



SSVP ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Ontario Regional Council Needs Your Help

The Ontario Regional Council (ONRC) needs your help to identify committed Vincentians to serve on the Board of Directors. Is there someone from your conference or council who you think has the ability, qualities, and commitment to the Society to be on the ONRC Board. Is it you or someone in your conference or Council. You do not have to contact a potential candidate. We are asking that you nominate the person. You can nominate yourself. We will do the necessary connection, explanation, information sharing and getting permissions to consider the role. We ask you to simply recommend a Vincentian that you believe to have the knowledge and skills to contribute as a director. The links below provide more information

Call for Board Nominees [President's Message \(ssvp.on.ca\)](https://ssvp.on.ca)

- Director Role Description [2024-ONRC-BoD-Nomination-Form-Input-4a.pdf \(ssvp.on.ca\)](https://ssvp.on.ca)
- Application form [2024-ONRC-BoD-Nomination-Form-Input-4b.docx \(live.com\)](https://live.com)

Please give it some thought and contact the Nominating Committee by sending an email to rob@ssvp.on.ca with the subject line "Nominations" and I will get back to you.

We ask our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and our Patron St. Vincent de Paul, to enlighten us so that we will find the best Vincentians to serve in the work of the Ontario Regional Council.

Rob Greenaway
Secretary
SSVP: Ontario Regional Council

North of 60 is Springing into Action!!

North of 60 will happen this summer and there will be 9 Nunavut communities receiving our gift of food and household needs. Conferences and Councils are charged and ready to 'spring' into action.

Ottawa Particular Council will share with the community of Rankin Inlet
St. Raphael Conference Burlington will share with the community of Whale Cove
Kitchener-Waterloo Particular Council will share with Chesterfield Inlet
St. Catharines Central Council will share with Nauyasat.
Hamilton and Hamilton West Particular Councils will share with Coral Harbour
St. Patrick Conference will share with Taloyoak.
St. Dominic's Conference and Peel Particular Council will share with Kugaaruk.
Saint Vincent de Paul Collinwood will share with Baker Lake

Throughout the summer, we will be gathering and preparing food and household items to be loaded into the containers. From July to September these containers will be trucked to the port in Montreal and then bound for shipment to our Nunavut communities.

Would you like to HELP...we welcome your participation in this miraculous project. If any of these organizing conferences or councils are near you, please reach out. You could help with gathering an item, packing boxes, helping to load the sea container... there is much to be done and as we know, together we are stronger.

If you live outside of these locations, North of 60 still would like your support. The communities of Kugaaruk and Baker Lake receive crates of purchased food – more could be purchased. Sea containers, trucking, and marine details are essential components to the success of our project. Your financial support could be designated to any one part of these components for North of 60.

I will gladly provide the contact information for the Conference/Council you would like to reach.
 I am available to be reached at: lerouxp05@gmail.com
 The Vincentian Times, on our Ontario Regional Council website, contains some North of 60 articles sharing more about life across our Nunavut communities.
 Please stay tuned – there is more to share about this project and the amazing support given by our Vincentian sisters and brothers across Ontario making this happen.



Building and rebuilding the Society in Ontario

Without taking credit for the good work by so many committed Vincentians, the ONRC Rejuvenation Committee would like to acknowledge many exciting, recent efforts to build and rebuild the Society across the Ontario region.

Each new member can be partnered
with a ministry buddy as a mentor



Halton Particular Council has extended the mentor concept to cover an entire conference. For a conference that recently experienced a leadership crisis, they are providing wrap around conference support. This includes Council members running the meetings, going on home visits, and doing the deposits. A recruitment appeal by the support team on behalf of the struggling conference at the time of World Day of the Poor yielded 14 potential new members, even including people willing to be treasurer and secretary! Poor box donations have been significant, and a Christmas Angels campaign is well on its way. And all this because a team of members has “wrapped around” a team that needed a bit of leadership support.

Recruit: Congregation

- ❖ Communication strategy to build awareness of the needs and the work of the Ministry
- ❖ Message is consistent
- ❖ Bear witness to what we see
- share stories
- ❖ We are visible



Holy Redeemer conference in Kanata: “In the same vision with the Ontario Regional Council Rejuvenation Committee, looking to find practical ways for conferences and councils to revitalize, by making our Society dynamic again as our founder envisaged, Holy Redeemer Parish in Kanata hosted a MINISTRY FAIR The SSVP Holy Redeemer Conference ... fully committed on those two days with at least one volunteer at our exhibition stand for each mass of the weekend, answering parishioners’ questions about SSVP and sharing pamphlets and other SSVP items. ... The conference's communications and projects coordinator ... have started conducting follow-up calls and interviews with all parishioners who expressed their interest in the SSVP Ministry as part of the recruitment process.” (from SSVP Canada Newsletter November 2023)

Highlight the activities of the Society



Particular Councils of Diocese of Hamilton: Few are as well placed as the local bishop to influence the support of the Society's work among pastors and parishioners. So, it is essential that he be kept up to date with the activities and challenges facing local Vincentians in their service. To this end representatives of each of the seven Councils in the Diocese of Hamilton met with Bishop Crosby in late October. As the first such meeting since 2019, this update focussed primarily on the impact of the pandemic on their operations. A swift, tangible impact of this meeting was a letter from Bishop Crosby distributed to all pastors of the diocese within a few days after the meeting, soliciting their support for the work of the Society in several specific ways. (For guidelines on how to organize such a meeting, click here [Best Practices \(ssvp.on.ca\)](https://ssvp.on.ca).)

