

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006-2007

Dear Brother and Sister Vincentians,

As I write my final Annual Report as National President for the activities of the National Council for the year 2006, final preparations for the AGA in Kelowna BC are underway. This year the Executive Committee of the National Council continued their excellent work for the good of the Society. It is truly an understatement to say that anyone could do this job without such tremendous support. Vice-presidents Clermont, Penny, Kathy, Treasurer Germain, Spiritual advisor Msgr. Peter, Past President Ellen, Youth Representative John and advisor Pierre, I thank you on my behalf and all Vincentians across the country for your dedication and service to the National Council.

New Regional Presidents

This past year has seen the end of terms for three Regional Presidents and the election of new Presidents. Marcel Tremblay the President of the Quebec Regional Council has completed his term and has been replaced by Jean-Claude Bienvenue from Joliette; Ontario Regional President Nick Volk has completed his term and John Staley from Windsor/Essex was elected; and Western Regional President Lynn L'Heureux has been replaced by Sister Pat Bennetto from Edmonton. We welcome the three new presidents to the Board of the National Council and look forward to working with each of them.

National Office and Executive Director

The National office is now entering its third year in Ottawa. Our office in the Ottawa Archdiocesan building allows us to accommodate meetings of our National Committees as well as Executive and National Board meetings. We have also hired a part-time secretary to assist with the clerical duties at the national office in Ottawa. This arrangement continues to work very well and at this time we are very pleased with the move.

National Rule Committee

The National Rule Committee has had a very busy and productive year completing and editing the National Rule.

I am pleased to report that The International Council General Rule Committee Chairman, David Williams has approved our new National Rule. It was indeed a pleasure to work with David as he led us through the minor revisions requested by the ICG to final approval. At this time we are finishing the final formatting and getting prices for printing. Given the ratification by our National Council last year in St. John's and now the approval by the ICG Rule Chairperson, we will be using the definition of "Voting Members" as described in the new Rule for the Kelowna meeting, and not the previous "Members by Right" defined in the previous Rule.

We again want to thank the National Rule Committee for their work over the past few years to accomplish this task. The committee included Viola Corbett (Atlantic Regional Council), Jean-Claude Bienvenue (Quebec Regional Council), John Staley (Ontario Regional Council), Don Hunter (Western Regional Council) and Barry Granary BC Regional Council). In addition Vice-Presidents Clermont and Committee Chair Penny Craig were instrumental in keeping the production on schedule. And last but not least Editor Jacquelyne Lord and her husband Gerard who spent countless hours editing and writing the drafts of the report and coordinating the translation from English to French.

Thanks again to all who participated in this very important process and, without a doubt, without your tireless efforts the National Council would not have achieved its goal of producing the Rule for the Kelowna Meeting.

Screening

The National Council Executive Committee has developed a National Policy to facilitate the administration of the Society in Canada as well as to guide and protect the Society, its members, and those we serve, as part of the Council's "due diligence" to deal with "screening" members of the Society. Over the past few years, screening has become a reality for all organizations involved in service to others. The Archdiocese of Toronto initiated a screening requirement for all organizations working within the Archdiocese, which included the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Central Council of Toronto was quick to react to this initiative and developed a very good screening plan for their Council. This model was used extensively in the development of the more generic National Policy. We are now well into the implementation stage for Screening and we are pleased to announce that the process is going very smoothly.

We encourage all members to read the policy on screening, and we encourage all Council and Conference presidents to use "common sense" and good judgment in the implementation of this policy (i.e. getting a police record check on an 85 year old person who has been a member for 45 years would be a lower priority and scheduled later in the implementation process). I would like to thank all those who attended the workshop, and grateful thanks to Chair Penny Craig and Vice President Clermont for their invaluable assistance and efforts in bringing this policy to conclusion. The remaining tasks are now clear for the Regions to implement this very important policy for the protection of all Vincentians, the Society and of course those we serve.

Support for the National Council

Last year we reported on the Policy of the National Council dealing with financial support of the National Council enabling us to carry out our activities and outreach. This policy stated that the National Board of Directors would approve an amount of money suggested as an annual amount to be voluntarily contributed to the National Council by all Conferences. The National Executive will again suggest an amount to the National Board for approval at the May Board of Directors meeting. The National Council will then issue a letter to the Regional Councils asking them to forward the National Council request to their Councils and Conferences. Last year, the recommended contribution amount from Conferences was \$240.00 per year.

We encourage all members of the Society to read the Annual Report of the Society to view the activities of the National Council. The work of managing and governance of the Society at the National level continues, for the most part unnoticed by most Vincentians. Twinning continues to take a lot of time with correspondence (in different languages), money transfer follow-up on the receipt of the money etc., all of which takes time and effort (= money). The National Board meets three times a year and the Executive committee twice; again this involves cost for travel accommodations food etc. The Executive and the Board communicate with the membership through the Vincenpaul and newsletters. The National Council has a responsibility as a member of the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to support the ICG financially (something we have not done very well over the past 15 years). Canada as a bi-lingual country has two official languages, and as such everything that we produce is produced in both French and English. This is not something that we do as a favour to either language, but as a RIGHT to all Canadian citizens, and we are proud to do so.

