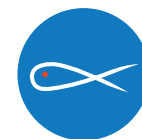
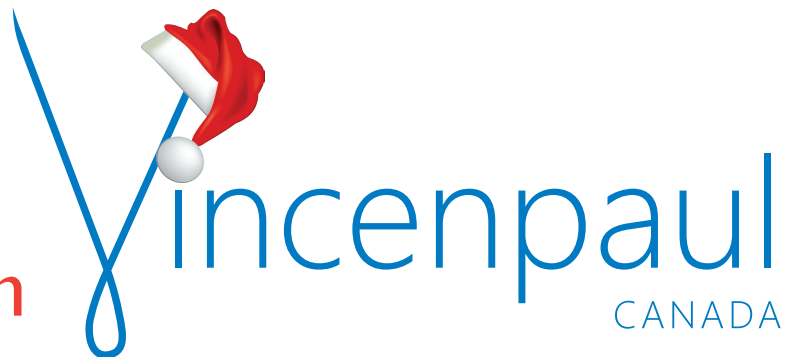


Atlantic Regional Council Edition



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Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
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*Thanks to all
Canadian Vincentians
for helping those
most in need in this
particularly difficult year.
You have adapted to ensure
everyone's safety during this
COVID-19 pandemic.
The entire National Council
team wishes you a Merry
Christmas and very happy
New Year 2021!*

Les images ont été retirées pour faciliter l'impression

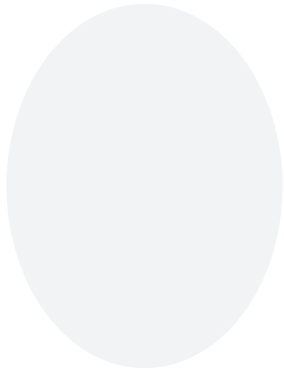
CLICKABLE!

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President	2
Activities in Newfoundland and Labrador	3
Embedded Seeds Develop Gradually - Moncton	5
Working for Social Justice The Halifax Particular Council Systemic Change Fund	6
In Memoriam	7
Mission & Values / Contacts	8

Minor hockey boys and girls participating in a food drive in Mount Pearl, N.L.
Article on page 3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Joseph Painchaud

Vincenians,

We are just a few short weeks into the Society's 175th year in Canada. The Canadian Society will be celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2021. The Conférence Notre-Dame was established on November 12, 1846 at the Notre-Dame de Québec Cathedral-Basilica by Dr. Joseph Painchaud. We stand on the shoulders of those who have served before us and are inspired to follow their exemplary life and use it as a guide for our ongoing service of love. Let us make this a year of celebration, with prayers of supplication and thanksgiving for all our members, volunteers, staff and benefactors, both living and deceased.

It was our great hope to hold a Vincenian family festal celebration in Québec City, the home city of the inaugural Canadian Conference. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced its cancellation for now. It is highly unlikely that we can come together in great numbers any time soon. There is still hope that we can, at the very least, have a board meeting in Québec City during the month of November 2021. The highlight of this meeting will be the consecration of a Canadian Saint as the patron saint of the Society in Canada.

The Society continues to work and build on what we have inherited from those who have gone before us. The Vincenians who came before us have left us a legacy to build on. This legacy does not belong to the builder alone but to the Society. We are the cogs in the wheel serving the poor as inspired by the Lord. We cannot claim any work to be ours alone. We do not build simply for our sake in a time and place that the Lord has brought us to. Let us not forsake their work and break the trust of Dr. Joseph Painchaud and all those men and women who have gone before us.

Let us continue to build on that sound foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord, and to follow the example of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, our founder, for the sake of those who will be coming after us. Let us not veer from the straight and narrow road forged by our illustrious ancestors. To avoid getting lost we must constantly pray for wisdom, understanding and discernment.

Let us look forward to the future with high hopes and aspirations and with the belief that God will bless and fulfill all our efforts in accordance to his will. We know that we are all, living or deceased, a part of what has gone before us and that which will come after us. Let us faithfully do our part in this unity of prayer and service.

