

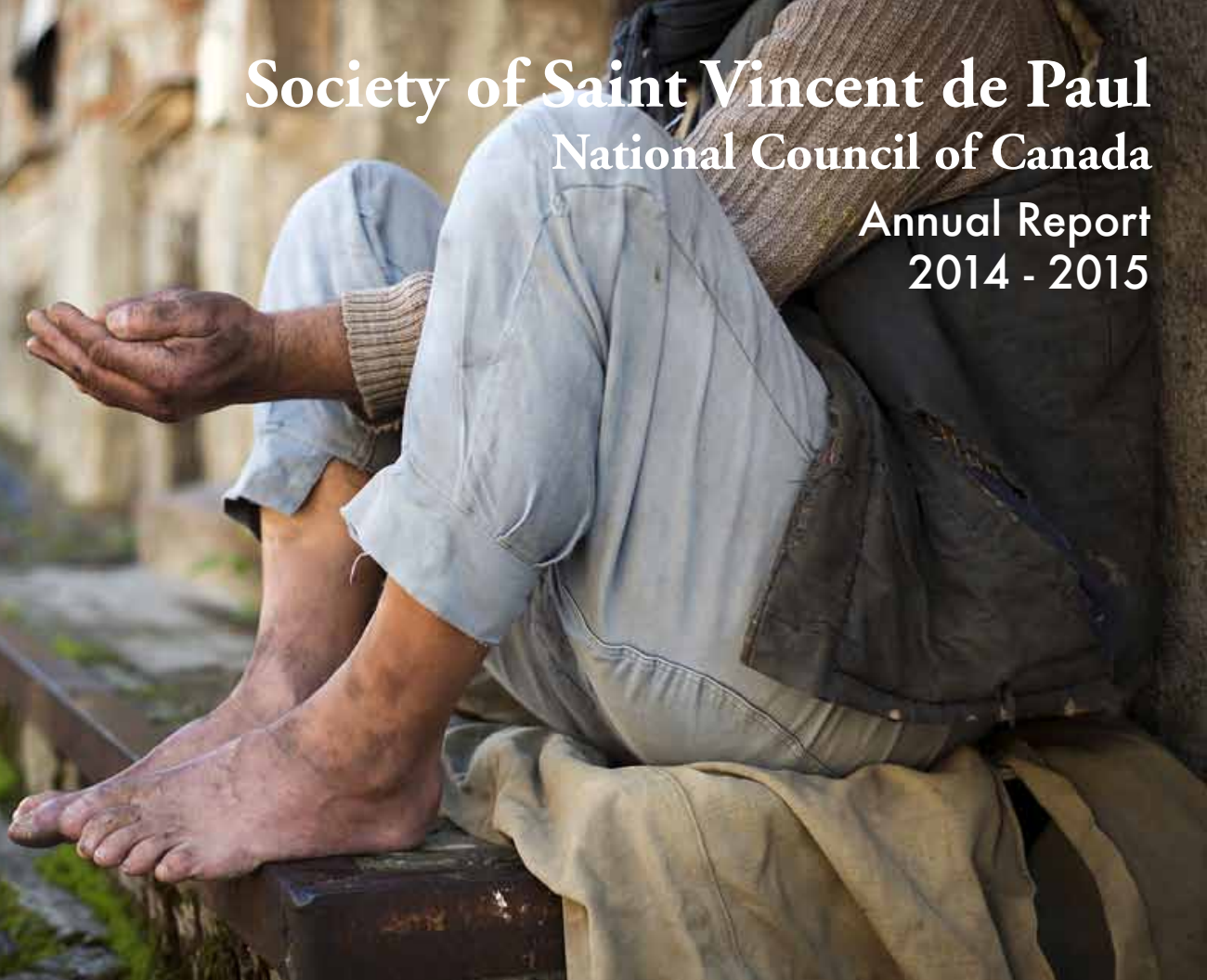


Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

National Council of Canada

Annual Report

2014 - 2015



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a worldwide Christian community, founded in Paris in 1833, by a group of young Catholic lay people.

