

3RD PRINTING OF THE CANADIAN STATUTES, FEBRUARY 2012

No need to replace your Rule and Canadian Statutes book. Simply place this list of corrections in your current book. The list is available on our website: www.ssvp.ca.

Introduction.

The National Council of Canada has reviewed and made a few amendments to the Canadian Statutes as described below. Grammatical and other minor corrections were also made, which are not listed as too numerous and that do not change in any way the content of the book. Members do not have to order a new Rule and Canadian Statutes book but are invited to print and insert the changes in their current edition of their book as they are the only ones which are significant for membership.

Understanding the Rule and Canadian Statutes.

It is imperative that members of the National Council of Canada understand that the governing documents of the National Council of Canada are threefold:

- a) the International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul defines what we understand as “the Rule”;
- b) the Internal Governing Statutes of the International Council General (ICG),
- c) the Internal Statutes of the Society in Canada.

Further, The International Council General outlines or defines the Basic Requirements that all National Councils must put into play in order to adequately meet what it means to follow the Rule of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as an instituted Council.

The Canadian Statutes are subordinate to the ICG Rule and the International Statutes.

It is for this reason that some nomenclature has been rearranged in this 3rd printing in order to assist with this understanding.

**Jean-Noël Cormier President
National Council**

The amendments to the Canadian Statutes

P25 - 1.4.1.2 - Auxiliary Member: bullet #2 add:

Is invited to attend the general meetings, **but do not vote thereat**. Also is invited to participate in the charitable activities of the Society;

P27 - 2.1 - Prologue: add last sentence to read:

In order to provide for consistency in presidential change over at all levels, newly elected presidents shall take office on July 1 of the appropriate year.

P72 - 2.5.4 - Last bullet: add:

The presidents of the Central and Particular Councils, **the presidents of Isolated Conferences as appropriate.**

P78 - footnote #8: add:

A voting delegate may not hold more than one proxy.

P96 - 2.6.20: add after ... National President.

A voting member who cannot attend a meeting of the National Council may be represented by a member or an officer of his or her council or conference delegated by a signed Proxy Form15, which shall be presented to, verified and accepted by the National President. **A designated voting delegate may not hold more than one proxy letter.** Voting members appointed by the National President cannot be represented by proxy at any meeting.

P102 - last paragraph: delete **could**, change to read:

The Screening process includes the following: ...

P155 - C.1: add to Notation area at bottom:

A designated voting delegate may not hold more than one proxy letter.

P157 - C.2 - Election of a President - 1.2.1 – Bullet #4: delete : **a Regional or**

No more than 65 years of age when elected president of **a Regional or** the National Council.

4TH PRINTING OF THE CANADIAN STATUTES, NOVEMBER 2013

The amendments to the Canadian Statutes

Addition (in red) of the responsibilities of the Isolated Conference to the Particular Council and responsibilities of the Particular Council to the Isolated Conference.

2.2.15 Responsibilities of the Isolated Conference to the Particular Council

Isolated conferences have responsibilities to the Particular Council regarding communication with, and participation in Particular Council activities and meetings. These include:

- responding to any Particular Council communications they receive;
- providing a report from the conference for each meeting of the Particular Council;
- giving input related to items on the agenda as a demonstration of the principle that all Vincentians work together regardless of geographical boundaries;
- providing the Particular Council with as much information as possible concerning the issues the Isolated Conference is facing in its area so that help may be made available;
- providing the Particular Council with a report for the National Council of Canada Annual report, respecting the established timelines;
- attending the annual meeting of either the Particular, Regional or National Council.

2.3.2 Role and Responsibilities of a Particular Council

The Particular Council:

- animates and coordinates the activities of conferences in their ministry;
- serves the conferences by furthering charitable activities;
- makes sure that the conferences do not do anything to jeopardize the society.

The Particular Council keeps conferences informed about:

- changing social conditions;
- new issues and programs;
- modification of, or additions to internal policies and procedures as well as changes in the National Council Operations Manual;
- major events.

The Particular Council provides conference members with the opportunity to:

- benefit from the knowledge and inspiration of other Vincentians;
- expand their Vincentian horizons and sense of worldwide responsibility.

The Particular Council:

- encourages the creation of new conferences;
- promotes Special Works;
- re-activates dormant or defunct conferences;
- organizes training and formation sessions about the Vincentian ministry and spirituality for potential and current members, volunteers and staff;

In order to ensure adequate service to the poor, and to demonstrate solidarity and the will to share with the poor, the Particular Council may provide the conferences with:

- financial assistance if they are in need of it;
- other pertinent forms of support.

The Particular Council:

- communicates with any Isolated Conference in its jurisdiction to allow that conference full participation in the council meetings. Initial contact may be carried out through a letter of welcome from and introduction to the Particular Council;
- continues the contact by sending the notice of meetings of the Particular Council to the conference; the invitation to attend the meeting could be sent by Skype, telephone or other media if this would facilitate the contact;
- offers the Isolated Conference the opportunity to present additions to the agenda of meetings and to participate in prayer, reflection and discussions. Using the various media mentioned above will give the Isolated Conference the opportunity to vote in meetings;
- makes arrangements for the Isolated Conference to participate indirectly in Particular Council meetings if direct participation is not possible, which would allow the conference to provide input and to vote. Email or regular mail could be used for this purpose keeping in mind the timeline;
- facilitates the participation of Isolated Conference presidents in the vote for the president of the Particular Council. If attendance at the annual meeting is not possible, a mail-in ballot may be used;
- encourages the Isolated Conference presidents to attend at least one meeting a year for the valuable interaction that such occasions provide; If the cost of attending a meeting is problematic, the Particular council could discuss the situation to find a solution. The Particular Council President could also visit the Isolated Conference to help promote the idea of members coming together as a family.