

Advocacy Committee



Proclaiming the Christian Response to Injustice

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Ontario Regional Council

This Newsletter serves to keep our Social Justice Reps and interested Vincentians up to date regarding advocacy issues. It suggests specific actions individual Vincentians can take to help our neighbours in need achieve a better life

It is time to SPEAK UP and SPEAK OUT on behalf of our neighbours in need: Our leaders are listening!

During these extraordinary times, problems with our approaches to healthcare, social assistance and economic development have been highlighted and accentuated. Our neighbours in need are most often the members of our community that bear the brunt of these deficiencies. Our leaders and policy makers are especially sensitive and open at this time to consider the changes our society requires.

The crisis in Ontario's Long-Term Care Homes has been tragically demonstrated through the devastation wrought by COVID 19. Understaffing, workers underpaid and forced to work at numerous locations, and policies that failed to prepare staff and residents for the current pandemic have all contributed to the unacceptable death rate in our long-term care homes.

Thankfully, the Government has announced that it will strike an independent commission to advise the government. A commission is potentially not as transparent and independent as a public inquiry, but is more expeditious. In order for the commission to successfully fulfill its mandate, the government must include voices representing residents, families, workers as well as operators.

Please endorse this letter, prepared by the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition

(When you scroll down to the bottom of the letter, in the field asking for Leadership Position – please indicate Conference Member and in Religious Affiliation state Society of Saint Vincent de Paul).

Affordable Childcare is not a luxury, it has become a necessity we can no longer ignore. If our economy is to recover from the pandemic, low wage workers need to have access to safe and affordable child care options for their children.

Sign this petition: https://childcareforall.ca/affordable_childcare_plan/

Workers in low wage precarious employment are not adequately served by our social safety net. This has become painfully obvious as the federal government has had to essentially scrap the EI system and initiate the Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit. It is time to develop a permanent Basic Income program in recognition of the fact that most workers do not even qualify for EI benefits.

[For more information and to sign a petition click here](#)

Workers cannot afford to be sick. Since Ontario eliminated paid sick days for workers, many are forced to put themselves and others in danger by going to work even if they are not well in order to pay the bills.

See this [petition that demands the reinstatement of paid sick days](#) under the Employment Standards Act and asks that no worker is left behind.

Danny Bourne, Advocacy Committee