

Community Connections

Communications Communautaires



Bulletin de la Société St-Léonard du Canada
 Newsletter of the St. Leonard's Society of Canada

Fall/Automne 2014
 Vol. 20, No. 2

Inside

News and Views

SLSC's Building on Success
 Leslie Cowie..... 1

National Correctional Services
 Healthcare Conference
 Elizabeth White..... 1

Mandatory Minimum Sentences:
 What's New?
 Elizabeth White..... 3

Society News

St. Leonard's Home – Trenton
 Update
 Kelly Nolan 4

Maison Cross Roads
 Service Oxygène – Les Pairs Aidants ...4
 SLSC Gift Giving Idea 5

Last Words 6

AGM 2014 Recap

Comings and Goings

About Us

ST. LEONARD'S SPEAKING UP



SLSC HOSTING FORUM: Anita Desai, Research and Policy Advisor for SLSC, presenting at Building on Success, a forum on Social Enterprises hosted by SLSC in Ottawa on November 26. Photo: Leslie Cowie



SLSC at NATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE: Elizabeth White, Executive Director of SLSC, presenting at National Correctional Services Healthcare Conference, which took place in Ottawa, November 27-28. Photo: Anita Desai

SLSC's Building on Success
A Forum to further the 'Social Enterprise: Sharing Promising Practices and Challenges' Forum of 2013
 by Leslie Cowie

St. Leonard's Society of Canada was pleased to host a forum on November 26, 2014 discussing Social Enterprises from a Criminal Justice perspective. It was held to further the discussion from last year's

Continued on p. 2



National Correctional Services Healthcare Conference
 by Elizabeth White

Health and wellness in correctional settings pose challenges and opportunities for staff and prisoners alike. This two day conference brought together a small but diverse group of practitioners and researchers looking to share promising practice and discuss/debate future directions.

Continued on p. 3

ART SHOW:
Paintings by Sunny Savage shown at CRC Maison St-Léonard in Montréal on November 27.

Photos: Michel Gagnon




SLSC's *Building on Success* (continued from p. 1)

forum on social enterprise held by Employment and Social Development Canada in November 2013. The support for year's forum from Public Safety Canada is gratefully acknowledged.

Attendees heard panel presentations regarding present social enterprise programs in Canada and the success of various Federal Horizontal Pilot Projects from the 2013-2014 year. Presenters included Shawn Bayes from the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver and SLSC's own Anita Desai. Shawn Bayes touched on the importance of gender in the social enterprise realm and how there are considerable challenges with employing Canadian federally sentenced women after their release. Anita Desai presented findings from a synthesis of EDSC's Federal Horizontal Pilot Projects Evaluations, highlighting several strengths and similarities between these social enterprise projects.

Following these panel presentations, participants engaged in discussions on social enterprises including promising practices, challenges and next steps. There was a representative group of both NGO sector and government workers, adding to a multifaceted discussion of social enterprises and how they have benefited Canadian communities. There was agreement between all participants that existing social enterprises have had marked positive effects on the communities and populations that they serve.

Attendees discussed the need for employers to cater to target employees through management styles that reflect these populations' needs. Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of former prisoners and other vulnerable populations entering social enterprises helps to design supportive environments; allowing special populations to thrive and become integrated into community. A highlight of the discussions was the need to define success within the social enterprise context. Those, who through social enterprise, transition themselves to employment contributing to society and their own well-being are obvious markers of success. However, some will never have this type of success. Participants came to the conclusion that stabilizing people in an environment where they contribute to their extent of their own capacity is also a success. Defining success too narrowly sets up social enterprise initiatives and those they serve for failure.

Challenges and next steps include the need for more research on the topic, especially within a criminal justice context. Ideas such as longitudinal studies and exit interviews emerged from the discussion of these gaps in research. Pilot project agencies suggested that additional feedback from government on the effectiveness and issues that each program has had, would help to decide whether or not these programs should continue. Increasing knowledge through these studies would promote better recommendations on policy as well as identifying best practices for helping these specific populations. An obvious challenge that was addressed by participants was the lack of funds to promote these social enterprise projects. Participants came to the conclusion that there are many avenues to contribute to the social enterprise sector by NGOs and government, but that it is ultimately everyone's responsibility to create healthy communities. 

