

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.

VINCENTIAN ADVOCACY UPDATE: KEEP THE HEAT ON OVER THE SUMMER !!!

Transitional Child Benefit – Ontario's decision to cancel the paid child benefit to refugee claimants and their families who are awaiting processing of their Child Benefits application, is cruel and punishes innocent children.

Cut and paste the following message and email to the Minister of Child, Community and Social Services - Lisa Macleod lisa.macleodco@pc.ola.org

Hon. Lisa Macleod: I request that the government reconsider the cancellation of the Transitional Child Benefit. This attempt to save money will backfire as the \$230 per month per child helps families prepare their children for a safe and secure future, benefiting all Ontarians.

Decent Wages are Good for Business! It has been about a year and a half since Ontario hiked its minimum wage almost 25% from \$11.40 to \$14.00 per hour. The prediction of huge job losses and a potentially devastating blow to the economy was the justification for cancelling the planned further hike to \$15 per hour in 2019.

What really happened? Employment **increased** throughout 2018 and Ontario's economy is sailing along quite nicely. It is obvious that reasonable increases to low wage workers is a stimulus to the economy. **Paying people 'poverty wages' increases poverty.** It's clear that we must continue to advocate for a \$15 an hour minimum wage, it is actually good for business!

Cuts to Legal Aid – Justice Denied! The recent 30% reduction to legal aid services and cancellation of legal aid to refugees and immigrants adversely affect the most economically marginalized, the people we serve in our Vincentian mission of charity.

[Click here to send a message asking to restore access to justice for Ontario's most vulnerable](#)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING - The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is launching a cross-country coordinated National Action Campaign to promote Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing. Watch for further information on this exciting advocacy project, and start thinking about ways you, your conference and your particular council might participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

~ Danny Bourne, Advocacy / Voice of the Poor Committee