Membership is open to men and women, young and old. The SSVP asks that members accept fully the Christian ethos and are committed to express their love of God through personal service to their neighbours in need. The service provided by a conference is usually concentrated on home visits, the person-to-person contact with the needy. This is a fundamental part of the Society's mission. However, activities may include "Special Works", which serve people in a wider area or provide specialized service to those living in poverty.

In Canada, more than 14,200 volunteers are serving about 400,000 people each year. Where appropriate, members offer material or other type of assistance to serve those in need overcome crises, and develop with them long-term solutions to their problems.

Mission

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organisation whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

Values

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians we:

- *see Christ is anyone who suffers*
- *come together as a family*
- *have personal contact with the poor*
- *help in all possible ways*

Message from the President

Thanks to their dedicated work, Vincentians across the country have helped people in need in an admirable manner, once again this year. Providing either food or any other type of help, they did their best to respond adequately to assistance requests. Taking the time to listen to people continues to be what makes us different from most other charity organizations. That time we share with people who appeal to us is often as important as the material assistance we provide to them. That explains why we must continue that practice.

I also wish to take the opportunity to thank the members of the National Council various committees. Their generous contribution allowed us to improve our services to members, and I would like to give you a brief overview of the excellent work accomplished by a few of those committees.

Thanks to the cooperation of many Vincentians who responded to the questionnaire published in the Vincenpaul magazine and on our web site, the Strategic Planning Committee was able to develop a strategic plan that will guide our actions for the next five years. That plan will be presented to the members at the 2015 AGA in Hamilton, Ontario. Our Spirituality Committee carries out brilliantly its mission to keep us in touch with our faith and to help us remain focused on Vincentian spirituality. As for our Youth Committee, it keeps informing, recruiting and maintaining active young Vincentians who, one day, can replace us and pursue the mission of the Society. Our Twinning Committee has done excellent work in 2014-2015. The number of conferences and councils who participate in that activity has increased nicely, and I think that we can be proud of that success.

Finally, I wish to say a few words about our North of 60 project. The project aims to bring assistance to people who live in extreme poverty in the Canadian Great North. A few Vincentians have combined their knowhow to send help to people in this remote corner of our country. I think that all Vincentians should participate in the effort, so that we are able to help more people in that remote region.

In conclusion, I believe that we have had a good year and I wish to thank all Vincentians for their excellent work.

Jean-Noël Cormier, National President



2014 - 2015 in Numbers

Financial Regional Contributions

		# central councils	# particular councils	# active conferences
BC & Yukon Regional Council	\$ 14,284	1	6	46
Western Regional Council	\$ 14,000	2	6	54
Ontario Regional Council	\$ 120,000	5	38	339
Quebec Regional Council	\$ 60,000	5	38	301
Atlantic Regional Council	\$ 16,380	0	5	54

Number of volunteer hours *



1,017,354

* incomplete data

Number of members



14,196

Number of people served



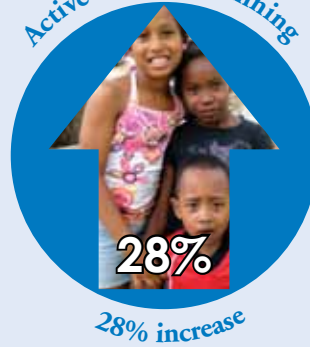
381,930

2014 - 2015 in Numbers

Number of homes visited



Active external twinning



Number of food banks and soup kitchens



Number of stores and outlets



Number of inmates visited



Vincentians Activities across Canada

Home Visitations	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015
Number of homes visited	3,788	2,252	10,130	8,731
Number of visits to these homes	11,471	2,316	15,488	12,820
Number of adults served	10,533	4,966	15,184	16,444
Number of children served	5,821	3,276	15,007	13,570
Total of persons served	16,354	8,242	30,191	30,014
Other visits				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hopitals)	2,153	902	175	87
Number of friendly visits to persons	630	436	427	77
Number of inmates visited in prison	30	30	41	203
Activities				
Number of stores	8	10	0	0
Number of outlets	6	8	2	2
Number of soup kitchens	1	3	0	3
Number of food banks	6	3	2	7
Number of shelters	0	1	0	0
Number of drop-in-center	1	1	2	0
Number of low cost housing units	43	43	0	0
Number of children attending summer camps	11	20	0	0