We do all of this and more as part of our mandate and responsibility as a National Council. But (there is always a but) this all costs money. We should be very proud of our record on our expenditures at the National Council level. I believe that there is no other Council in the world that does as much as the Council of Canada with the resources we have. We are indeed very pleased to inform the membership that this past year we received the equivalent of 75% compliance to the request for Conference contributions. We want to take this opportunity to THANK all Councils who have participated and to encourage 100% participation across the country. The current trend bodes well for the financing of the Society for the next few years.

National Logo goes International

The National Council of Canada has now completely converted to the International Logo which was approved by the ICG in 2002, this conversion includes letterhead banners and business cards. Many Councils in the country are also converting to the new Logo, painting trucks and changing signs, etc. This conversion to the ICG Logo brings the Canadian Society closer together within the country and creates much closer ties to the rest of the International Confederation of the Society around the world.

As I complete my 6 year term as President, (where has the time gone?) I again wish to thank the three Vice-Presidents - Clermont Fortin, Penny Craig and Kathy Weswick for their dedicated work on the National Council Executive and for their friendship over these six busy years. I offer congratulations to in-coming president Penny Craig and encourage all Vincentians to give her the same support encouragement and prayers you have awarded to me during my term. May Penny and her team continue to guide this wonderful organization that welcomes us as members to nurture each other and to serve the poor in His name.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Burke, President
National Council of Canada

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2006-2007

The Ontario Regional Council would like to recognize Nicholas Volk and his Council for their hard work and perseverance. The orderly transfer of documents and goodwill to our present Council made for an easy transition.

The call to spirituality is our basic theme. We must rededicate ourselves to prayer, penance and good works. We are joyful servants and if we are to be successful in this mission we must get back to the basics such as visiting homes, jail ministry, serving meals, etc.

We are continuing some of the initiatives of the former Council:

- Youth and Adult Recruitment
- Expansion of new Conferences and Councils
- Ontario stores insurance coverage
- Developing a Screening process compatible with the respective Diocese and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
- A complete update of all members

A committee of five members of Regional Council, at the request of the National Council, under the leadership of Jim Paddon, will reestablish a new Particular Council in London, Ontario.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT **DOES NOT** INCLUDE 12 Isolated Conferences, 5 Particular Councils and 2 Central Councils

MEMBERS

Number of Active Members	2709
Number of Associate Members	425
Total Number of Members	3145

SERVING THE POOR

Total Number of Home Visits	39,666
Total Number of Families Served	56,043
Total Number of Adults Served	71,178
Total Number of Children Served	67,797

SPECIAL WORKS

Total Number of Stores	43
Total Number of Affordable Housing Buildings	2
Total Number of Transitional Housing	14
Total Number of Supportive Homes	21
Total Number of Summer Camps	2
Total Number of Prison Ministries	8
Total Number of Twinned Councils/Conferences	95

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Total Revenue for 2006	\$4,866,100
Total Expenditures	\$4,266,093

ONTARIO EXECUTIVE

President	John Staley
Vice President	Jim Paddon
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Ted Slaman
Corporate Secretary	Brenda Kormendy
Treasurer	Agnes Turley
Past President	Nicholas Volk

COMMITTEES

Communications	Bernie Hartlin
Membership	Mary Anne Kieran
Screening	Ron Trent
Stores	Pat Laurette
Twinning	Doreen Simmers
Youth	Carmela Addante

ONTARIO VINCENTIANS STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED

John Staley, President
Ontario Regional Council

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2006-2007

Dear brothers,
Dear sisters,

My five-year term as President ended last December 31, and Jean-Claude Bienvenue has taken charge. I will present the report covering my term as President, while Jean Claude will present his vision for the future.

As mentioned in my previous reports, the Strategic Plan has allowed us to revitalize the Quebec St. Vincent de Paul. We have met the set objectives, such as the promotion of spirituality among members, formation and information of members, promotion of linking Conferences to Particular Councils, representations towards governmental authorities and approach towards religious and community authorities. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Québec regularly speaks out and takes stand with regard to social measures, in front of governments and Legislative Assembly members. It is more and more active in schools to help with school supplies and prevent youth from dropping out of school. It is also present and active with other community organizations. It promotes spirituality on a continuous basis via the "Voie et Voix" (the way and the voice) bulletin, and a book of prayers and spiritual reflections.

It gives training sessions and extension courses to members, informs members on the Quebec Regional Council role and mission in a document entitled the "Livret blanc" (white booklet), meets the needs of Conferences and Councils with a "flying team" committee, has written a document to explain the mission, objectives and operations of clothing stores and regular stores.

In 2006, Council and Conference contributions amounted to \$113, 541, and contributions to the National Council of Canada amounted to \$54,990. The Opération Bonne Mine (OBM) and Service d'aide aux jeunes étudiants (SAJE) programs helped 8506 students for a total amount of \$412,859. Those programs intend to prevent poverty and prevent youths from dropping out of school via three aspects: education, culture, sports and leisure.

Total receipts in 2006 amounted to \$14,365,690, coming from funds collected during the Guignolée, donations received and store sales, and expenses amounted to \$14,218,556, for a \$147,134 surplus. The number of active and auxiliary members has remained approximately the same as last year, more specifically 5053. There were 281,537 visits and 266,930 received assistance. The total value of food and clothing distributed amounts to 8,966,600. At the end of 2006, Quebec had 5 Central Councils, 41 instituted Particular Councils, 337 aggregated Conferences, and 136 clothing and regular stores.