*Joseph Claude Bédard, President
National Council of Canada*

Notre-Dame de Québec Cathedral-Basilica
Library and Archives Canada

ACTIVITIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

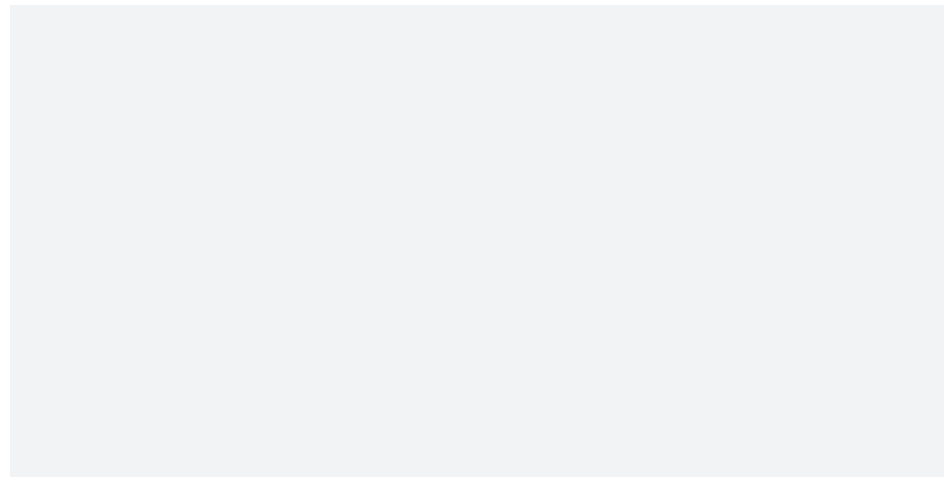
MINOR HOCKEY BOYS AND GIRLS PARTICIPATING IN A FOOD DRIVE IN MOUNT PEARL

On November 7, 2020, the Mount Pearl Minor Hockey Association held a fundraiser, shall we say, COVID-19 style. For the past nine years, this wonderful group of Minor Hockey boys and girls, along with their coaches and parents, has been participating in a [food drive for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul conferences](#) at St. Peter's and Mary Queen of the World.

Each year, they have collected between 15,000 and 30,000 food items, and sometimes more, along with donations of thousands of dollars. This year, due to COVID-19, the boys and girls could not go door to door, so they launched a "Hockey with Heart" fundraiser. They secured four parking lots and two supermarkets and anyone who wished to make a donation would turn into the lot and meet the children, there with buckets on the end their hockey sticks. They were so enthusiastic and equally excited.

This year, they were thrilled to be able to reach their goal of \$10,000. In these unprecedented times, the tremendous support from the Minor Hockey Association is truly appreciated and we are so blessed to have their support. We would like to give a big shoutout to them and acknowledge this fantastic donation. It certainly will go a long way for the two Society of Saint Vincent de Paul food banks as well as the Salvation Army food bank.

*Sandra Milmore for
St. Peter's Conference and Mary Queen of the World Conference*



SNOW ANGELS - NEW PROJECT IN CARBONEAR

It's getting closer to that time when our trusty shovels will be back in action.

After last winter, we learned there are many out there who get stuck in their homes. With a global pandemic currently happening many are feeling even more isolated.


SSVP CARBONEAR FOODBANK

SNOW ANGELS

**VOLUNTEER AS A SNOW ANGEL!
OR REQUEST A SNOW ANGEL IF YOU NEED
ASSISTANCE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS!**

Once the winter weather hits, getting around can be difficult. This is an especially difficult time for seniors, people with limited mobility, and those with other disabilities. Snow Angels aims to pair those who need a little extra help in the winter months with someone willing to help a neighbour.

ACTIVITIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

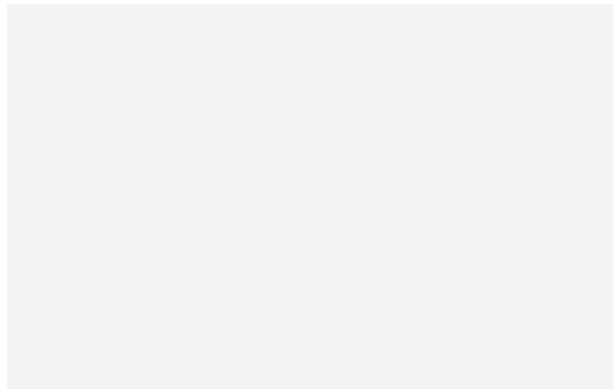
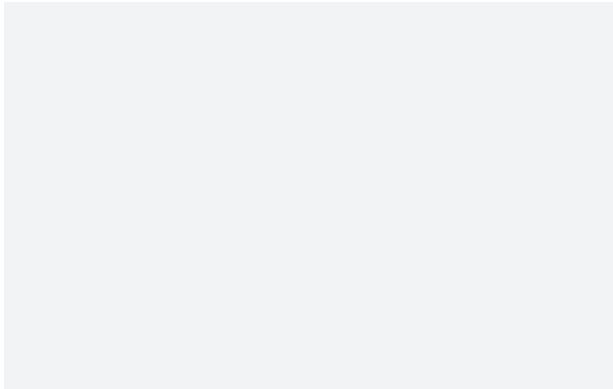
SILVER SANTA FOR SENIORS PROJECT IN CARBONEAR

The **Silver Santa for Seniors project** began a few years ago when a local business owner, Beverly Gosse, approached the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul St. Patrick's Conference in Carbonear. Her son, a cadet, had volunteered at the food bank during Christmas hamper prep and she was moved by the amount of need in the area. Bev offered to organize a Silver Santa community project, asking people and businesses to donate items from a list of basic necessities she created to give specifically to seniors in the area for Christmas. The bags included food, hygiene items, blankets, warm clothing, and Christmas decorations. Since it started just a few years ago, the initiative has grown with community and business support. Local schools even create handmade Christmas cards to include in the seniors' packages. Due to COVID-19 this year, the initiative has adapted and protocols were put in place to ensure the safety of those donating and organizing. In the week leading up to Christmas, the packages will be delivered, and joy and tears will be shared.

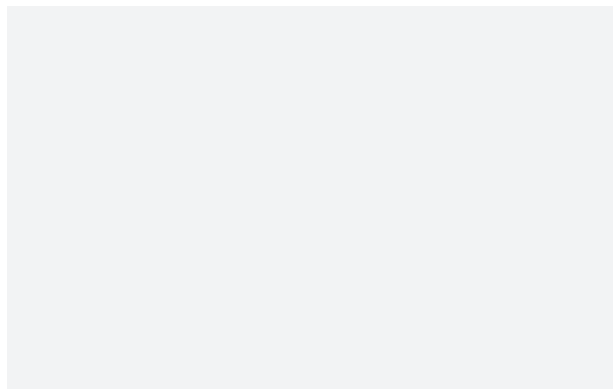
From Bev: "I need to tell you a story about a delivery we did last year to this lovely lady. She was outside on her patio enjoying the nice weather with her home care worker. We gave her the couple of bags we had for her. She was shocked. Her home care worker said how she was just saying how Santa wasn't going to be visiting her and then we came there with her Silver Santa bags. She kept saying thank you, gave us hugs and big smiles. It is stories like this that make the work and effort worthwhile."

Thank you again, on behalf of the Carbonear SSVP Food Bank, to Beverly Gosse, White Scorpion Tattoos, organizations, businesses, families and individuals who so generously support the Silver Santa for Seniors initiative.

Kaitlin Clarke
SSVP Carbonear



Christmas cards created by local schools to include in senior's packages.



GROCERIES FOR SENIORS IN NEED CORNER BROOK

Holy Redeemer Conference in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, was successful in obtaining a grant of \$15,000 under the New Horizons Program offered by the federal government. This money was received in late September and is to be used by the end of March 2021.

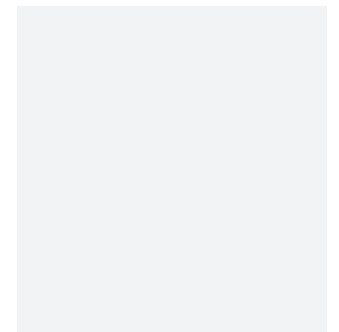
The purpose of the grant is to enable our conference to **provide groceries to seniors in need**.