Strengthening teams

- ❖ Our strength lies in the skills, talents and experience of each Vincentian.
- ❖ Build and maintain strong teams.
- ❖ Expand the capacity of the Ministry using Vincentian strength.
- ❖ We need to expand the Vincentian capacity of the Ministry. As the needs grow, we must grow.

Hamilton/Hamilton West Particular Councils: In 2019, Hamilton and Hamilton West PCs accepted the support of the ONRC Rejuvenation Committee in a series of workshops. Visible evidence of the turn around with those PCs since they embraced that opportunity is their partnership in a Help Us Grow campaign [Help Us Grow Campaign – Help Us Grow Our Stores, Conferences And Programs](#).

We come together as a family so we belong



SSVP Brant: Consistent with the values of the Society, it is the practice of SSVP Brant to call local Vincentians together on the occasion of Vincentian feasts i.e. to "come together as family". Near the November 9th feast of Blessed Rosalie Rendu, an annual Formation Day provides an opportunity for education of and planning by members with respect to an issue or issues of relevance at the time. The 2023 event "Vincentians as Housing Champions" furthered their work in support of those struggling with housing stability.

With praise for these rejuvenation initiatives, ONRC Rejuvenation Committee

> welcomes all reports of current Vincentian work to recruit members to our service and to rejuvenate our conferences and Council ([e-mail danlohin@hotmail.com](mailto:danlohin@hotmail.com)),

> heartily encourages such activities, inspired by these or from within your own group, and

> offers support to conferences and Councils feeling the need to enhance their service to those in need through recruitment and rejuvenation - with love, respect, justice and joy. Reach out to Committee Chair Dan Lohin danlohin@hotmail.com to access this support.

Finally, consult the following material from previous Rejuvenation Committee workshops for ideas and strategies.

[Rejuvenation Webinar 2020-12v2.mp4 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

[Rejuvenation \(ssvp.on.ca\)](https://ssvp.on.ca)

[Microsoft PowerPoint - Rejuvenation and Recruitment Workshop June 2023 ANF Notes \(ssvp.ca\)](#)

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATES!!

Ontario Regional Council **Annual General Assembly** of Ontario Vincentians will be:

Friday, April 26 - Saturday April 27 in Windsor. More information to follow.

Ontario Regional Council **Annual General Meeting** (the annual business meeting) will be a virtual meeting Saturday May 4, 2024, at 11AM. More information to follow.

[Annual National Formation Conference](#)

ANF update – June 20 – 22, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary AB

Thank you to the Calgary Diocese Central Council and all Calgary Vincentians for hosting the upcoming Annual National Formation conference. All Ontario Region Vincentians are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to come together.

What is the ANF? The Annual National Formation Conference brings together Vincentians from across Canada to share their experiences of living out the Vision of a Catholic lay organization, embracing the world in a network of charity, serving Christ in the suffering, the poor and the marginalized, bringing them love and respect, aid and development, hope and joy, in a more just society.

Who should attend? All Vincentians who are passionate about the role they play in your conference or council mission to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, and joy.

Why should you attend? A core value of being a Vincentian is to come together as a family. This is a family reunion where we build relationships and strengthen our friendship, learning from the varied experiences of brothers and sisters in active service from across our nation. Our strength comes from our unity in Christ. “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”.

How will this make a difference? By sharing stories, listening to others’ experiences, and praying together, our Lord Jesus will deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship and raise us to new levels of responsiveness to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived in our communities.

The theme for the 2024 ANF is SERVING IN HOPE. Vincentians ‘Serve in Hope’ because we are called to bring the love of God and the compassion of Jesus to people in need.

Our Vincentian Logo contains the words “serviens in spe” meaning to “serve in hope”, the hope that comes from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves, in this mission of charity. Let us seek to perfect our Christian love, sharing more fully in the Eucharistic sacrifice offered for all.

Can you share a story of serving in hope? A 75-minute time slot which includes the presentation of your story and time for questions and answers can be reserved for you. Please let us know about the story you would like to share of serving in hope by completing the on-line submission form by March 15.

Stay updated on the planning for the 2024 ANF in Calgary at ssvp.ca/members/anf.

[Sharing Funds with Ontario Regional Council and National Council of Canada](#)

Thanks to the many conferences and councils who have already contributed to ONRC and National Council. Council and Conference Donations that are passed up to the regional and national councils support activities and programs that serve neighbours in need such as the Ozanam Education Fund and North of 60, and help build the Society via council and committee outreach activities.

The suggested pass up is the same as 2023: \$300 per council / conference for National Council and \$250 per council / conference for Ontario Regional Council.

Please make cheques payable to:

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Ontario Regional Council

ONRC will pass on the National Council portion to National on the conference / council behalf.

Mail cheques to:

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Ontario Regional Council

240 Church Street

Toronto, ON M5B 1Z2