My sincere thanks to the members of the Executive Committee, with whom I enjoyed working as a team. Thanks also to the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Québec for their cooperation and support. I greatly appreciated the help and dedication of Jean-Claude Bienvenue, a very active member on the Executive Committee. Thank you, Jean-Claude, and be assured to have my entire support in your new assignment.

Marcel Tremblay
Quebec Regional Council

BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2006-2007

Statistics:

Families assisted 2,728	Visits to families 4,611
Adults 5,180	Children 4,968
Single adults 1,716	Visits to Singles 1,779
Sick individuals 832	Visits to Sick individuals 653
Prisoners visited 780	Visits to Prisoners 40
Other visitations:	Medical appts., to Mass, 758
	Seniors in Nursing homes 400
Active Members 528	
Associate members 300	
Total members 828	

Special works 165
Christmas hampers, gift certificates, dinners 3075
Fundraising, silent begging, poor boxes, special collections
Other: Concerts, bake sales, little raffles

Receipts	\$ 4,389,509.81
Disbursements	\$ 4,214,848.20

Overview of Activities

- "Out of the cold--overnight shelter with warm meals, etc
- Breakfasts for women and children with games and activities for children
- Breakfasts for mostly men
- Providing bus tickets, eye glasses, training, room rent, transportation, transit passes
- Sending children to camp
- "Kids Kapers"--providing children with \$75 for their choice of activity--eg a sport or club, etc.
- Filling out income tax forms
- Providing after school activities
- Providing back packs and school supplies for children
- Arranging Holy Mass for shut ins
- Arranging for the Sacrament of the Sick followed by Luncheons for Seniors
- Arranging for Angel Trees at Parishes (for Christmas gifts for Hampers
- Visiting Shut ins and playing crib and bingo
- Visiting Extended Care Facilities and Intermediate Care and assisting
- Priests with providing Holy Mass in these facilities.
- Facilitating Food drives at Parishes and schools
- Picking up and distributing bread to people
- Having drives for clothing, personal care items, toys, etc.
- "Mary's Pantry" --Parishioners bring food once or twice a month
- Milk Programs--providing milk to children and elderly
- Food banks--twice monthly deliveries to families
- Emergency food bags given to single people

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada

- Sandwiches made once a month (1400) for the Sisters of Atonement to give out on the Vancouver East Side
- Day Programs for Mentally Challenged adults
- Twinning Programs
- Downtown Outreach--walking and talking with the homeless and disadvantaged
- Senior Luncheons, dinners and activities provided and Bingo
- Prison Visiting and after prison visiting
- Advocacy programs
- Providing housing, services and activities for hard to house adults - OZANAM-Victoria
- OZANAM centre, VICTORIA, provides training and participation in activities.
- Providing housing, services and activities for men OZANAM in KELOWNA
- Outreach to the Vancouver Eastside - Our truck goes out with Volunteers, three times a week, giving out sandwiches, beverages, clothing, blankets, etc.
- Assistance is given to Anglicans to provide Community Luncheons and Breakfasts in New Westminster, weekly.
- School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are provided
- Assisted Mennonite Central Committee by packing school kits, medical kits, baby kits, clothing, quilts, etc for overseas relief.
Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving Hampers
- Supported Cyrus Centre, Drop in and counselling for youth
Shoes to Jamaica
- Attended funerals and offer Masses
- Serve as Extraordinary ministers, lectors, ushers, PREP teachers, Parish Council, Knights of Columbus, Children's Liturgy,
- Bring Holy Communion to shut ins
- Lunch programs at schools
- Breakfast Programs
- Valentine Lunch bags with treats for homeless people
- Supplied furniture
- Assisted families by paying bills

Thomas O'Flynn, President, British Columbia Regional Council
Sheila Coutu, treasurer, British Columbia Regional Council

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2006-2007

It is with a great deal of love and pride in our society that I present to you my annual report for the Atlantic region. It has been an extremely busy and satisfying year for us as our members continue to demonstrate their tremendous generosity and compassion.

As in the past, the councils and conferences have responded very well in submitting their annual report. It is a challenge for us as we would prefer to be out serving the poor instead of doing administrative work but we recognize that reports are necessary in order to efficiently carry out His work. Our benefactors continue to be very generous and we are extremely grateful for their prayers and financial support.

Number of Members	690
Number of Particular Councils	6
Number of Conferences	65
Number of Visits Made	14,549
Number of People Helped	26,083
Total Receipts	1,212,751
Total Expenditures	1,103,327

This year has been a busy and satisfying one but it has not been without its challenges. Within our area we have a number of special works-some better known nationally than others. I know the name of Hope Cottage is one that is well known in our society especially by those who had the opportunity to have lunch at Hope as well as the opportunity to share a meal with our regular guests. It is very sad that we need a soup kitchen but we are happy that Hope Cottage continues to do well and serves approximately 50,000 meals (lunch and supper) each year. The members of Dartmouth Particular Council are also part of an ecumenical project that provides meals to the poor. St. Peters Conference in Dartmouth continues to hold their Christmas dinner where our Vincentians not only get to serve but to sit and share a meal with the poor. It is a marvellous experience that is enjoyed by all who attend.

