

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada

Annual
Report

2011
2012



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MISSION

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization 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 in anyone who suffers;
- come together as a family;
- have personal contact with the poor;
- help in all possible ways.

Once again, we come to the end another year of the Vincentian activities. We have been truly blessed by so many good works both given and received. Many great activities have led to making the Canadian Council so much stronger leading to more of a true characterization of our Vincentian Spirituality. As you know last year was dedicated to acknowledging and thankfulness of the role of Spiritual Advisors. This has really taken off, as the saying goes. Many of the meetings I have attended that included the installation of a president at whatever level have included the installation of the Spiritual Advisor. What a wonderful tribute.

The regions and national committees will be submitting their own annual report. However, I would like to take this opportunity to just say thanks to these committee chairs and their team for all their hard work to make SSSVP Canada such a thriving Council. Well done team!!!

Administration

We have continued in our endeavors to sustain an efficient and effective administrative office both in Ottawa and Montreal. Our thanks again to both **Nicole Schryburt** and **Josée Lemieux** for their diligence. Josée has really tried hard to grasp the intricacies of the Society and its processes. Her work with Nicole has come to a point of each now doing their “own” piece of the administration. This was evident in their presentation last year. Kudos to both of them.

Website and Vincenpaul Magazine

Nicole Schryburt continues to manage the web site aspect of communications. She has made great strides with entering the information onto the web-site that will be timely and useful for members and the public.

Ellen Schryburt continues to act as editor for the Vincenpaul magazine along with Nicole.

Last year I asked that we have a column dedicated to “In Memoriam” of Vincentians that have died in the year. We will feature each region listing a) the name of the Vincentian, b) date of death, c) the name of conference, city/province. The name will be published in the issues of the Vincenpaul for that year. We rely on regions to

submit the names to the editor for publication within the timelines required.

These names are also mentioned at the memorial service at each AGA.

Promotional Items

The list of promotional items continues to grow for members of the National Council to purchase. These are available on the web-site for viewing and ordering. Promotional items have assisted in keeping finances of the National Council manageable, thus not having to increase the \$240.00 contributions from conferences and councils

Translation Services

Once again, our deepest thanks to **Ghislaine Du Nord** for her continued diligence. With her help we have moved our documents eg minutes, agendas etc into side by side bilingual documents. This makes it so much easier for dissemination of one document information. As always she is so diligent in her task of assisting the National Council to function.

As is so true, everyone shares their special gifts to make the Society in Canada a true reflection of the Gospel Message in Canada.

Spiritual Advisor

It is so important that I recognize and thank our **Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Peter Schonenbach**. His opinions and guidance have proven fruitful when decisions are being made. His inspirational talks before each meeting and his willingness to provide sacramental such as prayer, Mass and commissioning etc that are such an important part of Vincentian life. Yes, of course business decisions are required, but the essential reason we come together is to enhance the spiritual life of each other and those we serve, and Msgr Peter helps to remind us to think outside the box when we try to live up to “help in all possible ways”..

New National Council of Canada Annual Reports

As I reported last year, the new report involves both the statistical data form and the financial reporting form.

National President

They are one comprehensive form with guidelines designed for both. We had begun using these forms for the 2010 reporting year. As with all new or revised documents, some growing pains are to be expected. Of significance was that over the past year a request has been made to design an electronic data base for use by all conferences and councils that will correspond to the report. Cumulative data and statistics may then be collected and submitted easily.

Josée has been hard at work making the format changes that will be required to make the report useful and easy for both members and the councils to use. Our thanks to both Nicole and Josée for doing what they can to make everything workable to all members.

National Committees

As I am moving into my final year as national president, I am so pleased that the supportive structures are now in place both at the administrative level and the volunteer level. I have just constituted the last of the two national committees that will guide members in areas that have given rise to questions and concerns related to Advocacy/Systemic Change and operation and management of local stores.

As we move forward with both of these elements from a national local/regional level, we truly need a united and sound approach. The Public relations/Media Committee members can and will assist us by lending their expertise and guidance. We definitely do not want to be seen as an organization that is running madly off in all directions with its look and its voice.

As well, there are many questions from conferences and councils that would love to know how to start resale shops, but have no idea as to how to begin, how to staff it and keep it going. Ontario and Quebec have made great strides in assembling best practices and standards for these types of operations. They have reviewed legislation in their respective provinces and have developed compliances that can be shared with many brothers and sister Vincentians. Best of all, they are willing to share.

These two committees will act as the “go to” people to help coach and mentor members in their endeavours. God bless them and their willingness to share their gifts.

Summation

Once again, the National Council of Canada has continued to move forward and become stronger in so many positive ways. The stability of staffing has been so life giving for each member and those that we serve.

However, it always bears repeating, that we can only become better and stronger if we keep our spirituality and efforts pointed in the direction of the Gospel message.....we have to really focus on becoming true “people of the water and the towel”. This is our identity. As we all know, this is what sets us apart from other “community service agencies”.

As always, I will continue to assist my brother and sister Vincentians to continually move forward in sharing their gifts in the ministry of administration. We need your prayers as well as your support and encouragement. We all look forward to another Spirit-filled and Spirit-led year for 2012!

I pray that “we may be all one in truth and charity!”

May the radiance of your charity be a beaming light!

● Penny Craig, President



The key note sounding throughout Atlantic Canada is service by our Conferences in love to needy persons. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society continued to demonstrate that life at its best is service to others done in a spirit of sacrifice not egoism with energies proclaiming the common good, protecting the weak in service to Christ.

Everywhere, Halifax and Dartmouth, Truro and New Glasgow, Glace Bay and St John's NFLD, the needy were blessed and cheered, fed and encouraged to make contributions in their homes and communities. Atlantic conferences wrote a book on service filled with chapters of love, Samaritans pouring oil on traveller's wounds in a spirit of love which, unlike justice, has no limits.

St. Peters Conference of Dartmouth Nova Scotia has twenty-two caring members making every Christmas come alive for over seven hundred needy people in the down town area. Working out of the church basement the members cook and serve a full course meals to seven hundred needy persons of One hundred volunteers including children's choirs, minstrel players, dancers, teachers, scholars and the needy themselves make this 'loaves and fishes' miracle possible.

St Thomas Moore parish a neighbour of St Peters served three hundred and eighty persons last year, 220 adults and 169 children. Sixty three families, with an average size of four members per family, were treated to a full course meal of ham and turkey and a Christmas basket filled with enough food to feed a family for fourteen days. Uneaten turkeys and hams were given to Margaret's House for the needy of Dartmouth.

All conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul are supporting Hope Cottage of Halifax and Margaret's House of Dartmouth. Ninety thousand meals are served by volunteers to the needy. At Margaret's House thirty-three thousand meals were served at no charge to the needy last year, members of our conferences were there with caring hands and donations of food.

All year long the bell of service rang for others. Halifax Particular Council is deeply involved in the work of hosting this year's National AGA. And its outreach workers are busy supporting conferences and helping

the needy in Halifax and Dartmouth obtain food and shelter, power and heating oil, transportation medication and even assist with budget preparation skills. The outreach coordinator also assists in providing workshops and retreats for Vincentians and sits on a variety of community service boards.

Volunteers and friends of Hand in Hand store in Spryfield are now working out of a new building. They are working very hard to expand and organize the store so that it is a welcoming place for all who visit, a place where efforts are made to keep the prices of clothing and other essential items low, within the reach of the needy. All donations are appreciated at Hand in Hand the store that gives all year, a store supported by our conferences.

Service to the poor and needy was everywhere. Nine members of the St John the Baptist - St Vincent de Paul Council, New Glasgow raised sufficient funds to accommodate all one hundred and sixty requests for assistance. They hosted the annual "Sheppard Lunch" program, and took part in all major parish projects. There biggest challenge is membership growth but they have been able to recruit new members through a one to one approach rather than simply by relying on impersonal contact and advertising. One to one contact is made with prospective members and an invitation is extended to them to attend a meeting. It works says president Gary Hollett. Gary also noted that 'members truly love their roles/work, we are making a difference in people's situations, and we do try to have a little fun along the way promoting teamwork and open communication.

