

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.

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION to visit your local Elected Representatives on behalf of our neighbours in need. Anti-poverty advocates have remarked that the Ontario Legislature is home to many new MPPs from all parties since the last election and we have many new municipal representatives. 2019 is a federal election year, so include our MPs on your list!

It is important for all of our representatives to hear about the daily struggles of the people we visit. See this [helpful resource to help get you started!](#)

PHARMACARE CLOCK IS TICKING! The Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare chaired by Dr. Eric Hoskins is expected to deliver its recommendations to the federal government in the Spring. [Add your voice to say we need a truly comprehensive, universal Pharmacare system](#), not a model that merely 'fills in the gaps'.

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE is one of the main components in fighting child poverty. Let's make this an important issue in the 2019 federal election campaign.

[Sign this petition to make a start.](#)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: the Province of Ontario is inviting input on the issue of “Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario”. The survey specifically states it is not intended to address social housing, but to encourage the growth of private sector housing options by streamlining regulatory approvals and reducing costs for developers. It is an opportunity, however, to speak out on behalf of increasing the supply of affordable housing options.

Read the [brief consultation document and take the survey](#) by **JANUARY 25 2019**

In order to simplify your survey response, consider cutting and pasting the following in response to **Survey Q5: Other opportunities and innovations to increase housing supply:**

Offer tax incentives to homeowners who provide legal second units in their homes; tax speculative practices such as leaving homes vacant; have the provincial government provide free land to develop affordable housing options; mandate that every new housing development contain a specific percentage of affordable units; and encourage greater density in areas already serviced by infrastructure and transit to reduce development fees.

Let’s use this opportunity to increase affordability, not merely the profits of private developers.

[**SEE OUR NEW HELP SHEET – A GUIDE TO TENANCY IN ONTARIO**](#) – let us know if this a valuable resource for your Vincentian work.

[**SEE THE CHANGES TO ONTARIO’S SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**](#) – we will be following up with an action plan in our next Newsletter.

~ Danny Bourne, Advocacy / Voice of the Poor Committee