We have a number of second hand stores throughout our region. All of the stores rely on donations and some sell the goods for a nominal fee and some give out the clothing without any charge. Last year we tried to adhere to the national policies and set up stores committees where none exist. This change in procedure has created some upset and confusion and in one instance resulted in the parish taking over the store. We are still attempting to resolve this without hampering our service to the poor and we are confident that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, things will work out. Also, our clothing store in Halifax - Hand in Hand has been attempting to enlarge their building as the current one is too small to adequately meet the needs of the people in the area. We finally have taken the first step toward the expansion-after many years of meeting and negotiating with the city we now own the land and are drawing up the plans for the building.

The largest project that the Atlantic Regional Council took on this year was the introduction of the screening process to our members. Two of our members were trained last March in Ottawa and felt that it was necessary for the committee to meet with vincentians from the region and explain what the screening process was all about and how the procedure would take place. This required a number of introductory meetings to give our members an opportunity to raise any concerns they might have and recruit members from each region who would be willing to be screeners for their area. This worked very well and this spring after bringing a third member on board the committee started out its work by screening our National president and then headed out to the regions to "screen the screeners". It has been an exciting and worthwhile experience for all concerned. Answering the questions posed during the interview made members stop and think why they became members and why they stay and the majority said that this served to deepen their commitment to our society.

This year we continued with our plan to hold our annual regional meeting outside the Halifax-Dartmouth boundary and went to Antigonish. In spite of the cold, damp weather, the meeting was well attended. Over the past four years we have found that rotating the location has served to help our society strengthen and grow. We also hope that by making our society more visible, we will be able to increase awareness in our work as well as increase the number of our benefactors.

We continue to celebrate our two feast days throughout are region and we try to encourage all councils and conferences to build the liturgy around the theme that was presented at the last national AGA. For example, this year, in Halifax small bags of rocks were handed out as each Vincentian present was commissioned to “go out in the name of the society to serve the poor”.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the National and Atlantic executive as well as all Vincentians in our area for their continuing dedication to our society. On behalf of the Atlantic council, I would like to especially thank our National president Michael as he finishes his term and we want him to know that our prayers go with him and his wife Margo and their family. We know we have not seen the last of Michael. The Atlantic region would also like to welcome Penny Craig as our new National president. Penny we know how much you love our society and what a blessing it is to have you as our president. Please know that you have our complete support.

Please continue to pray both for our benefactors a swell as the poor and for one another as we strive to be responsive to the Gospel call of service to those in need.

Maureen Maclsaac, President
Atlantic Regional Council

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2006-2007

I begin with two of my favorite quotes from Charles Dickens. As I believe it sums up my five year term on Western Regional Council or ten years if you count the five under the great Don Hunter.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way- in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only. (Charles Dickens A Tale of Two Cities)"

The second quote from the man, identifies the work of all Vincentians but I am especially referring to those in the Western Region who have worked tirelessly and sought no other reward but to lighten the burden of Christ in the poor we serve. *"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another. " Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)*

Projects: Our focus apart from Spirituality remains extension and it is such a wonderful road. Our second Conference in Northwest Territories and the beginning of a third in the fall and possibly one in Nunavut has caused us to travel many miles in cold climates of down to minus 69. We gained one conference in Calgary in the Italian Church. Calgary's projects continue as affordable housing for seniors and will do ground breaking on this project in June with September/October being a completion date. They also have one free clothing outlet. Edmonton has one new conference and projects continue to be furniture distribution freely and clothing. Saskatchewan remains with building their own furniture and distributing it to the poor freely. Manitoba continues to work hard and has elected a new president, Mike Langedock of St. Timothy's Conference which is the only conference that communicates or reports. He will focus on expansion and recruitment. We continue to ask for prayers for growth in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Technology: We continue to operate our data base to record the information of the friends we serve and to keep a record of our members. We were also blessed with technology staff at no cost to help us tailor it to our needs, under the direction of Ben Macht and Henry Shen. It is relatively in-expensive for us to operate and extremely valuable in updating our membership and communication. We are continuing to work on our web page after my son, Chris L'Heureux finally got us up when we were abandoned by our initial web person and Gabriel Chan, a new volunteer who will begin to keep us updated. We are at www.ssvpwr.ca

Training: We have six members on the training team. Each new conference must receive a full day training and we have been very busy last year with the most training requests coming from Edmonton. We have sent some training material on CD power point to some conferences and are in the process of writing more workshops. We currently have over fifty possible workshops to present for conferences, schools and youth groups. And include everything from orientation, history, spirituality, including retreats to basics, financial and home visiting. Three retreats were held.

Alberta: Calgary is venturing on a major Senior's Affordable Housing Project under the Presidency of Byron Price, President of Calgary Diocesan Central Council and Lynn L'Heureux, Chair of the Seniors Housing. We have partnered with the Calgary Homeless Foundation and will begin building a joint project where we will be able to place 12-15 disadvantaged women between 55 & 60 and 16 homeless or near homeless seniors with financial needs. The annual fund raiser "Last Dinner on the Titanic" continues to be a success. Calgary continues to operate a clothing store at the Drop In Centre and furniture is also available there and it continues to be provided freely. Edmonton operates two distribution centers with the focus on furniture and household items which are delivered by their volunteers and they have added a clothing section. Bob Prestash, Central Archdiocesan President, and his team continue to work many hours increasing the service to the poor in Edmonton. The new WRC President comes from Edmonton. Southern Alberta is operating at top speed especially in areas like Brooks. They have a large population of plant workers and no housing. They continue to serve a Sunday Dinner to all who come. The other two cities, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge continue to operate one city conference each and even though their cities are increasing in size as well, this seems to work

for them. Coalhurst, a small town, continue to operate their SSVP Conference and serving a great need even after the closing of their church. Taber as always serves the poor in their town and houses the many transients flowing into Alberta with overnight motel stays and food for the journey.