Dennis McCormack is the new president for Saint Vincent de Paul Atlantic on May 8th Dennis was installed by National representative Maureen MacIssac. Dennis praised those who have encouraged him in this vocation, the Vice Presidents in Atlantic, the members of Saint Clements conference Dartmouth, Penny Craig and her national team and the wonderful group at Dartmouth Particular Council.

● **Dennis McCormack, President**

Quebec Regional Council

This is my first message as President of the Quebec Regional Council. First of all, allow me to thank Mr. Jean-Claude Bienvenue for his dedication to his work as President and for the energy and enthusiasm he demonstrated during his entire term. I also thank the members of the Regional Council for their work and dedication towards the SSVP, and particularly the Regional Council.

The third edition of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Week (SSVP Week) took place in Trois-Rivières. The Quebec congress gathered over 120 people under the theme “Giving Is Winning”. On that occasion, several activities took place across Quebec to promote the Society. In Trois-Rivières, as well, the store has expanded, and acquired a new delivery truck.

In Montreal, the Central Council organised a Day of Harvest, allowing over 50 people to spend a day at the farm, enjoy a picnic and harvest fruit and vegetables to keep for their personal use. In addition, a small video clip was prepared, in collaboration with the Montreal Central Council. It is very professionally and fantastically done, and can be found on You Tube at *Le Rêve d'Ozanam* (Ozanam's Dream), as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

In Québec City, the Société Saint-Vincent de Paul celebrated the 165th anniversary of its foundation by Mr. Joseph-Louis Painchaud, on November 12, 1846. An anniversary mass was celebrated at the Notre-Dame de Québec cathedral, presided by Msgr. Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, Bishop of Québec City, and a book on the history of the SSVP was published, entitled *La Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul de Québec – 1846-2011, Nourrir son âme et visiter les pauvres* (The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Quebec – 1846-2011, Feeding the Soul and Visiting the Poor¹). That volume, written by historian Réjean Lemoine, and published by Éditions GID Inc, is available for sale at the Québec Central Council, phone: 418 522-5741, at the cost of \$25.00.

In Saguenay, the male and female councils undertook Vincentian activities that were successful and well organized once again this year. Each one of the central

councils organized annual meetings attended by a few dozen members.

At the Gatineau Central Council, composed of 4 particular councils, more than \$400,000 in value was given, directly or indirectly, to needy people. Thus, 8,477 people were helped and, in collaboration with the Mayor's lunch, 1557 Christmas hampers were distributed, a value of \$150 each.

In Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, the Société Saint-Vincent de Paul inaugurated a new activity: the *Centre de dépannage alimentaire - L'Essentiel* (Food Assistance Centre – the Essential¹), which required important financial investments (over \$250,000) and collaborations with partners from various communities. As well, the Saint-Luc Conference store moved into new and very modern premises. Other initiatives have also taken place in Quebec, but it would be too long to enumerate them all.

The Quebec Regional Council will try very soon to propose means to revitalize and increase our membership through active recruiting; to revise our spiritual discourse by adapting it to help our younger members better understand it; to show that our mission is contemporary; and to offer rejuvenated training as soon as possible.

Following are a few of our major activities pursued in 2011:

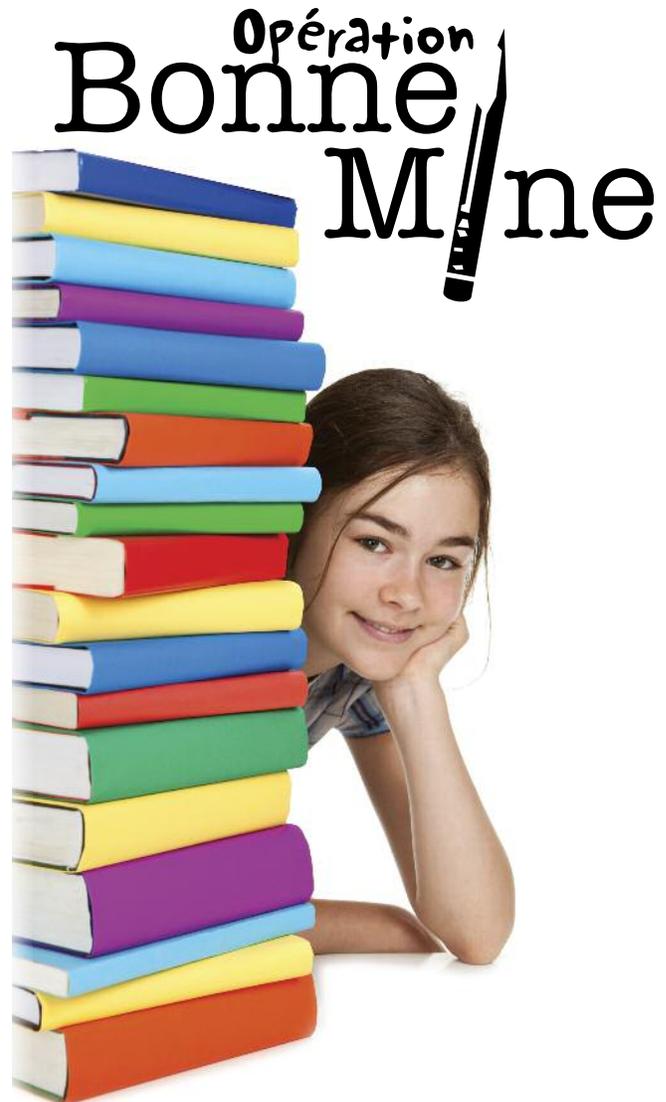
- The traditional Guignolée, the Guignolée of the media, and the distribution of Christmas hampers for a value of over 2 million dollars in revenues for councils and conferences;
- The Opération Bonne Mine (OBM) that is expanding more and more: over \$325,000 for youths and school children;
- And all the activities undertaken to help and support in so many ways more than 102,000 needy families all over Quebec.

1 Free translation.

In conclusion, I would like to thank, Diane Dorion, Secretary, and Lise Blais, Project Manager, for their dedication and support. Thanks to all Vincentian members who during 2011, participated in and led working committees within the Quebec Regional Council. Thanks finally to André Boyer, Lisette Bergeron, Simone Duval and Yvon Bussièrès who, for the past years, have taken on several support and guidance tasks at the Quebec Regional Council level. Thanks as well to our Spiritual Advisor, Father Lionel Dion, White Father of the Missionaries of Africa, for his presence at all our meetings, and his words full of wisdom and enlightenment.

May the Blessed Frederic guide us all on the path to active and organized charity, witnessing our faith and our engagement to help and love others, and to see in them Christ Himself.

● Pierre Morissette, President



*A provincial
program
that encourages
student
retention*

*Un programme
provincial
qui encourage
la persévérance
scolaire*

Ontario Regional Council

As I begin my term as president of the Ontario Regional Council, I'd like to thank our membership across Ontario for their support and dedicated service to Jesus Christ as demonstrated in their works of charity and justice with and for our friends in need.

2012 will be a challenging and rewarding experience for all Vincentians as we continue to address the many causes, results and hopefully solutions to the plight of those living in or near poverty.

The Ontario council started the development of a strategic plan in the fall of 2011 with a final draft to be completed by this fall. Our plan is based on the four foundational blocks of Spirituality, Formation, Communication and Solidarity. We have also emphasized that the action which should centre these four blocks is systemic change. All committees will be asked to develop a set of goals and objectives based on these four blocks and then incorporate systemic change into their plans.

Youth

We now have youth conferences in Windsor, Waterloo and London. Our chairperson, Jason Hunt, will be taking a two year leave of absence to accept a work placement in Scotland. Jason will be missed but will continue as chair along with an interim chairperson until he returns. The committee hopes to develop resource material that can be used to promote youth membership at both parish and school levels.

Jason has also developed a policy regarding World Youth Day 2013 participation that will provide us with the criteria for selection of candidates to attend WYD.

Twinning

Guido Kelly is chair of our Twinning committee and he continues to do excellent work in this area. The Ontario Regional Council continues its twinning program with the National Council of Haiti. The concept of twinning is more than just passing financial aid to our twins. An example of this is at the Annunciation of Our Lord conference in Hamilton, (our chair's home conference) where members joined members from their twin (Miraculous Medallion in Lima Peru) to say the rosary together via Skype...with a lot of happy faces at

both ends. We shall be using our website and other resources to promote this most worthy component of the Society as a world wide organization.