Seniors contact us, give us a list of what they need and we pick up the order at Coleman's and deliver to the doors of the recipients. As people become aware of the program through notification in various Church bulletins and through radio announcements, the program has grown.

We anticipate being able to offer a little more in the Christmas Hampers designed for the seniors who have applied. We have also applied for another grant to continue the program in 2021 when the present one ends.

With Covid-19 restrictions not allowing us to raise funds as in the past, the New Horizons Program has been a real Godsend.

Jerry Rex
Holy Redeemer Conference, Corner Brook NL



EMBEDDED SEEDS DEVELOP GRADUALLY - MONCTON, NEW-BRUNSWICK

Ten years ago, I attended a FAMVIN gathering in the U.S. where “systemic change” was well explained. Inspired by this concept, I shared it with my friends Léo Johnson and his wife Jeannette, a remarkable couple who always had an open heart for the poor. We reached out to members of our network and brought in with us Bert Johnson, Jacques Lebel, Conrad LeBlanc and others who had experience in reaching out to homeless people. In 2011, this group decided to create a training program for social welfare recipients and ex-prisoners. We met monthly for almost a year, striving to clarify our vision of transforming all forms of poverty as a social force. Our focus was on unemployed or underemployed people, hoping to offer them training sessions to reintegrate them into the workforce. To pay their bills, this new social enterprise asked their trainees to repair used furniture and appliances donated by the community. The enterprise was named “Enviro Plus” since it truly reduced the number of items going to the dump.

In January 2013, the group set up shop in a small warehouse. The generosity of local people was such that one member had to devise a rack to display the sofas and chairs. The group approached the Department of Social Development, asking them to identify social welfare recipients interested in acquiring working skills and building their self-esteem. A 12-week program was set up for them. Upon completion of the program, they were awarded a certificate attesting their new skills

As the social enterprise was expanding, the Canada Revenue Agency officially recognized it as a charitable organization. At that time, a new name, “Second Chance Workshop”, was chosen but the initial Enviro Plus business was being pursued. In 2016, a new Society of Saint Vincent de Paul conference was formed in Moncton under the patron saint Mother Teresa. The Second Chance Workshop Advisory Board sponsored this new conference and offered them an office in their building.

Since its beginning, Second Chance Workshop has trained around 120 people for the workforce. The initial 2,000 square foot warehouse was insufficient and was replaced with a 17,500 square foot building. From an initial annual volume of sales of \$11,000 in 2012, it went to \$396,000 in 2019.

To express the admiration of the Greater Moncton Area for the accomplishments of the Second Chance Workshop, “ECO 360 Organization” awarded it their 2018 Prize of Excellence. Léo Johnson was recently awarded the Order of New Brunswick for his passion for social justice and for his commitment to protecting vulnerable people in Southeast New Brunswick. The real success of Second Chance Workshop is the programming it offers, especially to social assistance recipients who want to follow a more positive path.

*Sr Auréa Cormier, Cong. of N.-D.-du-Sacré-Cœur
Co-founder of Second Chance Workshop*

WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE THE HALIFAX PARTICULAR COUNCIL SYSTEMIC CHANGE FUND

For Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, the principal founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, charity and justice were intertwined. He urged members with the words, “*You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis; you must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty with the aim of long-term improvement.*”

Inspired by this directive and contextualized by the National Council Strategic Plan 2015-2020, the Halifax Particular Council adopted five priority directions—one being the concept of a Systemic Change Fund.

The Particular Council has allocated \$25,000 toward this plan. The Advocacy Committee, a standing committee of the Council, designed and defined the process for the Systemic Change Fund with the goal of transforming the lives of individuals and families living in poverty. All eighteen conferences in the Council can apply for any portion of the Fund. The Advocacy Committee evaluates and makes recommendations about submissions, and Council members determine final approval.