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015
55,753	43,131	105,179	148,551	6,400	7,029	181,250	209,694
68,354	69,050	105,179	148,551	6,918	7,029	207,410	239,766
98,008	87,850	137,467	111,528	12,455	14,359	273,647	235,147
73,989	66,641	73,905	55,281	7,285	8,015	176,007	146,783
171,997	154,491	211,372	166,809	19,740	22,374	449,654	381,930
2,709	3,507	2	0	300	607	5,339	5,103
7,001	6,315	1	0	1,300	203	9,359	7,031
1,856	2,480	0	0	0	0	1,927	2,713
27	31	93	90	2	2	130	133
25	26	0	0	0	1	33	37
12	15	1	4	1	0	15	25
46	57	3	2	13	6	70	75
4	5	0	0	0	0	4	6
1	1	0	0	0	2	4	4
202	121	0	0	0	0	245	164
2,454	2,436	338	447	0	0	2,803	2,903

Vincentians Activities across Canada

	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015
Financial operations				
Receipts	\$ 5,150,734	\$ 6,226,200	\$ 2,028,823	\$ 2,115,847
Expenditures	\$ 4,573,306	\$ 5,415,828	\$ 2,017,867	\$ 2,004,941
Members				
Number of full members (age 36+)	466	436	838	1,020
Number of young adult members (18-35)	11	8	97	105
Number of youth members (under 18)	7	0	87	93
Number of auxiliary members	143	269	194	215
Total members	627	713	1,216	1,433
Spiritual advisors	19	17	34	41
# of councils and conferences included in report				
Central councils included in this report	1/1	1/1	2/2	2/2
Particular councils included in this report	6/6	6/6	6/6	6/6
Aggregated conferences	44	44	52	53
Non-aggregated conferences	1	2	1	1
Inactive conferences	21	20	2	6
Total number of conferences	66	66	55	60
Conferences included in this report	43/45	46/46	53/53	47/54

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015
\$ 19,576,996	\$ 21,431,273	\$ 17,029,261	\$ 21,791,710	\$ 1,366,559	\$ 1,410,501	\$ 45,152,373	\$ 52,975,531
\$ 18,456,925	\$ 18,588,078	\$ 16,427,495	\$ 19,903,546	\$ 1,146,593	\$ 1,387,339	\$ 42,622,186	\$ 47,299,732
4,071	4,444	2,982	3,107	800	982	9,157	9,989
136	175	68	45	35	18	347	351
130	92	0	0	0	0	224	185
739	652	1,419	2,126	0	409	2,495	3,671
5,076	5,363	4,469	5,278	835	1,409	12,223	14,196
189	196	250	250	n/a	n/a	492	504
5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	0/0	0/0	13/13	13/13
35/35	38/38	36/37	37/38	5/5	5/5	88/89	92/93
314	324	282	273	54	52	746	746
14	15	36	28	2	2	54	48
26	21	34	28	2	2	85	77
354	360	352	329	58	56	885	871
291/328	303/339	278/318	267/301	44/56	46/54	709/800	709/794

Twining



Twining is a Society's fundamental **Special Work** of mutual assistance within Canada and with conferences and councils of developing countries.

Promotional activities of the twinning program was a priority during fiscal year 2014-2015.

A workshop was presented at the 2014 AGA and a Power Point presentation was made to members of the Montreal Central Council in November.

Articles on various aspects of twinning were published in the Vincenpaul-Canada magazine, on the National Council web site and other publications and web sites of Regional and Central councils.

Messages were sent to Councils and Conferences that had demonstrated an interest in an External Twining in the past.

A new Facebook Group, **SSVP Canada Twining-Jumelage**, was created in March 2015.

All Internal Twining files were reviewed and updated.

The tri-partite agreement USA-Canada-Haiti signed in April 2013 aims to twin 22 Haitian conferences and councils within the next 4 years. Seven (7) new twinning with Haiti were approved in 2014-2015.

Several Twining Applications from Designated Countries are waiting for a twinning partner from Canada.

Increasing the number of twinning partnerships remains the priority objective of the program.

