

CHANGING TIMES

May 2021

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Housing Campaign

In concert with the launch of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's Canada-wide multi-year National Action Plan on Housing, this is the third in a series of newsletters to help you and your conference address the housing needs in your community.

We hope and pray the content in this and future editions will inform and inspire us to serve in new and holistic ways!

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**Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing
is a Human Right!**



Halifax gets off to a great start!

In March, the Halifax Particular Council facilitated a housing workshop. More than 30 Vincentians discussed homelessness and housing issues, as well as the steps their conferences could take to be part of the solution.

Three projects have been funded and completed:

1. Provided new portable beds, mattresses and bedding to the residents of the Out of the Cold (OTC) Shelter in Halifax, replacing borrowed Salvation Army cots. Approximate cost: \$11,500.
2. Provided funding to support the Sackville Area Warming Centre's social worker and her work, locating long-term housing for the users of the Centre. Approximate cost: \$10,000.
3. One parish received diocesan approval to house one gentleman in a tiny shelter, located on church property. No direct costs involved.
 - For a view of their full PowerPoint presentation [click here](#)
 - For a view of their Workshop notes [click here](#)
 - For a view of their first Newsletter [click here](#)

Share what your council and/or conference is doing to make a difference!
E-mail us at: sj-nac@ssvp.ca

Turn to page two for more!

Champions Corner

Become a housing champion for your Conference or Council!

If you need help getting started, reach out to us at sj-nac@ssvp.ca.

To date, the National Action Plan Committee has facilitated presentations in London, Edmonton and Windsor. If your conference would like to facilitate a virtual meeting with your social justice team and with other Vincentians who are curious about the housing needs in your community, we can help!

Things your conference can do

- Reach out to those you already serve to determine their housing concerns, the challenges of paying rent and how precarious this situation is for them. Are they facing evictions? Can you think of ways to improve the situation?
- Determine what housing support programs there are in your area and how to contact housing support workers.
- Try to identify the severity of homelessness in your conference area by talking to your pastor, parishioners, police chief and local health officials, particularly those in emergency services.
- Determine if homeless people are being housed in shelters, hotels or motels in your area, and how many. Has the number been increasing lately, and by how much?
- Begin a dialogue with other faith groups, shelters, warming centres, social agencies, charities, native groups, etc. on the possible solutions to your local housing issues. Consider partnering with one or more of these other groups.
- Arrange a brief presentation during a weekend mass to discuss housing and homelessness. Solicit the involvement of interested parishioners, especially those with social services skills, to become advocates and perhaps join your conference.
- Consider identifying at least one conference member as your social justice representative or housing champion.

Inspire and attract new Vincentians!

36% of Canadians have been homeless themselves or know someone who has been.

Our focus on affordable housing may compel several parishioners to become members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Ask them to join us today!



○ God, as we recall the life and virtues of Blessed Frédéric and Blessed Rosalie, grant that we may continue their work of bringing good news to the poor. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

