



Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul • Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Conseil National du Canada • National Council of Canada

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December 13, 2010

Hon. Diane Finley,
Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0H6

Dear Minister Finley,

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, a non-profit registered charity, has been serving those living in poverty in Canada since 1846 (see web site: www.ssvp.ca). Its 10,000 members in all provinces and Territories are in contact with those in need on a daily basis. The Society is not only committed to the mission of charity but also to work on eliminating the causes of poverty in Canada. The Society is a member of the *Citizens for Public Justice - Dignity of All campaign*, and endorse its actions to reduce poverty in Canada.

An all-party committee of parliament has recently submitted to you a report that could change the face of poverty in Canada. The report, *Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada*, is the result of a three-year study on the federal role in addressing poverty by the Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and Status of Persons (HUMA). The Committee support key goals of the *Dignity of All campaign*, mainly that the federal government immediately commit to a federal action plan to reduce poverty in Canada.

The Society has reviewed the recommendations of the above-mentioned report and subscribe to them as a comprehensive plan to address the whole gamut of poverty issues in this country. We are particularly pleased with the recommendations related to housing (recommendations 5.1.1 to 5.2.5). The Society of Saint-Vincent de Paul has been a strong supporter of Bill C-304¹, which find its echo in this report under recommendation 5.2.5; the Society support its adoption by Parliament as an incentive for the Government to quickly develop a national housing strategy to help tens of thousands of Canadians who are homeless, at risk to loose their residence or living in squalid conditions.

We are asking that the government of Canada exercise leadership and respond positively to this report. We will be pleased to offer you more detailed comments on the report and any of its recommendations, if you wish. This letter is further to my E-mail of November 25, 2010 on this subject.

Sincerely,

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Hon. Michael Ignatieff, MP, President of the Liberal Party of Canada and Leader of the Opposition, House of Commons
Hon. Jack Layton, MP, President of the New Democratic Party
Hon. Gilles Duceppe, MP, President of the Bloc québécois Party.

¹ *Bill C-304 (by Libby Davies, MP Vancouver East), An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing to Canadians.*