Prison Ministry

We're pleased to announce that this committee, which was started about three years ago, has found a chairperson in Frank Boscarol. Under Frank's leadership we are certain we will be able to address the many issues related to our prisons, inmates both while in prison and when they return to society as well as the effect this has on the families of inmates. There would also appear to be lots of work we can do related to systemic change that can help inmates and their families.

Formation

Bill Graham, chair of formation in Ontario has done wonderful work along with his team of trainers in the past two years in providing training sessions for membership by using the national education modules. There have been between 50 and 60 such sessions provided by Bill and his trainers. This year should see a focus on the revised and improved education modules. There is no doubt most members are eager to improve their knowledge of the Society and poverty issues as a way to enhance their efforts to alleviate poverty in Ontario while growing their own faith.

We would also like to see modules developed that address systemic change and our strategic plan.

Stores

We have 44 stores in Ontario that include a wide range of various levels of staffing and sales. Phil Bondy, our new store chairperson, has taken on this role with his first goal being to conduct a series of regional store manager workshops with the goal being to give the managers input on how our store system can be improved and perhaps become an even more useful tool as our face to the general public. There is no doubt we have store managers who understand what the Society is about and would like to make a contribution to our efforts regarding poverty issues. One early result of these manager workshops has been that we

now encourage council presidents to invite their store managers to our voting members meetings in the spring and fall. We expect to develop a positive plan for the future use of our stores that will make our store system one that will be an extension of the Society's mission.

Communications

Mary Grad is chair of this new committee. This committee's vision is to improve communications between and at all levels of the Society in Ontario, and with members of the public, other organizations, and most importantly with those our Society serves. The communication committee has decided to focus on two main areas for this current year. They are the improvement of our website in order to use it as a common tool to communicate with the various levels of our Society and the public. The second area is to improve the flow of statistical and other information between the ONRC, councils and conferences, so that we all know what is needed, when to reply, and how and to whom; and set some protocols for these transactions.

There is also the realization that the Society needs to develop programs and resources that will enhance our image to both our members and the general public. There will be a Public Relations/Image sub-committee responsible to the Communications committee which will work on this very important part of our future.

Spirituality

This too is a new committee, which will be chaired by Sister Janine Rocheleau from Windsor. She is being ably assisted by Father Joe Quinn. We plan to have committee members from across Ontario join this committee in its efforts to improve our spirituality and connect our faith and actions that are representative of the heritage and charism of the Society. There is no doubt the committee must gain the full support of presidents at all levels if we are to realize any success. The second and most integral part of our success is the idea of each council and conference having a spiritual advisor.

We also realize we need to develop and provide support in the form of resource material

for both presidents and their spiritual advisors. The ideal method of doing this would be in the context of a one day retreat.

The Ontario Regional Council is blessed to have Bishop McGrattan, auxiliary bishop of the Toronto archdiocese, as our spiritual advisor. There is no doubt that Bishop McGrattan represents an opportunity to fully develop a strong and productive partnership with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. (ACBO)

Systemic Change

Jere Hartnett is chair of this committee. The focus has been on development and implementation of new pilot projects, developing a network of local resources and consolidating training material. The members of this committee are currently located within the same particular council region which has enabled them to work very closely with the council's member conferences and use this area to test some projects.

The committee is looking at systemic change on two levels. The first is the individual level (a specific change) and the second the community level (providing a solution to a common issue).

The systemic change committee has approved matching funds for a small loan program (Vinnie's Wallet) at St. Josephs' conference in Chatham which is being done in collaboration with the local Ursuline order of Sisters.

In the Halton region (Oakville/Burlington) there is a program that will bring the resources of the Canada Learning Bond and RESP government grant program to qualified individuals. This program should bring some hope for the long term for families with children planning for future education.

There can be little doubt that education is the key to ending the cycle of poverty. It is also true that the opportunity to further their education is a major roadblock to the children of families living in poverty.

Ontario Regional Council

A special recognition to the Peterborough Particular Council and their president, Sue Mazziotti-Armitage for the unique changes to their system of serving those in need by converting their former store into a very special food bank which exemplifies the Vincentian way of serving our friends in need.

We look forward to having the Ontario AGA in Peterborough on September 22nd.

Diversity

The Ontario Regional Council also plans to develop a program which will target the many Francophone parishes in Ontario (mainly in the North) with the goal of recruiting members and new conferences. I would like to thank the Quebec Regional Council for providing a wealth of training and educational material in the French language for our use.

1st Nations-We also plan to address the needs of our 1st Nations peoples and those of urban aboriginals by working with relevant organizations. I'm very pleased to announce that we have been active in the Attawapiskat 1st Nations where there have been so many hardships for those living there. As of April 15th, we have been able to provide \$19,000.00 towards furnishing the new homes that have been sent to this area. This initial funding will furnish 5 homes and we hope to continue our efforts at Attawapiskat. I'd like to thank St. Kevin's conference in Val Caron with special mention to Michelle Jenkinson, for promoting the need to assist our 1st Nations peoples. We thank St. Kevin's conference, Halton Particular Council and our Ontario Regional Council for supporting these efforts.

Summary

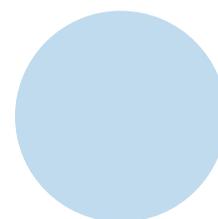
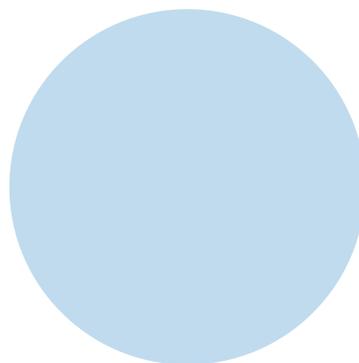
On behalf of the Ontario Regional Council, I'd like to offer any resources we may have in either material or members' expertise and knowledge to all of brothers and sisters across Canada. You can access all committees by going to our website at www.ssvp.on.ca.

Respectfully submitted by

● **Jim Paddon, President**

Ontario Regional Council Statistics

Members	3700
Central Councils	5
Particular Councils	36
Conferences	353
Number of visits	84,580
Number of adults served	98,815
Number of children served	72,122
Total revenue	\$8,244,221
Total expenses	\$7,868,252



BC & Yukon Regional Council

The highlights this past year had to be the incredible job Victoria Particular Council performed in organizing an amazing National AGA last June. We all went away with a sense of fulfillment of the theme of Unity in Diversity meeting all the Vincentians across this vast nation. We had spirited workshops, discussions and tours of the beautiful Island. Our trip to Government House and hearing from our Lt. Governor speak of his experiences with SSVP was a real unexpected treat and one I will remember as a truly Vincentian experience.

Board:

Our Board received a tremendous blow in the fall with the announcement our treasurer LeRoy Wells was suffering from lung cancer. We certainly miss his spirituality and expertise in compiling the annual reports but most of all we miss his presence at our meetings always supplying sage advice and a cool head. We also miss Rosalie as she has stepped down as secretary to care for Leroy. They are truly missed and we continue to pray for them for God to shower them with mercy and love.

- Bill Clendinning has taken over as treasurer and we welcome Bill to our board.
- We have recently changed our year end to Dec. 31 to coincide with the other conferences and councils in the region.

Communication

The website is still a work in progress and we thank Victoria for their patience.

Extension/Training & Education:

Watson Lake in the Yukon Diocese are planning a meeting in May or June.

We have had inquiries from Christina Lake BC, Watson Lake (Yukon diocese) and still working on Our Lady of Lourdes in West Kelowna as well as Duncan on the island.

Nora Brown and Minette Gomez attended the Education Committee Train the Trainers in March. We plan to meet in Kelowna to form the Extension/Education Committee along with Dana Webster to strategize.

Spirituality

We are still seeking a Spiritual Advisor for Regional. Each area celebrated the Feast days in Sept with masses or 1/2 day retreats. Our annual Retreat will be held Sept 28-30 at Immaculate Heart Shrine & Centre Cache Creek. More info to come.

Prince George & Mackenzie Isolated Conferences: (Northern BC)

Prince George continues to perform extraordinary ministry in the downtown area. They are coping with 2 major saw mill fires and the devastation this brings to the community. Mackenzie has received their CRA charity number and operate a very busy food cupboard with participation of the whole community.