We have one Conference in St. Paul Diocese, Morrinville and they are very active. They were the first Conference formed north of Calgary thanks to Bishop Tom Collins, now Archbishop of Toronto and do we miss him. Edmonton Particular Council and St. Albert,) embrace the Vincentians and conference in Morinville and they share meetings and workshops. We will continue to reach out to the remaining two Dioceses in Alberta and will work hard for more expansion.

Saskatchewan: We have Regina and Prince Albert, and I believe and I dream of seeing great things from Saskatchewan. I made a five day trip in blizzard visiting 6 parishes but we still only have two conferences and a lot of people who are interested. I owe a great deal of thanks to Henry Siwak, our Saskatchewan representative. My prediction is 4 conferences in Saskatchewan by next report.

Manitoba: St. Timothy's Conference in Manitoba continues to do well. They are actively serving and spreading the word and works of the Society. A great deal of thanks goes to Joe O'Neil who stepped in as president when Chester became ill. He is now replaced by Michael Langedock and St. Timothy's remains the only conference in Manitoba that reports regularly.

North West Territories: We have two Conference and they are in constant communication. In Yellowknife they are home visiting and had a beautiful retreat where their members recommitted themselves to serving the poor. Their new president is Gerda who some of you met in Newfoundland. There are many needs in the north and we are busy trying to set up twins for them. The newest member of our family is in Tukoyuktuk. This is in the Arctic Circle and is in such need. They started their conference and have a mixture of Catholic and Anglican and the only member not Inuit is the Spiritual Director, Sister Fay. What a wonderful group they are and anxious to move on. It takes 6 – 8 weeks for supplies that we send to get to them. It took 5 weeks for our cheque to get to them and there are no banks, so they can only drive to the bank in the winter when the road is open or fly at an exorbitant cost. Tony and I will make a trip this winter to help build them a store as their highest need is used clothing that can be bought for a small fee. We will go with a loaded truck of material. To accomplish that we will have a fundraiser in December to raise the money needed to go north. There was a wonderful article printed in the Northern Times on how it was a wonderful example of the North coming together for one cause and that cause is poverty.

Statistics : Our **1213** Vincentians "Upon this Rock" have logged in **120,080 hours**. Wow! We have **50 Conferences, 9 Councils**. We served Christ in our **35,927 friends** (men, women, and children) with **7,718** home visits to **13,629** families who were lifted up with food, clothing, furniture, financial aid, shelter, job search, budget planning, tutoring and much more in the gift of ourselves. We received a total of **\$1,679,841.89** in to our accounts from donations, grants, and fundraising. We disbursed **\$1,104,048.83** to the poor and another **\$282,435.65** to services for the poor, (twinning, Inn from the cold, shelters and food banks, and **\$201,073.59** to other Conferences and Councils. We did have a deficit at Western this year due to the high cost of travel over our 1000's of miles in the Region. Our expenses were higher **\$69,897.43** and our surplus is much lower at **\$22,387.47**. This surplus however, does not include money for projects which although in our accounts are accounted for separately and are designated. This is operations accounting. It also does not include the flow through money from Western to conferences for issuing tax receipts. One thing I am extremely proud of is the way conferences share any surplus from month to month with conferences that have high needs. Each conference knows the money is intended for the poor and as such it is given whether it is in their own city or another. This truly helps parishes in inner cities which demand more money than those conferences can raise.

As I leave my office, I am proud of many things. And none of them have to do with things, buildings, books, or creations. They all have to do with people and service. I have been blessed indeed with Vincentians who love the poor and want to serve Christ in them. They pray for one another and serve the needs of all. If you will allow me my final bragging rights I would like to say. "Thank you Lord for giving me the best damn family of Vincentians on this earth." God Light Your World Family. Welcome Pat Bennetto to the best.

Respectfully submitted with love a service to the Society and our friends we serve.

Lynn L'Heureux Western Regional Council President—Albert, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, NWT, Nunavut

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2006-2007

The main objective of this committee is to promote the recruitment and formation of young Vincentians. Vincentian youth were involved in a number of activities during the past year, which deepened their commitment to the Society and promoted the recruitment of youth and young adults.

At the AGA, held in St. Johns in June 2006, the Youth Committee convened a meeting of youth and adult Vincentians present at the assembly to discuss the young adults from Ontario who are officially twinned with Conferencias Medalla Milagrosa y Santa Catalina Laboure, La Antigua, Guatemala. This Conference has a primary school for underprivileged kids called the St. Vincent de Paul House. It is run by both youth conferences and located in Jocotenango (a poor sector of La Antigua). At the end of 2004, 5 of the 20 aggregated conferences in Guatemala were youth conferences. Over the next 12 to 18 months a visit by a group of Canadian Vincentians to La Antigua is in our prayers and planning stages.

A teaching resource was introduced at the St. John's AGA by the Society on Vancouver Island in British Columbia that helps prepare students with their participation in the works of the St. Vincent DePaul Society. This resource is available upon request and Vincentians are encouraged to learn more about this tool for youth awareness of our Society.