Clermont Fortin, Chair, National Twining Committee



Statistics

	2013/2014	2014/2015
Number of countries twinning with Canada: <i>historic twinning and designated countries</i>	19	21
Number of designated countries: Antigua, Colombia, Guatemala, Haïti, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Trinidad & Tobago	9	9
Number of active external twinning on March 31	90	114
Total of funds sent by Canadian partners	\$ 81,903	\$ 95,791
Number of active internal twinning parthnerships <i>*(incomplete data for 2013/2014)</i>	*3	12
New twinning partnerships	15	17
Active external twinning by region:		
BC & Yukon Regional Council	9	14
Western Regional Council	7	10
Ontario Regional Council	65	71
Quebec Regional Council	6	13
Atlantic Regional Council	3	6
Active internal twinning by region (conferences donating):		
BC & Yukon Regional Council		1
Western Regional Council		0
Ontario Regional Council		10
Quebec Regional Council		0
Atlantic Regional Council		1



North of 60



Summary

The last year involved the shipping of five sea containers to each of five Arctic Communities. The sea cans were picked up empty in Hay River, trucked and spotted around Edmonton, loaded with food stuffs, clothing, house hold items and specific project items as identified by our Northern Community Contacts. After loading, the sea cans were trucked back to Hay River and put on the barge at the NTCL Terminal. They were sent up the Mackenzie River and across the Beaufort Sea to reach their final destination. All five containers were loaded in May/June and arrived in Sept/Oct. The Communities have already or plan to distribute the products by methods that are specific to their Community.

There has been encouragement from both the religious and corporate communities, as well as the Vincentian membership for growth in this project. The growth will involve support to more Northern communities. Additional volunteers, from both the Northern and the donor community in the south, will be required as will increased support from the transportation industry which has so graciously provided sponsorship for this project. Planning is underway for the development of the 2015 North of 60 Project.

Additionally, SSVF in the Ontario Region is considering a similar assistance program for Communities in Eastern Arctic Canada.

Northern Communities

Sea cans were provided this year to Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. This is the result of a three year growth of a project initiated several years ago and developed by Sister Fay Trombley of Tuktoyaktuk, Eileen Orysiuk of Calgary and other members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The model set up in Tuktoyaktuk is considered successful and therefore has become the objective for all the communities, i.e. a location where clothing and food can be stored, sorted and distributed to those in need. Product is sold to those who have money and given to those who have none.

Financing

The goal is to use a minimum amount of cash to achieve the objective. Donations of transportation have come from the corporate community and special recognition is due to Inuvialuit Regional and the Development Corporations, NTCL, Canadian North Airlines, Landtran Group of Companies and Continental Carriers for their support. Growth will require further support from the transportation community.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has provided financial assistance from Councils and Conferences in Ontario, Quebec and Winnipeg. Generous donations of food, household items, furniture, and specialty products come primarily from members of the Catholic community and parishes in Edmonton, Winnipeg and southern B.C. The project in 2014 is estimated at having a value of approximately \$400,000. The cash cost of the project was in fact approximately \$3,000.

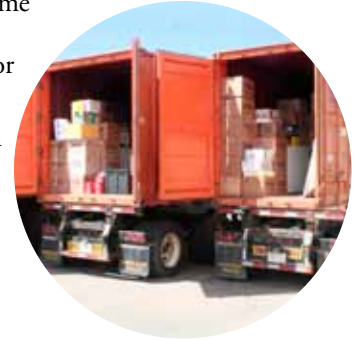
Donor Community

Many thanks go out to the Catholic Community, their Parishes and the Vincentian Family in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Edmonton is the gateway to the NWT Arctic North. The transportation corridor and the corporations serving that corridor have been generous with their support. This project has received the attention of others across Canada. Support from the Catholic Community in interior BC as well as Winnipeg, Ontario and Quebec has helped substantially in the ability to provide for those in need. Hundreds of donors and volunteers worked to collect and sort items for sea containers that were located in church parking lots. In several cases the collecting and sorting was done outside in cold and rainy weather. Not an ideal situation and an area for improvement with this project.

Other Aspects of the North of 60 Project

A separate program under this general area of Vincentian Works is a project called Healthy Food for Children. This aspect of the project is being funded separately and has been active since the beginning of 2014. The objective of this project is to supply cash support to the Communities of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven for the local purchase of food to support a meal preparation and delivery program for children.