Kamloops & Williams Lake Isolated Conferences

Kamloops operates a Thrift Store, drop in centre, and Out of the Cold shelter and continue to answer the needs of the area. We welcome Mark Faliszewski as new president of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Isolated conference replacing Ron Tronson. We thank Ron Tronson for his dedication over the past many years and his continued work with those coping with poverty.

Sacred Heart of Williams Lake continue their Lunch in the Park program on Sunday afternoons and have been waiting for their Aggregation papers submitted a year and a half ago. Ken McCarvell has retired due to a stroke he suffered in January. We welcome Lynn Patterson as the new president of Sacred Heart.

Okanagan Valley PC Area:

5 conferences (4 in Kelowna and 1 in Penticton) do home visits and facilitate Ozanam House for men recovering from substance abuse. We welcome Les Atwell as the new OVPC president replacing Dana Webster. Immaculate Conception Parish -Kelowna installed a new president Pam Kemp in Sept. We thank Peggy Salaberry and her organizing committee.

BC & Yukon Regional Council

Vancouver Central Council Area

24 conferences: 3 Particular Councils: 2 Thrift Stores: Outreach to Downtown Eastside three times a week serviced by volunteers: Ivan Douglas continues to dialogue with the youth members to organize a Youth Conference. We welcome Shane Nossel as the new president of Vancouver Particular Council. East-West Fraser Particular Council continues to be unified in the efforts to relieve suffering of those living with poverty in Surrey, Richmond and Abbotsford. We welcome Ralph Thomson of Precious Blood Conference, Cloverdale and John Zanatta of St. Ann's Conference, Abbotsford as new presidents. We also welcome Mike Donaldson as the new president of Christ the Redeemer Conference in West Vancouver.

Victoria & Northern Vancouver Island PC areas

11 active conferences, 2 Particular Councils. Besides being busy organizing the National AGA in June Victoria filled over 24,675 requests for emergency assistance through the Social Concern Program; Housing Program for tenants; Frederic Ozanam Program for adults with disabilities; 5 Retail Thrift Stores; Provided a work training program, a women's day program, a family support program, life skills training, a free income tax program, and advocacy for those in need. 318 volunteers, who provided 32,520 donated hour during 2011.

Victoria recently elected Morag Mochan as their Victoria Particular Council President.

Island Catholic School students joined the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and Farm Credit Canada to raise awareness for those in need by walking on World Food Day. More info can be found on the Victoria website svdpvictoria.com. Victoria has sent a draft of their 2012 Strategic Plan

A huge thank you to Mary Spencer for all her work not only overseeing a vibrant and exciting National AGA but also being at the helm of all the tremendous work on Vancouver Island. Special thoughts and prayers go out to an exceptional Vincentian.

Special Events: 100 years in BC

St. Patrick's Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. Although the records detailing the first meetings and charitable works seem to have been lost, our parish archives indicate that the Conference was established in 1912, with an aggregation date of March 1, 1915. Since St Patrick's was the first Conference of the Society to open "west of the Rockies," we are celebrating it not only as a landmark event for our Conference, but as a milestone for the entire BC-Yukon Region. Please read the special article in the VincenPaul with all the special events and projects planned.

Respectfully submitted,

● **Nora Criss, President**



BC & Yukon Regional Council

BC & Yukon Regional Statistics:

Conferences/Councils:

Central Councils	1
Particular Councils	6
Non instituted Particular Councils	0
Number of Aggregated Conferences	42
Number of Non Aggregated Conferences	2
Number of Inactive Conferences	24
1.1 a) Number of Homes visited	5,739
b) Number of visit to these homes	9,943
c) Number of adults served	9,256
d) Number of children served	4,605
1.2 a) Number of visits to sick home/hospitals/homes for aged	3,172
b) Number of friendly visits to persons	561
1.3 Prison Ministry	624 visits to 28 men and 52 women (72 visits to the prison)
1.6 Conference membership	
a) number of full members (age 36)	314
b) Number of young adult members (18-35)	13
c) Total number (includes screening)	327
d) Number of youth members	
e) Number of auxiliary members	171
f) Spiritual Advisor Yes 11 - No 5 - Unknown 26	
3.1 Store 9	Outlets 1
3.2 Soup kitchens 5	Food Banks 3
3.5 Drop in Centres 1	
3.6 Housing 1	Shelters 2
3.8 Special works:	
Christmas Dinners, Senior Dinners, Outreach truck of Sandwiches to street	
4.1 Twinning: 12 outside & 1 inside Canada	
Financial:	
Receipts:	\$ 5,024,353
Disbursements:	\$ 5,142,140
Surplus:	(\$ 117,787)
Total Assets:	\$ 9,533,303
Total Liabilities:	\$ 5,509,626
Total Liabilities & Surplus:	\$ 9,341,341



Western Regional Council

Five years have passed since I became the President of the Western Region Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. I have met so many wonderful people, visited almost every province and territory of Canada, learned so many things (including a bit of Franaise) and had the privilege of serving so many.

I am so grateful to the support of our Bishops in this Region and the many priests and deacons who give us their time, guidance and love.

I give my heartfelt thanks to my fellow Vincentians for their generosity of time and resources, for their moral support and for their love. I also thank our National President, Penny Craig, the National Council members, the wonderful staff at the National office and the other Regional Council presidents. We are truly one big family and as I write this, your faces flash before me and I already miss you.

Most of all I thank the past and present presidents of the Western Region Central Council, Particular Councils, and Conferences as well as the many Vincentians who work so selflessly toward the relief of poverty in all its forms. I especially thank Noreen MacDonald, for her friendship, expertise and counsel. She has served all three of the Western Region Councils as treasurer and has truly been heaven sent.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our benefactors who take our mission to fruition.

Now for my report:

Nunavut

I had an email from Keith Nimiqtuqtuq, the conference president, who advised me that he is endeavoring to increase the membership. The conference was quite inactive over the winter after the many suicides of late fall left the village in mourning. I have send Keith an application for twinning which he will complete and send to me. They have no funds at the moment.

Northwest Territories

Some Vincentians from Edmonton went to Tuktoyaktuk last summer and completed a lot of work on the store/drop in centre. Funds were given from the Government of Canada to complete the drop in centre for the seniors and these renovations greatly improved the condition of

the store as well. Their funds are rather healthy at the moment.

Eileen Orysiuk, who is so resourceful in ascertaining the needs of Tuktoyaktuk and finding the solutions, is very ill and we are praying for her. I have never met anyone with such a talent for getting things done as Eileen.

Yellowknife continues with their ministry to the poor. Robert Schmidt is doing a wonderful job as conference president and is also working to extend SSVP in the territory. We have a request to make a presentation to Fort Smith, which is near the Alberta border.

Manitoba

Chris Gillen, the president of St. Timothy's conference in Winnipeg is most diligent about sending me the conference meeting minutes, which keeps me abreast of their works. They continue their ministry and are in a healthy financial state with a strong compliment of Vincentians.

There are two conferences, one in St. Vital – Winnipeg and one in Brandon, who do not communicate with us. I am hoping we will one day bring them into full conference.

Saskatchewan

Henry Siwak, president of the St. Francis of Assisi Conference in Prince Albert, has been a reliable attendee of our Board meetings for the last five years. The conference is small, with just a few members but they do a lot of work relieving poverty in their city.

The Bishop of Prince Albert diocese has expressed his wish that every parish have a conference. To that end, Tony and Lynn L'Heureux made a presentation in North Battleford in February and there will soon be a new conference there.

The Regina Conference has 5 Vincentians, a spiritual advisor and has recently made a presentation to the deanery and The Blue Mantel, a local clothing distributor.

Alberta

As I write this report, Edmonton is in the midst of their semi-annual charity sale, a three day event that is well attended and has proven to be one of their largest fundraising events. They will be holding their Annual

Meeting at the end of March and if this year is like last year, there will be representation from every conference in the area. Edmonton Council has become a well run and effective council under the capable leadership of Bernie McCracken and his board members. I wish them continued growth so they will soon be recognized as the competent Central Council they are.

