clorey &amp; Pat Lenz</i></p>	<p>Formation: A path to serving the Vincentian way</p>	<p>For 180 years, the Society in Canada has served the most vulnerable, practicing compassion in action. Its capacity to do so is highly dependent on the extent to which its members and its entities (conferences &amp; Councils) understand and embrace its mission and are prepared to carry it out. The strategies to ensure this must be revitalized on an ongoing basis. Learn about the renewed approach and materials developed by the National Formation Committee to energize those who have “boots on the ground” in service to those in need.</p>
<p>English <i>Victoria Goldsack &amp; Jenna Goldsack</i></p>	<p>From Pilgrimage to Purpose: Lessons from World Youth Day</p>	<p>World Youth Day inspires young people to live compassion, serve through it and bring it back to local community contexts. Join and listen as the National Youth Advisor Victoria Goldsack and her colleagues share their journey and encounter with Christ at WYD 2025. The presenters will share their personal transformation through their pilgrimage and spiritual 'mountaintop' experiences. WYD brings together youth from around the world, fostering empathy, compassion, understanding and unity; and inspires action at the conference level.</p>

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<p>Bilingual/ Bilingue <i>Paul Rossetti, Carmela Rossetti, &amp; Luciano Rossetti</i></p>	<p>Our Call to Saint Vincent de Paul - A Family Reflection</p>	<p>This Vancouver Island family live and breathe Vincentian Life which has led to the beginning start up of the newest Vincentian Youth Conference on Vancouver Island. This workshop will highlight their Vincentian Family Reflection and inspire you with their response to the call of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. "This is our story: one of the history and the future of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada."</p>
	<p>Notre appel à saint Vincent de Paul, une réflexion en famille</p>	<p>Cette famille de l'île de Vancouver vit et respire la vie vincentienne, ce qui a conduit au lancement de la plus récente Conférence jeunesse vincentienne sur l'île de Vancouver. Cet atelier mettra en lumière leur réflexion familiale vincentienne et vous inspirera par leur réponse à l'appel de la Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul. « Voici notre histoire : celle du passé et de l'avenir de la Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul au Canada. »</p>
<p>English <i>Terry McCann &amp; Paul Beamish</i></p>	<p>Education Towards Reconciliation: A Call to Action</p>	<p>This workshop situates and describes "The Problem" of our relationship with indigenous people in Canada in such a way that it also forms a response to Call to Action #59 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final Report in 2015. The workshop invites participants firstly to ongoing education and then to seek a way forward towards reconciliation, as individuals and also as a faith community of Vincentians and Catholics.</p>
<p>English <i>Philippe Blain &amp; Josh Canning</i></p>	<p>Planned Giving Made Simple: Practical Tools for Councils and Conferences</p>	<p>Planned giving can play a vital role in strengthening the long-term sustainability of the Society's mission. This practical workshop will introduce simple and accessible planned giving opportunities that councils and conferences can begin exploring to support their local works and future needs. The session will cover legacy gifts, life insurance donations, stock transfers, and other options that allow supporters to leave a lasting impact while supporting the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.</p>
<p>Français <i>Marcel Robert</i></p>	<p>N'oublions pas saint Vincent de Paul</p>	<p>Le travail fait par les fondateurs est-il encore possible et nécessaire aujourd'hui? Plus que jamais - un exemple de support aux immigrants a Ottawa</p>
<p>English <i>Jenna Goldsack</i></p>	<p>Disabilities, Infrastructure and Accessibility Barriers</p>	<p>Advocating and caring for those who are marginalized is a Pillar of the International Rule of the Society. This workshop will guide and inform participants through the life experiences of those who lack access to the norms experienced by people who are able bodied.</p>

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