Peter Ouellette, President, Western Regional Council



International Emergency Relief

The Committee is responsible for ensuring response and follow-up on International Council General (CGI) and National Councils financial assistance requests as a result of natural disasters and humanitarian catastrophes.

Haiti

During this fiscal year, the Committee continued sending funds to the National Council of Haiti, to help victims of the January 2010 earthquake. The National Council, with an Ontario Conference, was also involved in an education project already operating but under financed. The agreement is for a contribution of \$2,500 annually for a period of 5 years. The Board of Directors approved a contribution of \$10,000 to fund a systemic change project of the Vincentian Family in Haiti. The project's goal is for hundreds of women to acquire financial autonomy through training, financial assistance for small business ventures with appropriate follow-ups. The National Council received activity reports during the year and Annual Report 2013 from all Haitian Councils during the period.

Philippines

Two major typhoons, Bopha and Haiyan, ravaged the Philippines in 2012 and 2013. The Council General launched a one million Euros international fund raising campaign to help the victims of the disasters. As a result of an appeal by the National President, a sum of \$140,000 was transferred to the CGI in March 2014. A last contribution in the amount of \$7,092 was transferred to the CGI during this fiscal year.

Other Catastrophes and Humanitarian Aid

The Committee approved the transfer of \$27,500 to the ICG during this past year in response to emergency situations in Nicaragua and Peru and, to help Syrian and Iraqi refugees relocated in camps in Lebanon and Jordan.

Clermont Fortin. Chair, International Emergency Relief



The committee consists of the following representatives: Chair, Claude Bedard; National Council, Jean-Noël Cormier (ex-officio); Spiritual Advisor, Msgr Peter Schonenbach; Atlantic Region, Christopher Ryan; Quebec Region, Pierre Morissette; Ontario Region, Jim Paddon; Western Region, Chris Gillen; BC Yukon Region, Claude Bedard.

Ontario Regional Council - Social Justice Committee: I attended 2 meetings held at the offices of the Toronto Central Council. The committee is well attended, enthusiastic and eager to tackle local and regional social justice issues. They are creating lines of communication within their region, which could be of interest to Vincentians in all regions. They have developed some brochures and guidelines that could easily be adapted to other regions. We stand to profit greatly by incorporating some or all of their efforts nationally. I have learned a lot by my attendance at their meetings and I am very grateful to Jim for his invitation to participate in their meetings.

2015 National AGA: We are afforded a great opportunity to highlight social justice this year at the AGA being held in Hamilton ON.

Thanks goes out to Jim Paddon and his ONRC SJ Committee for accepting to prepare and present 3 workshops one each on social justice, systemic change and prison ministry at the upcoming AGA.

What Next: The committee needs to come together as a whole and have its first meeting at the 2015 AGA in Hamilton. The goal is to begin the work of setting national goals and objectives for this committee.

In the meantime I endeavor to continue to keep myself informed and educated on relevant issues of interest to the Society. I encourage all Vincentians to keep the issue of social justice foremost in their prayers as we seek God's will for the Society with regards to pursuing social justice on relevant issues of concern to our poor, marginalized, forgotten and unfortunate neighbours across this great nation and beyond.

J Claude Bédard, Chair, Social Justice Committee



Spirituality



The role of the Spirituality Committee is to “promote the enhancement and spiritual development of all Vincentians”. I think I can speak for the other members of our committee when I say that we consider our work is a win-win situation because our task is made so much easier because we learn from our brothers and sisters what a vibrant and spiritual family we are part of and that we all help each other grow closer to Him through the love we share with one another.

Currently, the members of the committee are our National President (ex-officio) Ellen Schryburt, Monsignor Peter Schonenbach (our Spiritual Advisor), Claude Bedard, Maureen MacIsaac and the committee is delighted to announce that we now have a youth member on the committee. The new member’s name is Sophia Mutuc and we are looking forward to working with her. Welcome Sophia.

At the National Board meeting, the Spirituality Committee works with the Board to determine a theme for the AGA. In addition to that, the committee works with Host committee to prepare the spiritual program, develop the theme and plan the liturgies and suggests topics for workshops and hosts a Spiritual Advisors luncheon so that we can share with one another what is happening in each of the regions throughout our country.