Leslie Cowie is a Co-op Placement Student at SLSC



ABOVE: Thoughtful participants at SLSC's 'Building on Success' forum.

Photo: Leslie Cowie

BELOW: Michel Gagnon, ED of Maison Cross Roads and Heather Lumley, ED of St Leonard's Community Services London & Region, presenting at National Correctional Services Healthcare Conference.

Photos: Elizabeth White



On the promising side, presentations by the Alberta Health Services on the implementation of health ministry managed health care in provincial institutions was instructive. While acknowledging challenges resulting from the essential difference between a security lens and a health provider lens, Dan Wood reflected that since the transition in 2010 the two are working well together and, importantly, understanding each other better.


Kate Davies, in charge of commissioning (contract letting) in England and Wales for the National Health Service, addressed the opportunities they have been able to leverage around diversion for young people—with a goal to have none in secure custody eventually. Key to their evaluation of the program is the inclusion of user voice at the table.

Other presentations, particularly on harm reduction techniques and the desirability, if not availability of needle exchange, and excellent new treatments for infectious diseases, especially Hep C, point to a healthier future for prisoners. It was noted that for some, time incarcerated allows a focus on personal health that they have not had on the outside and creates an improved chance that upon release they may have greater wellness.

Less encouraging is the significant increase in elderly Canadian prisoners and the illnesses and aging process they experience. Michel Gagnon spoke passionately about the need to examine the impacts of lengthy incarceration and provide effective community options upon release. Following his address, Anita Desai reviewed the findings of her pilot on second stage housing services and stressed the importance of securing sufficient fiscal resources to ensure adequate staffing. She emphasized the severe sense of isolation and fear that the elderly face when returning to a society that has altered vastly while they were inside. I then spoke about the contribution that peer mentoring can make to that reintegration.

Heather Lumley provided an overview of current research undertaken with the University of Western Ontario. Data collection for this study was from over 500 items collected from 90 client files assessing the different pathways of men and women into the criminal justice system. The prevalence of abuse in the profiles of both men and women is disturbing. Of interest is the profile that for men there is a higher incidence of emotional and physical abuse in childhood, while for women intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and having a child removed from their care is prevalent. She highlighted that the past presence of trauma plays a relevant role in understanding the criminal justice pathways for all people, regardless of gender.

St. Leonard's Toronto was represented at the conference by Jeanine Webber who presented on the Crossroads Day Reporting Centre research study. She profiled the growth and reach of the program along with success stories.

Howard Sapers and Patrick Baillie were among the other excellent presenters. Indeed, the whole conference was most worthwhile. The key message is that incarceration poses major health related challenges to prisoners and to staff: we need to get much, much better at meeting those head on. 

Elizabeth White is the Executive Director of SLSC

Mandatory Minimum Sentences:

What's New?

by Elizabeth White

The number of mandatory minimum sentences continues to climb. Their effect is beginning to be felt through the criminal justice system, both in trial decisions and in incarceration counts. And there is reaction to them: some are in favour, others not so much.


This past summer, Rebecca Hawthorn, prepared an update on mandatory minimum sentences for SLSC¹. Her review encompassed SLSC position papers and briefs dating back to 1998. Not surprisingly, the SLSC position consistently has opposed the imposition of mandatory minimums. The usual reasons are cited. They:

- do not deter future acts of criminality,
- do not reduce recidivism rates,
- increase time spent incarcerated with all of the attendant expense that entails, both fiscal and human, and
- restrict judicial discretion at the cost of failing to consider the unique circumstances of every crime.

The Courts have struggled with some instances where a mandatory minimum is prescribed. For example, a recent judgment of Superior Court of Ontario Justice Nordheimer determined that the mandatory minimum period of incarceration would breach the convicted man's Charter rights given the unique circumstances of his health. He ordered the sentence to be served in the community. Lawyer H. Rubel was quoted as noting in general that respect for the law demands a just penalty as well as punishment.²

Expressing an alternate view, lawyer L. Caylor, suggested that if you want to change the law, parliament is the place to do so. With co-author G. Beaulne, his article "A Defence of Mandatory Minimum Sentences"³ argues that they set a "stable sentencing range . . . allowing citizens to understand in advance the severity of the consequences. . ." ⁴. They suggest that unfettered judicial discretion has never existed in Canada and that it, in fact, can and does result in widely varying results.