The Systemic Change Fund supports projects that are developed in cooperation with those who will benefit from them. The goal is to help people transition out of poverty by assisting them in making beneficial and sustainable life changes.

The Fund focuses on three barriers often experienced by those living in poverty: education, employment, and income. Possible initiatives for the Fund include:

Education/Training Programs

- University, community college, trades or skills training, and associated costs, such as tuition, course fees, equipment, tools, accommodation, food, transportation, and daycare; assistance with certification related to increased pay level

Employment

- Life and employability skill-building programs with ongoing support and follow-up; long-term employment programs; incentives to employers; job coaching and other employment supports; entrepreneurship

Income

- Low interest micro-lending programs that help with reducing family debt or student loans, provide support for essential purchases related to training/education/employment, or offer an alternative to predatory lending

To date, the Halifax Particular Council has approved four education-related applications.

- One was for a single mother with a young child who was re-establishing her life following an abusive relationship and seeking to enhance her employability through a community college office administration course.
- A second application was to provide support for a single mother of three to finish her private college course as a continuing care assistant.
- A third was for a woman wanting to complete a university degree to enhance her employment opportunities and, ultimately, improve the lives of her spouse and four children.
- The final and most recent project is to launch and promote the National *Seeds of Hope* initiative in which parents in low-income households can access federal government funding toward their children’s post-secondary education. In areas where there has been little enrollment in this Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), the goals are for conference members to receive training to assist parents with the process, sign on a number of families, and provide incentives with financial contributions toward the savings plans.

In serving those living in poverty, Vincentians are reminded: “*The Society is concerned not only with alleviating need but also with identifying injustices that cause it. Therefore, it is committed to identifying the root causes of poverty and contributing to their elimination. In all its charitable actions, there should be a search for justice.*” (The Rule and Statutes of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Canada, Section 3:3.20)

The Halifax Particular Council will continue its work for social justice. There remains great untapped potential for conferences to access the Systemic Change Fund to help transform the lives of those they serve. The Council anticipates and looks forward to many future opportunities to support justice initiatives.

Ray Burke, Chair

Halifax Particular Council Social Justice Committee

IN MEMORIAM

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT WE ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING DEATHS:

Tom Kelly

St. Joseph's Conference
Bowmanville, Ontario
January 24, 2020

Shirley Horb

St. Patrick's Conference
Calgary, Alberta
April 28, 2020

Francis (Bozo) Browner

Immaculate Conception Conference
Dominion, Nova Scotia
June 15, 2020

Patricia Rowe

St. Joseph's Conference
Bowmanville, Ontario
July 5, 2020

Rene Sabourin

St. Joseph Conference
Bracebridge, Ontario
July 6, 2020

Larry Mungham

St. Columbkille Conference
Pembroke, Ontario
July 7, 2020

Joyce Coughlin

St. Clement's Conference
Cambridge, Ontario
July 31, 2020

Sheridan Beaton

St. Joseph's Conference
Bowmanville, Ontario
August 12, 2020

Lillian Balazs

St. Basil Conference
Brantford, Ontario
August 20, 2020

Gerald Tighe

Basilica Conference
Edmonton, Alberta
August 30, 2020

John Gilbert

St. Mary of the Assumption Conference
St. Catharines, Ontario
September 5, 2020

Alfred (Fred) Lapointe

St. Peter's Conference
Nanaimo, British Columbia
September 7, 2020

Michael Downing

St. Patrick's Conference
London, Ontario
September 22, 2020

Oliver Turley

Holy Rosary Conference
Milton, Ontario
October 5, 2020

David Schneider

Brantford SSVP Store
Brantford, Ontario
October 9, 2020

Tim Brennan

St. Justin's Conference
London, Ontario
October 12, 2020

Raymonde Proulx

Conférence Sainte-Madeleine/Saint-Viateur
Montréal, Quebec
November 21, 2020

They were our brothers and sisters serving the poor.

Lord, we pray that all the good they did bear fruit and be continued.

Help us keep their memory alive in our hearts.

Let us keep them in our prayers.

Please send your death notices to
editor@ssvp.ca



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

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