Calgary has been working on their Food 'n More Project with other agencies in the area to buy food in bulk. This will enable them to buy more food at lower prices for distribution to those in need. They have a strong spirituality program throughout the year as well. The housing project is very successful and the volunteers are doing a wonderful job. Calgary boasts a strong youth group who really make a difference for the conferences they work with. Stephen Cross, the Central Council president is just completing his first year as president and is doing a great job.

Spirituality

When I began my presidency, it was my hope to continue the emphasis on spirituality that Lynn L'Heureux had been encouraging among Vincentians. I can now say that most of the Region has at least one spiritual retreat per year. Lynn also guides many of us with a Tuesday fast and prayer day.

Special Project for Dominican Republic

Mrs. Lynn L'Heureux is heading a Western Region committee to find funding for tricycles for the Dominican Republic, who is twinned with Western. These tricycles will enable local Dominicans to operate small businesses by obtaining micro loans and training from SSVP.

Emergency Relief

The relief to the victims of the Slave Lake fires has wound down. So far there are no reports of flooding and it is my prayer that the mild winter will not bring more wild fires this summer.

Extension

We currently have two areas where we are working on starting conferences and it is my hope there will be many more to come.

Twining

As most of our conferences are in a current financially stable state, and many are in a state of abundance, I encourage every conference to consider twinning with a less fortunate conference – either locally or internationally – or both!

Statistics

Of **49** reporting conferences and **7** reporting councils, we have **863** reporting Vincentinas this year.

We have **49 Conferences, 8 Councils**. We served Christ in our **28,350** (men, women and children) with **14,549** visits to our friends who were lifted up with food, clothing, furniture, financial aid, shelter, job search, budget planning, tutoring, visiting the sick and imprisoned and much more in the gift of ourselves.

We received a total of **\$824,864** in to our accounts from donations, grants and fundraising. We disbursed **\$817,600** to the poor. This does not include monies received as transfer to conferences for tax receipts. Our statistics are missing 3 particular councils and 1 central council in the figures.

We continue to be good stewards of all the God gives us. Less than 5% of our budget is used for administration and a bare minimum is left in our accounts from one year to the next with the excess funds being passed up in true Vincentian spirit. We trust in God to provide for our needs and the needs of our friends, whom we serve in Christ.

This concludes my last report as Western Regional Council President. I wish the new president and executive every blessing. Please give them your support in prayer, encouragement, time and most of all, love. I thank them for offering their time and talents to serve the servants of the poor.

God is Love
Respectfully submitted,

● Patricia Bennetto, President

Education/Formation Committee

Let me introduce you to the hardest working team I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

Carol Horne, VP National of which this committee falls under her portfolio. Carol has a professional background teaching adults and leadership training before coming to SSVP.

From Quebec we have **Michel Olivier** who keeps us level and contributes greatly in the technical side and has a great insight into the content. He represents Quebec well as did his predecessor **Gerald Croteau** who was able to stay on for awhile as an advisor. He was the quiet and the mighty sword in the group.

Ontario sends us **William Graham** who is a professional trainer in the business world. He also brings us the technical savvy and contributes greatly with ideas and material.

Next is yours truly, **Lynn L'Heureux**, Western Regional, who has also come from a professional background of teaching and developing programmes for children and adults.

Nora Criss represents BC Yukon Region and is very gifted in language development and has a keen eye for proper grammar. She is a valuable proof reader and has taken many courses on presentation and instruction. Her contribution of ideas has added greatly to development of modules.

Fr. Joe Quinn is our Spiritual Advisor and enlightens us with his reflections. He is also a working member and gives great advice on wording and ideas for module development.

The team comes up with many miracles and one of the miracles is that we argue a good deal without holding a grudge. At the end of the day, it is friends with Vincentian Spirit. We seek to have consensual agreement on decisions and when in a stalemate we willingly accept the majority decisions.

We have developed the beginnings of many modules and the completion of three modules which will be translated and distributed to Trainers across Canada, put in the magazine and on the web site.

The three completed modules on Orientation are:

1. **Our Society** which includes: mission, history, structure;
2. **The Conference** which includes: roles, responsibilities, activities, getting to where the action is and getting it done, the making of a Vincentian and Vincentian spirituality in order to help those in need.
3. **The Visit** which includes: the call, prayer, assessing need, action. We will explore characteristics, activities and responsibilities, qualifications, screening, visitation, discernment, tips and techniques on our mission to serve all in need.

We have discussed distribution and methods of delivery for completed modules. While presenters want and should give the flavor of their area, the modules should not be changed and therefore they will be locked. However we will include suggestions of material which could be excluded from the presentation and we will also identify slides that are critical to the presentation.

Once the modules are completed, there is a special method to get them to the distribution stage. Included in this is the field presentation as Vincentian responses are most valuable. The critical path to approval of all modules is a lengthy process that involves them being circulated for suggestions at the national and regional levels. Once corrections and additions are made and the modules are approved by National, the new module(s) are put on the National web site and in the next Vin Paul magazine under Education/Formation Committee and titled "What's New".

A decision was made by the team to hold workshops each year for Presidents and Officers, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Meetings. The workshop on meetings will include: holding interesting, informative, short meetings, including the sharing of information from other levels and passing up of funds, reporting and sharing of ideas and works. These will be presented at the 2012 AGA.

Spirituality Committee

Other Modules being explored are on Succession of Members (to leadership roles). Retention of Members, Extension, Recruitment, Planning your Vincentian Year, and others that Vincentians across Canada tell us we should have. Each module developed will reflect “Systemic Change” as directed by International. We will also develop a module on making “Systemic Change” work at the conference level. You will see a workshop on this at the AGA 2012.

This is a national programme and we listen to all suggestions. However, we keep it a little more generic as many works do not take place across Canada and delivery methods do differ. We try to include activities that could be started that are successful in other areas.

One thing I think each team member would agree on is while we don't all agree, we want the best for the Vincentians across Canada. We are a passionate team about service and delivery to all in need and we put in extraordinary long hours in meetings via email and sometimes by phone to give you the best we have. We are always open to suggestions and it is all for you to help us be a better servants to each other and to Christ who is in all of us and especially those in need.

Yours in service,

● **Lynn L'Heureux, Chairperson**

One of the prime goals for our committee this past year was to update the Spiritual Advisors Manual. The original manual was developed by Father Jean Picher and we are very grateful for all his hard work. Only minor changes were necessary to bring the manual up to date. The revised version is now available on the National website. The committee wants all members to feel free to comment or suggest changes or additions to the current manual.

Some years ago, members stated that there was not enough attention paid to the spirituality within our society. The committee has tried to address this. All of you are no doubt aware that the committee contributes a spiritual reflection in each magazine. This is in addition to the reflection presented by our national spiritual advisor, Msgr Peter Schonenbach.

The procedure for the installation of a Spiritual Advisor has been established and our National President used this format to install Msgr Peter at the AGA 2011. We are getting reports that our members are using this program to install their local Spiritual Advisor. The role of the Spiritual Advisor is essential to our society and the Spirituality Committee hopes that all conferences and councils recognize this by installing their Spiritual Advisor.

The committee hopes that all of you are aware that there is a monthly reflection placed on the website. It took a little time for our members to realize that this was available but we are now hearing that the numbers of “hits” to the website are increasing. The committee is delighted to hear that the members are reading the reflection and they hope they are finding them useful.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their help and dedication to the work of the Society. It is obvious how much they love the Society and want to do everything they can to help us grow in our faith and in our work. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the National Board for their support and I would especially like to thank both Nicole and Josée for all the help they have provided.

Respectfully submitted,

● **Maureen MacIsaac, Chairperson**

Twinning Committee

We have made two main changes to the twinning program in Canada in 2011. We have passed a motion at the National Board to change the policy, TW 001 Countries, to now start twinning with Antigua.

Secondly, I am working on an education module, to be vetted by the National Education Committee, to be used as ongoing education on twinning as a work of our Society.

As your National Twinning Chairperson, I have committed to goals for twinning in 2007, and continue to try to address them.

Below is a report on progress with these goals, and other task items that are done to maintain and promote twinning.

