



SEEDS OF HOPE



First food, then what? Being the link from awareness to action!



***A story of hope...** Alice hadn't heard of the opportunity but was really interested in knowing more about how to give her two children the opportunity. They are age 14 and 10. A follow-up call by a Vincentian answered more questions and then she felt ready to make the appointment at her bank to open the RESP. This was a really big step for Alice. After the appointment, she was so excited that she called us as soon as she left the bank!*

Afterwards, we dropped off framed congratulatory "WE BELIEVE IN YOU" certificates for her children. This is the way we mark the occasion. It is such a key step the parent has taken, that we want to celebrate it!

Do you want make a difference in the lives of over 150,000 children across Canada?

Do you serve families with children 17 years or younger at your conference or in your store? The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is up to \$2,000 of free government funds that will create much needed hope for a brighter educational future. In BC, there is an extra grant of \$1,200!

How does it work? The CLB is deposited directly into a child's Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for children born January 1, 2004 or later.

Does it cost anything? No! It doesn't cost any money to open an RESP and receive the CLB, not even one penny!

Want to learn more? Follow this link to the National website to access the SOH Project toolkit. An updated toolkit in English and French is now available <https://www.ssvp.ca/seeds-hope-toolkit>

Contact me, Linda Alexander, Seeds of Hope Project Coordinator at seedsofhope@ssvp.ca and I will help your team get started.

Schedule a Zoom coaching session for conference to help you bring this much-needed hope for a brighter educational future to the precious children you serve!

So What? The mere existence of educational savings greatly increases the odds that a child will continue past high school. The money is waiting quietly unclaimed and accomplishing nothing.

Don't they already know about the CLB? No! Nationally, only one in three eligible children have received these funds, due primarily to low awareness. The take-up rate for families the Society serves is drastically lower due to barriers to access.

How can I help? The reality is that many of the families we serve struggle with complex and cascading challenges, so it takes an informed and engaged member of SSVP to:

1. Make the families **aware** of the opportunity, and
2. **'Walk alongside'** them to encourage and support them to take the steps to access.