

Voice of the Poor - 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.

LET'S SPRING INTO ACTION!!

GOOD NEWS – the voices of advocates and caregivers that work in the home taking care of our children, sick and elderly have been heard! Changes mean that care workers that arrive under the new Caregivers Pilot Program will get open sector work permits no longer tying them to a single employer and they can also bring their family members to Canada.

These workers are still looking for Landed Status so that they can access basic rights such as EI. [Sign the petition to show your support.](#)

PHARMACARE - Baby steps towards a pharmacare plan were taken in the federal budget. This reflects the hard work of the majority of Canadians that support the concept of a universal pharmacare plan. With a federal election slated for the Fall, [let all of the candidates know that Canadians want a universal pharmacare system that lowers the cost of medications and ensures all Canadians can afford to take the medications they need!](#)

CHILDCARE continues to be unaffordable for many Ontarians. It prevents many people from seeking employment or gaining the education and training required to improve their lives. Quebec has universal affordable childcare and BC is testing a pilot program. In the upcoming federal election – [tell all the candidates that Canadians expect a national affordable childcare program to be a priority!](#)

NEWCOMERS to Canada help build our nation and economy. Be sure to read and distribute our latest **PAMPHLET: NEWCOMERS, YOU ARE WELCOME...AREN'T YOU?** that dispels various myths and explains some of the challenges facing newcomers to Canada. Part of our Vincentian mission of charity is to promote a culture of inclusion, not exclusion. Pamphlets will be distributed at the ONRC meeting on April 12-13.

~ Danny Bourne, Advocacy / Voice of the Poor Committee