- Promotion of **projects** as a way to further assist out twins – We encourage conferences and councils who express the wish to help their twin more, to consider the project process.
- A project between a Council here and one in the Dominican Republic, to help employment, is being considered. More information will be available in the Vincenpaul magazine when we have some elements in place.
- Articles in the **Vincenpaul magazine**, which goes to all Councils and Conferences in Canada. The titles of articles published in 2011-12 are: **Unity in Diversity** in the Fall issue, and a **twinning ad and the application form** in Winter issue, with a **special appeal for internal twinning**. We are grateful for an internal twinning that was reached in this way.
- Assistance where possible of the **young adults in their twinning endeavors**. They are persisting in trying to reach the twin in Guatemala. We are seeking a current address.
- Approaching **twins who haven't transferred funds in the past 3 years**, to ask about their needs and wishes in regards to twinning. We did not act on this goal this year.

TASK ITEMS

- As always, I have sent many emails to correct **problems with correspondence between twins**. A conference will report to their Regional Twinning chairperson or to me about this lack, and the emails will frequently rectify this.
- **Working with the International Council General** twinning representative for this hemisphere, Carmela Addante, to cross reference resources and twinings.
- We have resumed **limited twinning with El Salvador**, as advised by the International Council General. The ICG has advised us of which conferences are aggregated and are working in the Vincentian spirit.
- I was invited **to the Dominican Republic, to address their Superior Council about twinning**. I talked about the poverty of loneliness, and encouraged them to persist in their correspondence to maintain this vital connection. The conferences and councils have a very active interest in twinning with Canadian conferences and councils.
- I report to the National Board every November, to inform them about our plans, goals and activities for the year.
- The National **Twinning Manual will be on our website** in English by June, and in French in the coming months.
- Lastly, **to report**, we have 124 active twins, with some conferences and councils twinning with two twins.

Voice of the Poor Committee

Twinning applications from our twinned countries

I have **50 International twinning applications** from the following countries:

Peru (1 Conference and the National Council)

Dominican Republic (6 Conferences)

Nicaragua (5)

Haiti (7)

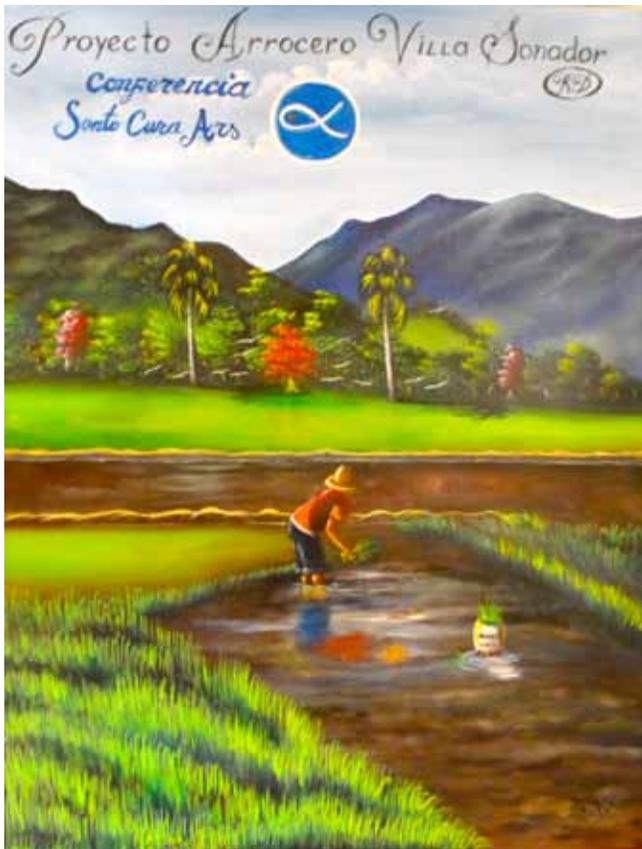
Colombia (20, with 8 Conferences, 4 Particular Councils, 1 Central Councils, 5 Departmental Councils, and 2 Zonal Councils)

Guatemala (1).

The twinning application form is available on our National website www.ssvp.ca/forms to download.

Respectfully submitted,

● **Kathy Weswick, Chairperson**



Rice farm
SSVP project in the Dominican Republic

Committee members continue advocacy activities on behalf of those living in poverty during the past year. The Systemic Change concept was also promoted. The Chair attended meetings, maintained contacts with Regional/Central Councils Voice of the Poor Committee members, and continued to review federal legislation having a particular impact on those living in poverty.

The Chair attended a few conferences organized by the organisation *Citizens for Public Justice, Dignity for All (CPJ- DFA)* in the course of the year. Such events, attended by several Christian and other faith representatives, discussed various topics and actions on reducing poverty in Canada and petitioning the Federal parliamentarians to act on this most important social issue. The Chair continued to monitor all proposed federal legislation related to socio-economic issues and offered comments to the Government and opposition parties, as appropriate. The National Council is a member of the CPJ-DFA.

The Chair gave a workshop at the Annual General Assembly in Victoria B.C. in June 2011 on Systemic Change. As well, he made several *Power Point* presentations on the same subject to a number of Councils and conferences during the year. This new form of service to those living in poverty is gradually being implemented by conferences and councils, which are being asked to create Systemic Change projects with other members of the Vincentian family in their area, when possible.

Contact was maintained with members in the regions involved in Voice of the poor and Systemic Change activities.

● **Clermont Fortin, Chairperson**

Emergency Relief Committee

INTERNATIONAL

The Committee has responsibility to respond to and track requests for financial assistance from the International General Council (ICG) and national councils outside Canada as a result of disasters of all kinds.

Earthquake in Haiti in January 2010.

During this fiscal year, the Committee continued to send funds to the National Council of Haiti to help victims of this natural disaster. Three inter-bank transfers in the amount of \$2500.00 each were completed during the past year. All transfers were acknowledged by the National Council President in Haiti and reports on the use of the funds were also received. The remaining funds for this disaster amounted to \$122,320.60 on March 31, 2012.

Famine in the Horn of Africa – summer 2011

A sum of \$500.00 was collected for this human tragedy and forwarded to the International General Council.

Earthquake in New Zealand - February 2011

Conferences and councils contributed a sum of \$1,200.00 towards helping the victims of this natural disaster. The amount collected was forwarded to the ICG on August 15, 2011.

Flooding and mudslides, Columbia - fall 2010

Relief funds totalling \$1550.00 were received at the National Office and forwarded to the National Council of Columbia on April 7, 2011 and August 18, 2011 respectively. Funds had also been sent to Columbia the previous year to assist the victims of this catastrophe.

Earthquake, Tsunami & Nuclear Accident, Japan, March 2011

A conference donated \$1,000.00 and it was forwarded to the International Council General on August 15, 2011.

Conferences and councils responded with generosity and demonstrated their solidarity with the victims of the many disasters that hit the planet this past year. Thank you.

The International Emergency Relief Fund amounted to \$155,468.00 on March 31, 2012.

● **Clermont Fortin, Chairperson**

NATIONAL

The Committee received a request from the Edmonton Particular Council (EPC) (Alberta) for a maximum of \$10,000.00 in relief funds in May 2011. The funds were solicited for material relief assistance to the people of Slave Lake, Alberta, after a huge fire destroyed some 40% of the structures of this town of 7,000 on May 15, 2011. The fire affected some 4,000 persons who had to be evacuated and sheltered in emergency housing, or with friends and families. The Executive Committee voted an initial transfer in the amount of \$5,000 in June 2011.

The relief project involved the collection of furniture, household appliances, tools, clothing and school supplies, etc. by the EPC to be shipped via transport trailer to Slave Lake. At destination, the storage and distribution of goods were coordinated by the local parish priest, Father Jeyapaul, with the help of parishioners and youth attending the Slave Lake Catholic School. A total of five restocking trips were made before the operation was cancelled in October 2011 as it had met its immediate goals. The restocking of goods may resume in the spring of 2012, if necessary.

The relief project did assist the fire victims in a timely fashion and eased their pain as many had lost everything. The Society received very positive media coverage in Edmonton and Slave Lake areas. As well, members of the Edmonton Particular Council intend to meet with Father Jeyapaul and parishioners in 2012 to discuss the formation of a conference in Slave Lake.

