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Welcome to the first edition of our revised ONRC monthly social justice newsletter.

We shall publish during the first week of each month with distribution to every council and various social justice contacts and supporters across Ontario. It shall also be the ONRC website (www.ssvp.on.ca) under the social justice heading. Each social justice heading has valuable resources and links that will enhance your efforts.

The newsletter goals are:

- [1] To share social justice news and information with our membership to inform, educate, and stimulate discussion among members during and after their regular conference meetings.
- [2] To provide resource material both in this newsletter and on our social justice webpage on the various social justice issues we should be aware of and taking actions to address.
- [3] To encourage support and active participation by our members at all levels as we advocate for systemic change to the structures, both internally and externally, that can alleviate poverty.

To all council/conference presidents and members

If you are a council or conference president, please share this newsletter with your conferences and members. If you are active or interested in understanding social justice, we can help. Please inquire at ssvpjp@gmail.com.

Council presidents, please share these monthly newsletters with your conference presidents. **Conference presidents**, please share with your members.



Please add social justice to all meetings as a regular agenda topic. Members, please be open to the concept of Justice and Charity being the two equal foundations of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.



Resources

This section of our social justice website shall have all social justice newsletters for your reading and review as well as other relevant news.



Comments

Your comments, questions and suggestions are always welcome at ssvpjp@gmail.com

Please use the resources on our website (www.ssvp.on.ca)



Public Policy Dialogue & Development committee (PPDD)

The PPDD shall be placing an emphasis on Advocacy as it relates to the various issues we are working on. This includes the formation of a new working group title The Advocacy Voice. We anticipate being able to provide the resources to our member councils & conferences which will assist them in their advocacy efforts at the municipal level.

Link: [ONRC Terms-of-Ref-Public Policy -April 2024.docx](#)

The Advocacy Voice

This working group shall represent our efforts to becoming more effective advocates at both provincial and municipal levels. While we shall gather and prepare material to help our membership, we also possess the unique ability to give our neighbours in need a voice, whether by enabling their actions or speaking with and on behalf of them. Our regular engagement with our neighbours in need can occur during a home visit, or at a food bank, community meal or thrift store. Please read and consider using our Neighbours in need project found on this page to achieve this goal. There are also those who are homeless and living on our streets that we need to find ways of engaging. Please review links here for the Neighbours in Need project and the Social Justice Guide.

[SOCIAL-JUSTICE-GUIDE-2022-06-30 \(1\)\[2305843009263683459\].pdf](#)

[NIN Interview.v1.pdf](#)

Indigenous Sharing Circle (ISC)

The ISC continues its efforts regarding reconciliation and how Vincentians can collaborate and learn more from our Indigenous sisters and brothers. Statistics demonstrate the much higher ratio of Indigenous People affected by poverty, homelessness, adequate housing and the criminal justice system. We must continue to seek an understanding of the causes and symptoms related to these disproportionate and unacceptable numbers.

Prison Ministry/Restorative Justice (PMRJ)

Our efforts regarding this topic have seen real growth this year. We are active in the Windsor-Essex, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo and London areas with various programs. Please keep in mind that while prison visits are still very much needed, there are a number of ways your conference can get involved. Please visit our website or contact us at ssvpjp@gmail.com for further information.

Housing and Homelessness

The national housing campaign and we need your support regarding the housing & homelessness crisis we face in all of our communities. Advocating to local municipal governments is but one way you can help. Please consider how you may do more.

Care For Creation

Climate change and environmental poverty are issues that we need to more. Please look for future news in coming monthly newsletters

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

Systemic racism has a huge effect on our neighbours in need who happen to come from a diverse background. It directly affects many of those we serve.

National Social Justice

We shall also update you are the national social justice committee