The committee is delighted by the number of positive comments that we receive from our Vincentian brothers and sisters after attending the AGA closing Mass when we have the Memorial Service for our deceased members as well as our commitment ceremony to continue to serve God and those in need. The committee is also very pleased that the number of Vincentians that access the web site to read the monthly spiritual reflection has increased.

In closing, I wish to thank all the members of the committee for their dedication and hard work as well as a special thank to the members of the National Board for their support and their friendship. I would like to say a special thanks to Nicole and Josée for their dedication and hard work.

Maureen MacIsaac, Chair, Spirituality Committee

Education/Formation

The Education/Formation Committee was not very active during the past year. An attempt to revitalize this committee started with a meeting, which was held on the weekend of February 20-21, 2015. In attendance were Jean-Noël Cormier, Judy Peddle, Mary Grad, Nora Criss and Lynn L'Heureux. Mary Grad was appointed secretary and Judy Peddle was appointed to chair the meeting.

Jean-Noël presented a list of workshops for the AGA, which was approved without review due to time restraints. As it is the role of the Education/Formation Committee to review and evaluate the material and presenters for workshops, the possibility of webinars in the future was entertained to aid in this process.

We will have our second meeting on Tuesday, June 23 before the AGA in Hamilton. Workshops for Secretary, Treasurer and President, directed by National, will be presented in both languages at the National AGA in Hamilton. We hope that these workshops will be most beneficial to all who attend them. The Education/Formation Committee will review the comments from all the workshops in Hamilton and restart fresh for the next year.

It is my hope that we can take a fresh approach, with new ideas to restructure and rebuild the Education/Formation Committee and provide the best possible information and education modules/webinars, to be shared with all Vincentians, to help them be their very best in their mission of charity.

Judy Peddle, Chair, Education/Formation Committee



Youth

Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship

The Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship process was revamped in the current year to require the applicants to provide more detailed information on their involvement in the Society, to provide a reference to attest to their involvement and to streamline the application process to a central point for all regions to submit applicants. There was also a push to get the information out to the conferences and councils, which was done through the various communication channels (National distribution lists, Regional distribution lists and youth contacts).

Youth Advisor Handbook

The Youth Advisor Handbook is still in development. This handbook is meant to be provided to the Youth Advisor to guide them in their formation of a youth conference. The next stage will be providing a resource guide for the youth conference members on operating the youth conference. After providing the resources on developing youth conferences, the next step will be to provide information for all conferences and councils on attracting youth to the Society and incorporating them into the conference activities.

World Youth Day 2016

Planning is well underway for World Youth Day 2016, which will be July 25-31 in Krakow, Poland. Prior to World Youth Day, FamVin will once again be holding a meeting of Vincentian youth from July 21-24. The event will be held at Radosna Nowina 2000, a school center that is operated by the Congregation of the Mission approximately 10 km outside of Krakow that can accommodate approximately 1,600 Vincentians. Information on cost for World Youth Day and FamVin are not yet available, but is expected to be consistent with past years. Across Canada, various dioceses have their registration rates at \$2,500 - \$4,000, all-inclusive. Each Region is asked to consider how they are willing to support their youth to attend FamVin and World Youth Day. Based on past experience, I have seen the transformation that youth who attend go through and it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I am available to discuss how the Regions can organize delegations to attend.

Jason Hunt, National Youth Representative



British Columbia & Yukon Regional Council

Board Announcements: Michael O’Gorman is the newly elected president of the Northern Island Particular Council. Michael takes over from Bill Duncan. He is joined by newly elected presidents Ted Van Adrichem (Port Alberni), Paul Bertrand (Campbell River) and Arnold Lamb (Courtney/Comox). All were installed by Bishop Gary Gordon. We thank Bill Duncan for his dedicated service to the Northern Island Particular Council. We are pleased to welcome Darla Robson as the newly elected President of Sacred Heart Isolated Conference in Williams Lake. Our quarterly teleconferencing meetings continue to keep the Board informed on the whole Region and allows us to help the Isolated Conferences deal with individual concerns while keeping our expenses down.