World Youth Days in 2008 are intended for people aged between 16 and 35 years old to gather and pray together. A 3 day programme preceding the World Youth Days -- A 'FAM VIN (Vincentian Family)' gathering will occur in Bathurst July 9-13 - a few hours outside of Sydney at a local college. The National Council has advised Regional Councils of the event and encourages youth to attend.

This activities of the past year planted seeds to interest more youth and young adults in the Society, and retain them by proposing challenging activities. Hopefully, these will bear fruit and we ask all Council and Conference Presidents to put a focus on youth. It is imperative to do so to renew and rejuvenate the Society.

Clermont Fortin
Chair, National Youth Committee

John O'Flynn
National Coordinator

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2006-2007

The NERC Committee did not receive any request for financial assistance during the past year.

The Committee's reserve fund exceeds \$125,000.00 dollars at this time, therefore, the Society is in good financial position in the event a disaster and assistance was requested. All regional coordinators remain on standby to respond to emergency situations.

I wish to thank all Vincentians for their support to the Committee during the past year.

Clermont Fortin, 1st Vice President, National Council
National NERC Coordinator

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT FOR 2006-2007

At the strategic planning workshop held in Calgary 2005, three new issues were identified and brought forward to the assembly. These were in addition to the existing and ongoing issues previously identified

These new issues include:

1. Training

Strategic Issue/s: There is an overall lack of coordinated Vincentian training and training programs at all levels of the Society related to various topics and roles within the Society.

There is no identified human resource leadership related to training at the national and regional council levels.

Strategic Direction: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada will plan to have an identified Training Coordinator and training programs at the national and regional council levels.

Strategic Goal: To have a National Training Coordinator position identified at National and Regional levels of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada.

To have established training programs for the Society in Canada.

Responsibility: National and Regional Councils

Progress Report 2006 – The development of basic formation and training programs for members will begin to be addressed in 2007/08. Basically in 2006, much time has been spent rewriting the Internal Statutes of Canada in accordance with the new Rule produced by the International Council General.

Our National Council Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Peter Schoenenbach pointed out that basically, the rewriting of the Internal Statutes by the representatives on the National Council Committee, along with the consultation and circulation of the draft documents to members, and finally, the discussion and approval of this document at the AGA 2005, have all been very valuable learning experiences in and of themselves.

Many members were acquainted and reacquainted with the very heart of the two elements that govern the Society in Canada. The two elements being the new Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as revised and written by the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and secondly, the Internal Statutes of the Council of Canada. This undertaking was an immeasurable learning experience for everyone and its “educational value” must not be underestimated. We thank him for his insight.

Another very important area of “education” centered on the new Screening Process for the National Council of Canada. A Train-the-Trainer seminar was conducted in Ottawa in March of 2006. This invaluable seminar set the tone for a very important and new undertaking for the Society in Canada, and was attended by representatives from all 5 regions who would be taking the course home to share with their regions, again in a Train the Trainer type seminar. This Risk Management Project took a considerable amount of time to research prepare and execute. As a result, the research of content, timing, lesson planning and materials preparation were all part of the development of any trainer and education programs that will be prepared. Once more, a great deal of learning has taken place.

2. Public Relations/Media

Strategic Issue: There is an overall lack of official Public Relations/Media materials for all levels of Councils and Conferences to use in order to promote the Society.

Strategic Direction: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will develop a Public Relations/Media program and materials kit for use by all Councils and Conferences.

Strategic Goal: To have official Public Relations and Media materials that promote the Society in Canada.

Responsibility: National Council

Progress Report - 2006 – Again, the new Rule and Statutes impacted the time required to move forward in concrete ways that this issue envisioned and requires. With the adoption of the new International Logo for Canada, materials will have to be produced to reflect that decision. This is a work in progress starting with the production of the Rule and Statutes of Canada that will bear the new logo. The new look will also include reproducing new stationery, pins, prayer cards etc. For the future, we can now continue to move forward as members intended.

3. Administration

Strategic Issue: There is an overall lack of timely communication and administrative processes among all levels of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada.

Strategic Direction: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will develop a streamlined mechanism of communication and administrative processes between the National, Regional, and all other levels of the Society as required.

Strategic Goal: To have established and timely lines of communication and administrative processes at all levels of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada.

Responsibility: All Conferences and Councils

Progress Report - 2006 – During the year, our Executive Director has attempted to hire an office manager to fill the administrative needs in the Ottawa office. This will be evaluated and a summation will be brought forth to the next AGA.

4. Strategic Issue: There are no defined mechanisms/guidelines for advocacy by and on behalf of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada.

Strategic Direction: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will develop mechanisms and guidelines for advocacy on behalf of the Society.

Strategic Goal: To have established mechanisms and guidelines for advocacy of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada.

Responsibility: National Council

Progress Report - 2006 – In September, the President has requested that terms of reference be drafted for a "Voice of the Poor" Committee, and that a policy and guidelines be drafted for advocacy and communications. Further, in order to ensure that everyone understands the nature of "advocacy", it is proposed that an orientation will be conducted for all board members regarding advocacy and its processes. This will empower regional presidents to relay this information to their local boards of directors and subsequently to their local councils and conferences.