I thanked the members of the Edmonton Particular Council for their compassion and commitment to this relief assistance project, not an easy endeavour when one considers that Slave Lake is located 250 kilometres north of Edmonton. There was \$132,881.00 left in the fund on March 31st, 2012.

No other requests for assistance were filed during the year.

● **Clermont Fortin, Chairperson**

STRATEGIC PLAN

On behalf of the National Council's strategic planning committee, I'm pleased to present the revised strategic plan for 2012.

In an effort to develop a plan that all regions could identify with, we have given as many members as possible the opportunity to have input in the development of this revised plan. We have identified four key goals for the coming year. In developing these four goals, we wanted to keep the total number of goals at a reasonable number. In doing so, there are two goals that combine a couple of topics that are closely related. This document will include recommendations that could strengthen our ability to successfully achieve success. Furthermore, we recommend all regions review these goals and include them in any strategic planning done at the regional level and enhance these goals with objectives that may be related to the local regions.

Finally, all of these goals have or will be addressed by current or proposed national committees. However, we must realize that the creation of a committee to address a particular goal does not mean the achievement of that goal. Each committee must continue to develop and implement current and future objectives.

1. Spirituality

In conferences and councils in many areas of Canada there is a distinctive separation of our faith and works of charity and justice. Vincentian spirituality is unique because when it is practiced properly, it unites us with these two essential components of our service to Christ in the poor. While the National spirituality committee has taken several positive steps towards the improvement of our faith in our Vincentian efforts, there still appears to be a weakness at the conference level in creating a more visible spiritual presence. A strong spiritual base at our conference will solidify and maintain our relationship with our patron and founders.

There is a need to develop resource materials that are focused on the conference and in particular the two most important members of a conference, the president and the spiritual advisor. The president and spiritual advisor must be performing their roles effectively, and

in compliance with the Rule, if we are to realize any noticeable improvement in our spirituality.

All conferences should have a spiritual advisor, whether they are a religious or laity.

In addition, we recommend an aggressive training program be developed that targets both presidents and spiritual advisors. This training could be conducted in a retreat environment.

2. Communications and Public Relations

2. (a) Communications

This was one of our original goals and there has been some remarkable success in the area of website improvements and other areas.

There is an opportunity to make use of today's current social networking resources. (Facebook, You Tube, Twitter,etc) as a means of not only connecting fellow Vincentians but also the general public.

The Vincenpaul magazine is a very well done publication that needs to be promoted more as a viable tool for informing not only our members but also other Catholic organizations of what we do. Do we offer this magazine to these other potential sources of support? Do we accept publicity that is compatible to our mission?

The possibility of hiring a consulting firm to develop a professional public relations campaign should be considered with support from all regions.

2. (b) Public Relations/Image

The recently formed Public Relations/Media committee will address a number of issues related to raising awareness of the Society.

This committee's work should be closely tied to the entire Communications goal. There is a need to develop informative packages that are tailored to various identified targets. There could be some alterations in the information sent that is adapted to the objectives related to each targeted entity.

Some of the targeted areas would include Catholic parishes, clergy, CWL, K/C, RC School boards,

Strategic Planning Committee

chaplains and high schools as well as the general public and media.

An increased public awareness of the Society would also raise the knowledge of poverty related issues and may well result in an increase in membership as well as benefactors.

A key element of this program should also include a strong emphasis on our social justice work in regards to systemic change and advocacy.

The development and promotion of the annual Vincentian week every September presents us with an excellent format to improve our Image and attach a real “Branding” to the Society that all members and the general public can recognize.

3. Formation

3. (a) Education/training

The first part of membership would be to continue the development of training material and other resources for enhancing the level of knowledge of our councils/conferences and membership. The National Council’s Education committee has developed some excellent resource material and should continue down this path as an on-going goal.

3. (b) Membership

There is a real need to address our membership beyond the educational materials that have been developed. Some of the objectives to be addressed include:

- presidential servant leadership
- recruitment, orientation, motivation, recognition and retention of our members.
- resource material that includes current “best practices” from across Canada
- conferences that have low membership.
- inactive conferences
- clergy support

3. (c) Diversity

There is also a need to develop resources and programs that are appropriate to the recruitment of new members from the various cultural and ethnic groups in Canada.

In addition, we should be committed to the inclusion of our friends in need in our efforts to address poverty issues.

4. Social Justice

4. (a) Advocacy

The National Voice of the Poor committee is a good first step but the concept of social justice is still foreign to many Vincentians and requires an education component and the support of all regions. A National Voice of the Poor website would be an excellent step in providing an online resource for members as well as being a way for members to interact on this topic.

4. (b) Systemic Change

While the “notion” of systemic change may be new to many of our members, it should also be easily accepted as way to return to our roots as Vincentians and followers of Jesus Christ, Vincent, Louise, Frederic and Rosalie. They were all able to recognize the need to both change systems and structures (including their own) while also undergoing the personal transformation and accepting the continuous evangelization required before we can fully understand and achieve positive results that help people out of poverty. There are several good programs related to systemic change that are available and easy to adapt to the local council/conference level. What is needed is to accumulate these resources and then provide them to all regions.

A training module developed by the education committee would greatly assist in educating our members.

Summary

In the development of a revised strategic plan, it becomes clear that there is a need for the Society to be prepared to conduct a thorough review of its committees and the direction we need to follow in order to make a positive

Finance Committee

difference in the lives of our friends in need. As we are learning from the systemic change initiative, there is a real connection between all the parts of the Society and if we are to succeed in any one area, we must address the needs in all areas.

We would recommend the National Council consider conducting a thorough review of all committees in order to firmly install the importance of collaboration within the Society. The other component of any review is the gathering of best practices from across Canada. We are blessed with a wide variety of membership in terms of work and life experiences. We need to find ways that encourage and enable members to express their comments and advice. We should make every effort to encourage the contribution of this knowledge and ability as we enhance our current works of charity and justice and develop new methods that address poverty in Canada.

Respectfully submitted by,

● **Jim Paddon, Chairperson**

Human Resources Committee

The National Council employs two part-time Administrative Assistants to perform all clerical, administrative and publishing duties. Mrs. Nicole Schryburt works from her home in Longueuil, Québec while Mrs. Josée Lemieux works at the National Office in Ottawa, Ontario. At the end of the fiscal year, both employees cumulated a total of 38 hours a week.

Both employees are working at a fully satisfactory level and received training appropriate to their duties.

I wish to thank both employees for their dedication and initiative during this past year. They are very important members of the National team.

● **Clermont Fortin, Chairperson**

It is with great pleasure that I present the annual report of the Finance Committee.

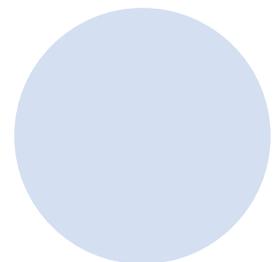
The Finance Committee has met several times during the 2011-2012 financial year, in order to ensure the sound administration of funds, and to prepare the budget for the current year, 2012-2013. The Committee is made of the National President Penny Craig, Vice President Clermont Fortin, Treasurer Germain Souigny, and François Dufault.

As opposed to last year, the amount of contributions received in 2011-2012 is very satisfactory. In fact, of a budgeted amount of \$224,880, a total of \$ 208,465 was received, representing 93 %. However, in spite of such good results, the budget is difficult to balance, since prices keep going up while the \$240 contribution requested from each conference has increased since 2004, when that policy was instituted.

The Finance Committee will have to consider making recommendations in the current year, asking that Board members determine what the contribution should be in order to meet the operational needs of the National Council of Canada.

Our many thanks to all councils and conferences that sent their contribution.

● **Marcel Tremblay, Chairperson**



Youth Committee

Presentation of the First Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship Award

At the 2011 AGA, the National Council had the pleasure of presenting the first Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship award to Adam Roath, from Windsor. The \$1000 award was put together thanks to Hôtel 71, located in Québec City, to which Penny Craig, our national President, added a personal donation. A contribution by the Ontario Regional Council, as well as a donation of \$10,000 from the estate of Rose Marie McIsaac will guarantee future scholarships. The name of the next Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship recipient will be announced at the 2012 AGA, in Halifax. I wish to thank all conferences that have submitted candidatures.