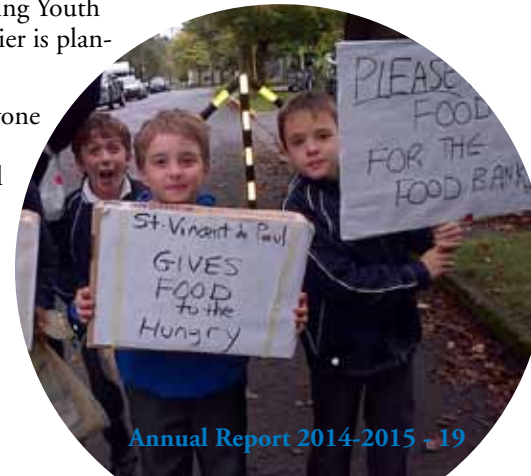
Activities: Vancouver has begun the process of opening a new conference at Holy Family Parish. This parish offers the Traditional Latin Mass and parishioners come from the whole Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Regional AGA—May 1-3, 2015: St. Mary’s Vancouver has offered their facility and the planning committee has secured wonderful speakers and workshops. The theme is – Let us be as Christ to one another. Our keynote speaker will be Ms. Amy Sundberg bringing us an interesting perspective on our assembly theme. Our emphasis will be on Youth. The National Council Youth Rep Jason Hunt will discuss opening Youth Conferences and work with the Youth during the weekend. National president Jean-Noel Cormier is planning to attend and Scotty MacLaren will be installed as the new Regional president.

2016 National AGA: Bill Yule has been working with his steering committee to make sure everyone will have a memorable time in Vancouver and UBC June 15 – 19 2016. The campus has been visited several times and all necessary rooms have been tentatively booked subject to the approval of National. We are waiting to hear the theme for next year and the Holy Rosary Cathedral has been booked for the final Mass.

We have recruited Chairs for all Committees and have met twice and will meet again in May to begin putting together a budget for 2016. A video has been created for presentation in Hamilton at the. 2015 National AGA.

Nora Criss, British Columbia & Yukon Regional President



Western Regional Council

Thanks to the growth of our Vincentian Family in Western Region we have been able to increase our help to those in need of our support.

St. Timothy's Conference in Winnipeg has a dynamic group of furniture distribution after their weekly Conference meeting.

The Western Region covers a lot of geography but communication technology has helped. We have used websites and teleconferencing to increase contact within the Family, to transfer the best practices from Conference to Conference and to provide training to Vincentians who are not able to travel large distances to attend meetings.

Information on activities in Edmonton is found at www.ssvpedmonton.ca and our Society's programs in Calgary are found at www.ssvpcalgary.org.

There is a strong and developing Vincentian movement in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Although we have had little success in the Diocese of Saskatoon, we have been welcomed into the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan where 2015 efforts will surely payoff with growth of our Society and further support to those in need.

The status of our Works related to assisting those in the Canadian Arctic North through the North of 60 Project, efforts related to disaster relief - most recently the Southern Alberta Flood Relief Program, the increase focus on a Prison Ministry Development and others news worth your review are found at www.ssvpwrc.ca.

Support to those living outside of Canada continues with our support to the National Twinning program.

Next year we will continue to focus on Communication and Development as we extend new information to our Vincentian members and assistance to those in need.

Peter Ouellette, President, Western Regional Council



Ontario Regional Council

Our Ontario Regional Council continues to place an emphasis on three key areas: Spirituality, Communication and Social Justice.

Spirituality: We have a very active committee which has developed material and ideas to enhance the spiritual component of our Vincentian activities. We believe it is essential to have active spiritual advisors at all levels of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul if we are to realize any success. Our numbers are growing in this area. The other area has been to place a focus on the reflection period of all meetings. I must thank Sister Janine Rocheleau, chair of our spirituality committee for her dedication to this need. In addition, we regretfully announce that Sister Janine has stepped down as chair of this committee. We cannot thank her enough for all the work she has done to improve the spirituality of our Ontario Council. We also welcome her successor, Denise Bondy from Windsor. We are certain Denise will continue the work of Sister Janine in the coming months.

Communication: We are pleased to have our Ontario chairperson, Mary Grad, to also be joining the National education committee. Mary has made some wonderful changes to how we can best educate, communicate and be more responsive to our membership.