Statistical Data Strategic Planning Reports

As noted previously, the Strategic Planning Report for future annual meetings will always contain statistical data that will reflect progress, or lack of progress we have made for the previous year. The report will address the ongoing progress related to those previously identified strategic issues that include the number of new conferences, or conferences that close and those in the process of aggregation. These issues will always be of concern and interest to the members of the National Council.

The importance of this strategic direction became very apparent in this year, and has provided the impetus that indicates the need to be diligent and accurate regarding the number of aggregated conferences that exist in Canada.

As a point of background information, over the years Canada has normally been invited to be a participating member of the International Executive Committee meetings in Paris. In 2006/07, it was noted and communicated to us by the International Council General Secretary that Canada could no longer be a participating member of this committee because it had less than 1000 aggregated conferences. This obviously came as quite a surprise.

A rudimentary count of all our aggregated conferences on record was requested by Michael and conducted by National office. This count of the aggregated conferences indicated that we have approximately 988 conferences with an additional 5 in process and pending in Paris. We think that there are many still not accounted for in various regions.

It cannot be stressed enough that all regions see the value of conducting an internal audit of the number of aggregated conferences and councils in their region, and submit these listings to the National office for verification and documentation.

We will undertake to do a comparison with ICG office in Paris to bring both records up to date. It is expected that we will have well over 1000 conferences when the audit is completed by December 2007.

Again, thanks to all of the team members and Councils for their diligent work:

Fr. Joseph Quinn, csb- Spiritual Advisor
John O'Flynn – British Columbia Tony L'Heureux –Western Region
Jean-Claude Bienvenue – Quebec Carol Horn – Atlantic Region

May God continue to bless each one of you with wisdom, understanding and strength as we continue in our journey!

Yours as one in Christ's love

Penny Craig, 2nd Vice President
Chair National Strategic Planning Committee

TWINNING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2006-2007

I am **very grateful** to God, for all that we have been able to do for the poor through twinning. I am also grateful to all who have made it possible for me to work on twinning, including Michael Burke and the National Executive and Board and staff, the National Twinning Regional Representatives, and Nicole Schryburt, who assisted and encouraged me in innumerable ways. Following is a summary of what I have reported on over the past six years that I have been addressing my goals for the Task Force on Twinning.

Goal 1.) To increase the understanding of twinning as it relates to the mission of the Society.

We have appealed to National Board members and National Council members, to remember twinning as a work of the Society.

I have submitted articles for the Vincenpaul magazine, on Pre-Aggregation Twinning, on the task force goals, on Peru, on Twinning Guidelines, on the historical development of the definition of twinning, and on the response to why we twin from an AGA twinning workshop.

In an appeal letter sent across Canada, we reminded members of the mission, as part of what we are trying to do in the work of twinning.

Vincentians of conferences and councils, who pray with, correspond, and send funds to help Vincentians in other countries, are some of the Vincentians who live our mission - of living the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor, with love, respect, justice and joy.

Goal 2.) To develop conferences with which to twin in our northern Dioceses.

The concept of Pre-Aggregation Twinning (PAT) originated in Ontario, when Doreen Simmers, Ontario twinning representative, responded to requests for twinning with northern Ontario. PAT is twinning by an aggregated conference, with a parish in a northern Mission area, by the honoring of invoices for Vincentian work by the Mission conference, with the hope that the conference will form to the point of aggregation, ideally within two years. A description and two-year follow-up action guidelines were developed. Attempts were made to connect with the extension committee.

Doreen met with two presidents of Missions Canada, who each circulated a letter and pamphlet to the 26 missions. As with all internal twinning, more donors were available than recipients were. Five PAT twinings were established, with recipients in Puvirnituk, QC, Our Lady of Grace, NL, Slave Lake, MB, Nunavik, NWT, and St. Vital, AB.

Pre-Aggregation Twinning continues to exist as a concept of help for churches and communities in the Mission areas of Canada. Missions Canada is reserved about the possibility of PAT in its current format of assisting the churches within its fold. It is the belief of Doreen Simmers, who founded the concept of PAT, that PAT could work if someone would take it on as a special work, and visit the areas in an extension effort.

At this time, seeking of Pre-Aggregation Twinning is on hold.

Goal 3.) To make twinning an efficient and expeditious activity.

Representatives from the provinces and regions were sought to be part of a twinning committee, to aid in the work of twinning. In 2002, Doreen Simmers from Ontario and Viola Corbett from the Atlantic Region were part of their councils. Role descriptions for the National Twinning Coordinator, the Regional representatives, and the twinning responsibilities of the General Secretary were formulated.

After discussions with Michael Burke and the Board and others, twinning guidelines were established, to clarify and encourage the process as it is and could be practiced. Terms of reference for the twinning

committee, and twinning policies about the countries with which we twin, Pre-Aggregation Twinning and amounts of external contributions, were also developed.

Nicole Schryburt, who manages the transmittal of funds, made changes that helped the efficiency of twinning. Transmittals were changed to quarterly instead of monthly, were deposited into a separate account, and were made National/Superior Council to National/Superior Council. With her help with the structure, I developed a twinning brochure, updated the Annual Twinning Report, and requested that she change the twinning application form. Nicole established a comprehensive database for tracking current twins.

International contact was established. To make twinning possible for the volunteers and staff, new twinning would occur with no more than six countries, in a north/south line in the Americas. Contact was made with these countries. Contributions to the International Twinning Manual assisted in its development, and it was circulated to the Regional twinning representatives when it was completed.

