

## 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.*

## RESOLVE TO TAKE ACTION IN 2021

**Forward this Newsletter to your conference members**

### **AUTOMATIC INCOME TAX FILING.**

In order to receive the Canada Child Benefit, GST rebates and most other government benefits, people must file an income tax return. Due to uncertainty and cost, many of our neighbours in need fail to file in a timely manner. They miss out on valuable income to which they are entitled that could help alleviate their poverty.

In the last Speech from the Throne the government promised to provide free automatic tax filing for simple returns. Many other jurisdictions have implemented this policy in an attempt to help people who are living in poverty.

Vincentians can ensure that this reform does not fall through the cracks by contacting their Members of Parliament with this simple message:

I urge you to support and work towards implementing automatic free tax filing as promised in the last Speech from the Throne. This measure will help many low income Canadians automatically receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

Find contact info for your MP easily using your Postal Code: [\*\*contact your MP\*\*](#)

## **NOW IS THE TIME TO RESET OUR ECONOMY.**

The pandemic has highlighted how poverty, low wage and precarious employment, a reliance on out-dated technologies and a lack of investment in our physical and social infrastructure has created huge disparities in our society. We need to take this opportunity to rebuild our economy with a focus on inclusivity and opportunity for all.

**Endorse this letter that encourages our politicians to “lay the groundwork for a strong, inclusive and sustainable economic recovery that ensures no one is left behind in this crisis.”**

## **An Economy for Everyone**

**UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME WORKS!!** A recent study highlights how the Canada Child Benefit, as a form of universal basic income has stimulated the economy and lifted people out of poverty. Likewise, the Old Age Supplement has done the same for seniors. **You can personalize this letter telling your elected representative that no further evidence is required. A Universal Basic Income for children and seniors has proven its worth and should be implemented for all Canadians now!**

## **Universal Basic Income**

## **PAID SICK LEAVE FOR ONTARIO WORKERS.**

Medical experts, labour activists and scientists all agree that the fact most workers do not have easy access to paid sick leave is a major contributor to the spread of COVID-19 in Ontario workplaces.

Sign this petition demanding paid sick leave for workers.

## **Paid Sick Days Ontario**

## **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

A Systemic Racism Working Group has been formed to work on an action plan and launch a pilot project to raise awareness of systemic racism and the need for diversity and inclusion, and how systemic racism affects racialized persons with an emphasis on those living in poverty.

We have invited a guest speaker, Leroy Hibbert, to attend a virtual session on April 24 to discuss this topic. Anyone interested in hearing more is invited to join. More details to follow at a later date.

~ Danny Bourne, Advocacy Committee

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