Social Justice: We are very pleased with the work of the various committees that come under the social justice heading. Our Advocacy, Systemic Change and Prison Ministry committees are all very active and we invite you to visit our website (www.ssvp.on.ca) and click on social justice to see what we are doing. Some of the other social justice related work includes North of 60, Ontario 1st nations, migrant workers and refugees.

There is a real need for us, as Vincentians, to be active in social justice as a way to really make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbours in need. If we can address the root causes of poverty in Canada and give these friends some hope for a better future for their families, we will be achieving some positive and long lasting results.

Jim Paddon, President, Ontario Regional Council



Quebec Regional Council

We had the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Week (last week of September) that highlighted the celebration of Vincentian volunteers. The month of December was a strong moment and various SSVP actions and activities were often reported in the media.

However, what about the other months? In 2014, close to 5,000 men and women gave 608,886 hours of volunteer work. This data alone demonstrates the engagement of Society members who provide assistance to approximately 220,000 annually in Quebec.

At the Regional Council level, web users visit the RÊVE D'OZANAM (Ozanam's Dream) website more and more. Members as well as leaders publish an increasing numbers of posts on the site about major interventions and activities of the SSVP in Quebec, for the benefit of the public as well as that of Vincentians. If you have not already done so, we invite you to visit the site at www.lerevedozanam.com.

In addition, we cannot fail to mention the departure of Mr. Jude Bourke as Secretary of our Regional Council and we thank him for his long and dedicated service. Finally, we wish to commemorate the death of Father Lionel Dion, who was the Spiritual Counsellor of the Quebec Regional Council for many years. He was a model of fidelity, always present at Council meetings and a guide full of hope for everyone, sowing peace and joy.

Gratitude and congratulations are offered to the members of the Quebec SSVP. The Board and I wish to celebrate the vincentian engagement in our region. Thanks to all our members and to my colleagues of the Board, namely Michel Olivier, Vice-President, Claude Roy, Treasurer, Lise Blais, Project Manager and Diane Dorion, in charge of the Montreal office.

Pierre Morissette, President, Quebec Regional Council



Atlantic Regional Council

The Bridgewater conference is now twinning with Vincentians in South America, the number of Vincentians and the number of those served increased, we now have a conference in New Brunswick, thanks in part to our National President.

Conferences have closed but conferences have reorganized their service outreach program. In Newfoundland, Jerry Rex and his new executive turned everything around for the good, a folding conference became an expanding one throughout Corner Brook. The torch was passed from one generation to another, as Grant Koehler became the new president of Immaculate Conception Conference of Harbour Grace.

In June, Vincentians attended the Annual Meeting of Atlantic Regional Council held at St. Mary's University. The theme was "Be As Christ To One Another", with guest speaker Father Toochuckwu Okafor of Nigeria. Vincentians throughout Atlantic supported Saint Vincent Feast Day celebrations, combined with a Spirituality day in Glace Bay and Northside Cape Breton.

Halifax Particular Council sponsored a workshop lead by Sister Pat Wilson, Spiritual Advisor on the annual theme. The Halifax Particular Council continued to support training opportunities for Vincentians including a monitoring and partnerships Conference, "Connects" a one day drop-in event for people without a home or people at risk of homelessness, a seminar designed to help persons on low income sponsored by Dalhousie Legal Aid, and a Lunch and Learn Panel and Discussion on the topic "*Food Banks and Beyond: solutions for Eliminating Hunger in Our Community*".

Hand and Hand Halifax served 19,689 customers, St. Theresa's Conference in St. John's unveiled their new housing project for the needy, and N.S. Power once again gave a matching grant to conferences serving the needy. Conferences and the business community generously supported Atlantic with donations from Sobeys in Dartmouth and Wall Mart in Harbor Grace.

Special thanks to our Succession committee Michael Burke, past National President, and Annie MacLean, past President of St. Agnes Council in Halifax, for conducting the election campaign. Also the Atlantic Annual Meeting organizing committee, Valerie Getson, John Rowe, Garry Hollett, Jim Guilford, Lorraine Baetlett, David O'Conner, Barb Boutilier, Pat Coady, Chris Ryan, Jim MacIntyre, Cecil Snow and Michael Burke.

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