A workshop on twinning was given at the AGA in 2004. About 30 people attended. Working material on the definition of twinning, and "How to Twin in Canada", are now resource material to twinning. Twinning displays started at the AGA in 2005, and has continued since. A 'twinning ad', listing international twins available, was published in the Vincenpaul.

A proposal for twinning projects was brought to the Board in November '04. It is a way for Canadian twins to be able to send more than the annual twinning funds, if their receiving twin had a particular plan for their use. Guidelines and application forms were developed, based on the International Twinning Manual Project Cycle, and information from Scotland and Indian twinning coordinators. Projects will be a way to increase contributions to your twin, for a specific planned use.

Twinning actions at the National level have been as follows. Contributions to the Grenada National Council were made from the International Emergency Fund, following the destruction of most of the nutmeg trees by a hurricane. Help was given following the Tsunami in 2004. Efforts have been made to establish a form of twinning with Haiti, taking into account the limited infrastructure that exists in this country. In the past year, twinning with Sri Lanka has resumed, after it was stopped in November '06, following reports of funds not reaching twins. The new administration of the National Council of Sri Lanka responded, and twinning has normalised. Other historical twinings needed attention, such as with Cameroon, Zambia and Brazil. Problems with twinning with Peru, Nicaragua, and El Salvador were addressed, such as requesting a designated twinning account at the bank, seeking of banking information, and receiving of a project. In the past year, we have changed the system of notifying conferences and councils, acknowledging receipt of funds and when funds are transferred.

One of the most persistent questions is about correspondence, specifically when we haven't heard from our twin. Many reasons could account for this, including a change in executive, change in lives of correspondents, and increase in the needs of and work for the poor in their area.

My advice is that you should hear from your twin once a year, even if it is just a card at Christmas or Easter. If you have not heard from them for a year, send a transmittal of funds as usual through National. Also send a separate letter that you mail to them (or email), notifying your twin that the funds are coming, but you that you need to hear from them before you can send any more funds. Remember them in your prayers. If you still do not hear from them after four months, notify the National Twinning Chairperson, who can write to the twinned National president or twinning chairperson, historically an effective action.

The Regional chairpersons are instrumental in the advance of twinning across Canada. Chairpersons are available at regional meetings for questions about, and support of, twinning. I am grateful for the efforts of Viola Corbett in Atlantic Region, Claude Roy in Quebec, Doreen Simmers in Ontario, Pat Bennetto in Western Region, and Thomas O'Flynn, president, in British Columbia. They report to their regional councils, and at twinning meetings at the National AGA.

Goal 4.) To have almost all Councils and Conferences twinned by 2007

In my first report in February 2002, I reported that we had 51 twinned conferences or councils, out of 850 in Canada. We sent \$40,000 in external twinning.

Appeals for conferences or councils, who were interested in the work of twinning, were made through your chairpersons and through the Vincenpaul magazine. Nicole sent an appeal letter in 2004 to conferences and councils across Canada.

New twins came from all areas of Canada, but most regularly from Ontario. Twinings have been made at a rate of 3 to 4 a month. In all, between April 2003 and April 2007, 101 twinings were made, including 5 councils. Twinings do lapse, as conferences and councils change executive, or lose the twinning contact people who have done this work as part of their Vincentian vocation. New twinings can fail also, most frequently as a result of lack of response from their twinned conference.

In June 2007, we have 119 twinned conferences or councils, out of 932 conferences and councils across Canada. We have sent \$45,121 through external twinning over the past year. This sum would have been, on the average, \$11,000 more, but the twinning with Sri Lanka was stopped for a time, due to reports of twins not receiving their funds.

New this year is the start of response to projects. Contact was made with the Ontario and Western Region youth leaders, to assist with a project in Guatemala, a primary school for underprivileged kids called the St. Vincent de Paul House. This ongoing project involves the construction of a 3rd floor to the school to serve as a meeting place for activities. Twinning has been established; funds are being raised; and Spanish is being studied. "The most important aspects of the twinning is to treat our Guatemalan Vincentian youth with respect (many are of Maya descent) and develop genuine relations with them, and also to pray with them."

Another project is being considered, between the Dominican Republic and a conference in the Atlantic Region, using the process described in the guidelines.

Many thanks to all who do the work of twinning as they seek the face of Christ in truth and sincerity, and serve the Lord.

May God bless all that are involved in twinning.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Weswick, 3rd Vice President, National Council
Chair National Twinning Committee

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada

SUMMARY OF VINCENTIAN ACTIVITIES ACCROSS CANADA

Members	10,929
Provincial/Regional Councils	5
Central Councils	13
Particular Councils	100
Conferences	950
Number of visits made	349,860
Number of people helped	478,063
Total receipts	\$ 25,513,893
Total expenditure	\$ 24,906,873

*12 Isolated Conferences, 5 Particular Councils and 2 Central Councils,
not included in Ontario.*

<u>CONTRIBUTIONS 2006-2007</u>	Ontario Regional Council	Conseil régional Québec	BC Regional Council	Atlantic Regional Council	Western Regional Council
Amounts sent	55 540 \$	55 715 \$	15 840 \$	18 930 \$	21 740 \$
Number of conferences/councils	496	384	56	72	60
Amounts per conference/council	112 \$	145 \$	283 \$	263 \$	362 \$