World Youth Days

In August 2011, 15 young Vincentian Canadians had the opportunity to participate in the FamVin gathering, as well as the World Youth Days, in Madrid. On their behalf, I can sincerely state that it has been an exceptional human and religious experience! The presence of the Pope, and of hundreds of thousands pilgrims, gave way to outstanding spiritual and cultural reflections. The next WYD will take place July 23-28 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A new selection process, developed by Jason Hunt, will be implemented to make sure that every participant takes full advantage of his/her journey. If your conference wishes to financially support the participation of a Canadian Vincentian to the 2013 WYD, please let me know.

Twinning

Highly motivated in reactivating twinning between Ontario youth conferences and Guatemala, the young people involved in twinning are unfortunately facing difficulties in reaching their Guatemalan brothers and sisters. However, they continue trying with the help of Kathy Weswick, national Twinning Officer.

Sixth year

During this last year of my term as Youth Representative, my objectives are to furthermore publicize the Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship, and optimize participation rate and preparation of participants to the 2013 WYD. I remain available for you, dear colleagues, young and less young members!

● **Caroline Gilbert, Youth Representative**

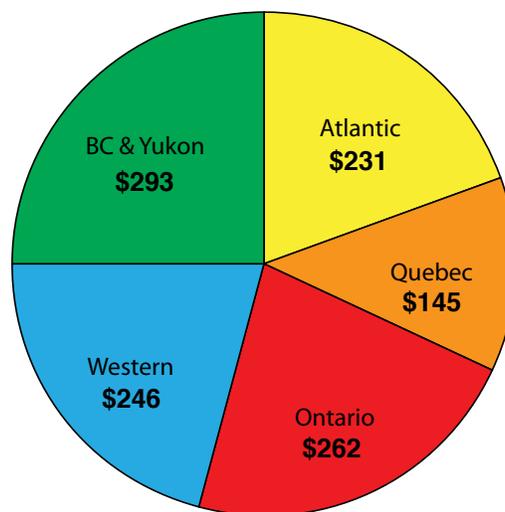


Adam Roath
from Windsor Ontario
Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship
2011 recipient

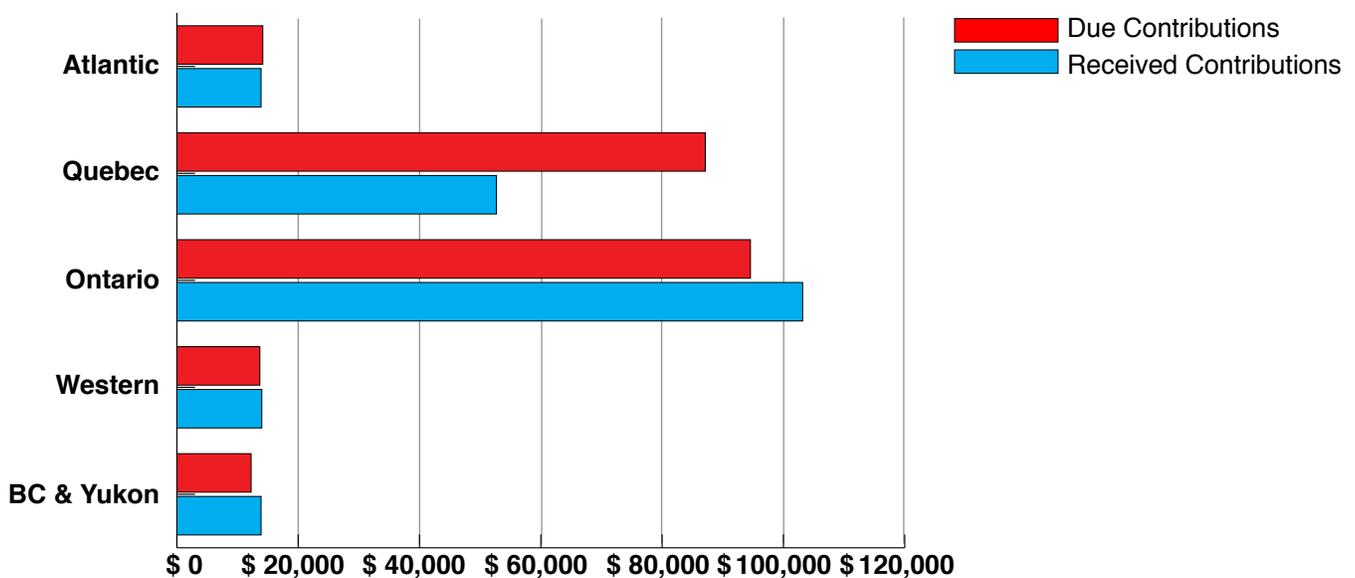
Financial Contributions

		# central councils	# particular councils	# conferences
Atlantic Regional Council	\$ 13,880	0	5	55
Quebec Regional Council	\$ 52,690	5	39	319
Ontario Regional Council	\$ 103,170	5	36	353
Western Regional Council	\$ 14,000	1	7	49
BC & Yukon Regional Council	\$ 14,930	1	6	44

Amounts per conference/council



Contributions by region



Vincentian Activities across Canada

	BC & YUKON	WESTERN
Home Visitations		
Number of homes visited	5,739	8,994
Number of visits to these homes	9,943	14,080
Number of adults served	9,256	15,545
Number of children served	4,605	12,693
Total of people served	13,861	28,238
Activities		
Number of stores	9	0
Number of outlets	1	0
Number of soup kitchen	5	0
Number of foodbanks	3	6
Number of shelters	2	0
Number of drop-in centres	1	1
Number of low cost housing units	46	0
Number of summer camps	0	0
Number of children attending	11	0
Twinning		
External (outside Canada)	11	6
Internal (inside Canada)	2	1
Financial operations		
Receipts	\$ 4,790,955	\$ 824,864
Expenditures	\$ 4,965,447	\$ 817,600
Conference Membership		
Number of full members (age 36+)	403	805
Number of young adult members (18-35)	13	58
Total members	416	863
Number of youth members (under 18)	0	11
Number of auxiliary members	0	185

ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATLANTIC	TOTAL
56,406	102,457	8,960	182,556
84,580	0	15,197	123,800
98,815	135,102	10,906	269,624
72,122	77,483	7,941	174,844
170,937	212,585	18,847	444,468
21	106	1	137
4	0	0	5
11	1	1	18
62	1	13	85
19	0	0	21
2	2	0	6
202	0	0	248
3	0	0	3
2744	200	0	2955
65	11	6	99
19	0	3	25
\$ 8,246,603	\$ 14,386,344	\$ 1,330,742	\$ 29,579,508
\$ 7,871,204	\$ 14,902,662	\$ 1,324,166	\$ 29,881,079
3,608	2,569	686	8,071
92	61	33	257
3,700	2,630	719	8,328
85	0	6	102
472	1,125	53	1,835

Presidents of the Council General International

Emmanuel BAILLY	1836 - 1844
Jules GOSSIN	1844 - 1847
Adolphe BAUDON	1848 - 1886
Antonin PAGES	1886 - 1903
Paul CALON	1904 - 1913
Louis d'HENDECOURT	1913 - 1924
Henri de VERGES	1924 - 1943
Jacques ZEILLER*	1943 - 1954
Pierre CHOUARD	1954 - 1969
Henri JACOB	1969 - 1975
Joseph ROUAST	1975 - 1981
Amin A. de TARRAZI	1981 - 1993
César A. NUNES-VIANA	1993 - 1999
José Ramón DIAZ TORREMOCHA y DIAZ	1999 - 2010
Michael THIO	2010 -

Presidents of the National Council of Canada

The honorable Judge Jean CHABOT	1844 - 1850
Augustin GAUTHIER	1850 - 1866
Georges MANLY-MUIR	1866 - 1881
Paul Ernest SMITH	1881 - 1885
C.-N. Hamel	1885 - 1911
Charles Joseph MAGNAN	1911 - 1942
The honorable Judge Thomas TREMBLAY	1942 - 1969
The honorable Judge Gérald LEMAY	1969 - 1972
Patrice BOUDREAU	1972 - 1977
Marie-Claire LETARTE	1977 - 1983
Robert MARTINEAU	1983 - 1995
Ellen SCHRYBURT	1995 - 2001
Michael BURKE	2001 - 2007
Penny CRAIG	2007 -