

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

TAKING ACTION ON BEHALF OF OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED

Please forward this Newsletter to all members of your conference

SAFE SECURE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT!

SSVP Canada has launched a **National Housing Campaign**, encouraging all Vincentians to work towards making this statement a reality.

The Ontario Advocacy Committee has prepared resource material designed to help our conferences and councils make a meaningful contribution to this campaign. We have suggested particular actions

you can take, individually or as a group, on a variety of affordable housing topics. We also have resource material giving pointers on how to contact our decision makers, compose letters, emails etc. We suggest that each conference should chose **at least one** of our suggested actions – act upon it, and let us know what you did! Then, chose another, and do it again! The National Action Plan is designed to go on for several years in order to provide a sustained, consistent approach to this important endeavour.

See our suggested actions - **TAKE ACTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**



THE CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

has lifted thousands of Canadian children out of poverty. The problem is, it is not extended to all children in Canada. Some of those most in need of this benefit, families that face refugee hearings or whose immigration status is under review, are denied this benefit. Often these parents are working and paying taxes.

Please sign this petition by May 23 that asks the government to extend the Canada Child Benefit to all children who are residents of Canada, irrespective of the immigration status of their parents:

Child Benefit for All Children

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING LAW (MAiD)

received Royal Assent in March 2021. It no longer requires a person's death to be 'reasonably foreseeable' in order to access medical assistance in dying. Advocates fear that people with disabilities might choose death over life due to a lack of available supports, housing and services. This is a poverty issue as disabled Canadians are twice as likely to live below the poverty line. Access to medically assisted dying should not be faster and easier than access to appropriate supports, services and housing.

This serves as a sobering reminder that we must constantly advocate for social assistance rates and investments in our health care system that recognise the needs of disabled persons.

For more information, see here - [Advocates Fear Medically Assisted Dying Law](#)

Catholic Bishops of Canada remind us to advocate for the vulnerable - [Euthanasia in Canada](#)

CRISIS FOR SENIORS IN LONG TERM CARE.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the lack of adequate care for seniors living in long term care. Many feel that the best way to address this situation is to establish national standards similar to the approach we have taken with the Canada Health Act.

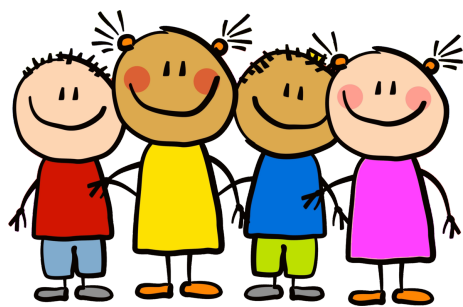
Participate in this petition asking the federal government to provide a coordinated seniors' care strategy across Canada. [LONG TERM CARE](#)

BASIC INCOME IS ON THE FRONT BURNER

The Parliamentary Budget Officer released a report in April stating that a Basic Income program similar to Ontario's pilot would cut poverty rates in half.

State your support for a Basic Income Program - [SUPPORT BASIC INCOME](#)

Download and send this template letter - [BASIC INCOME LETTER](#)



UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE

The federal government announced in the 2021 Budget that they intend for a quality affordable universal childcare program to be in place by 2026. This promise has been made before – it is important that we remain vigilant and remind our provincial and federal representatives to work towards a successful implementation of this commitment.

Stay Tuned!

~ Danny Bourne, Advocacy Committee