

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada

Number: FIN – 002

SUBJECT: **EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS AND ISSUES OF NATIONAL CONCERN**

DATE ADOPTED: JUNE 14, 2003

PURPOSE: Funds at the disposal of Conferences and Councils are to be used solely for the purposes of serving the Poor and the proper functioning of the Society. Funds used for matters such as legal fees arising from internal disputes within or between Conferences and Councils, or with an entity or person (s) not within the Society, may be contrary to the Rule.

The President of the National Council of Canada (Hereinafter referred to as “the President”) is to be informed for his/her consideration and decision on disputes which may result in legal actions or Court proceedings, or generate public controversy, or may bring the Society into disrepute, as it is of national interest for the Society.

POLICY: **Funds at the disposal of Conferences and Councils shall not be used for the payments of legal and other related fees arising out of disputes within the Society in Canada, without the prior approval of the President of the National Council of Canada.**

A Conference, Council may wish to seek legal advice or be involved in legal proceedings as a result of a dispute. Funds at the disposal of the Society shall not be used for the payments of legal or other related fees arising out of disputes with outside parties without the prior approval of the President of the National Council of Canada.

Conference and Council presidents shall inform and seek advice from the president of the National Council of Canada on any issue which may generate public controversy, bring the Society into disrepute, or affect the proper administration of the Society in Canada.

PROCEDURE: Internal disputes that have not been settled at Conference/Council levels in the Society shall be referred to the disputes resolutions mechanism (see policy ADM-003). Conferences and Councils Presidents will also inform the President of the National Council, through higher level Councils of any issues which may result in legal proceedings, may generate public controversy or may engage the disbursements of funds belonging to the Society for legal fees or other legal proceedings. The President will seek advice as appropriate from any Conference/Councils Presidents and any other person in a position to assist him/her to render a decision. The President (of the National Council) is the only person who may authorize expenditures related to legal and other fees to be engaged by any Vincentian entities in Canada to settle internal disputes, or to defend the interests of the Society in disputes or the resolution of issues with external entities or persons.

ACCOUNTABILITY: To the President of the next higher Council and the President of the National Council of Canada.

LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ensure that all Conferences, Particular, Central, Regional and Provincial Council annual and financial audits/reviews are submitted annually to the next higher Council.

REFERENCE: The Rule (rev. 2007) National policy: ADM-003

FIN: FINANCE*
Orig.May 2003