The argument is posited that there can be an issue as to whether the bottom bar of a mandatory minimum as the "lowest possible sentence for the least culpable offender"⁵ is set appropriately. That decision requires a nuanced policy analysis by Parliament, and the authors note that mistakes are made. They cite the Supreme Court of Canada decision on the seven year minimum sentence under the Narcotics Control Act as one.⁶ Finally they affirm the importance of proportionality in setting sentencing limits.

The Supreme Court will deal with recent decisions on firearms offences sentences from the Ontario Court of Appeal which may clarify the extent to which and when mandatory minimums are supportable. At the least, we can anticipate further debate and decision about the purpose and appropriateness of mandatory minimum sentences. 

Elizabeth White is the Executive Director of SLSC

1 Available from SLSC on request

2 *Law Times* November 17, 2014, lawtimes.com by Yamri Taddese

3 Published by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute in May 2014

4 *Ibid.* at page 16

5 *Ibid.* at page 16

6 *R. v. Smith*, [1987] 1 SCR 1045, 40 DLR (4th) 435

Move beyond bars. Create second chances. Voir au-delà des barreaux : Donner une deuxième chance.

St. Leonard's Home – Trenton

Update


by Kelly Nolan

As the leaves and temperature are changing so we continue to as well. Fall sees us in exploration of other options to help the 'at risk' youth in the Quinte and surrounding areas. One of our Prime Workers, Kyle Binnie, has been busy both renewing and making new contacts with local agencies that share our mandates and goals. As well, he will be researching other avenues for the reintegration program. Some initial ideas and discussions have occurred concerning the provision of post release assistance for those other than our own custody/detention clients, but who also have involvement with the youth justice system. Stay tuned for further developments as they are explored more thoroughly.

Our Section 23 school program has started up again for the fall, our first summer school session having just taken place. This was probably mentioned in the last letter but deserves noting again as it went very well and we hope to have a teacher again next year for the full summer as opposed to just July. Our in-house programming for the clients is also being expanded with some new materials from our Ministry, including a recently accessed online database that should be a great information resource.

Lastly, we are making some more physical plant improvements, such as retrofitting our beloved but tired old garage. It will see a new roof, new siding and new windows by the time it is completed and will then be ready for many more years of service and storage. The new basement work is all but finished with only a few things left to do and already feels warmer than it ever has. Ah... the mice would have loved it.



**Warm Winter
Wishes To All
from St. Leonard's
of Trenton.** 

Kelly Nolan is the Executive Director of SLH Trenton



**Un service de pairs aidants qui vient en aide
aux hommes et femmes âgées (50 ans et plus)
incarcérées ou en libération conditionnelle**

points de service

Nos services sont offerts dans les pénitenciers à sécurité minimum du Québec et dans les CRC associés à cette initiative.

les services offerts

- Encouragement vers le maintien d'une saine collaboration avec les agent de gestion de cas et les conseillers des CRC.
- Préparation aux audiences devant la CLCC.
- Aide à la rencontre des objectifs du plan correctionnel.
- Support au maintien de l'autonomie tout en incitant la pleine responsabilité des progrès en pénitencier ou le maintien en communauté.
- Placement en CRC et par la suite le placement dans toutes autres résidences pouvant accueillir les âgées - résidences pour personnes âgées, foyers d'accueil, appartements satellites, etc.
- Support au maintien en communauté par l'aide à la recherche d'un emploi, d'un logis et autres services qui pourraient permettre aux personnes âgées de subvenir à leurs besoins de base.

L'accompagnement offert par les pairs aidants facilite la transition d'une étape de la vie à une autre.

qui sont les pairs aidants?

Les pairs aidants sont des personnes ayant servi de longues sentences en pénitencier, qui sont en libération conditionnelle totale et qui ont réussi à réintégrer avec succès la communauté.

5262, rue Notre-Dame Ouest
Montréal (Québec) H4C 1T5
Téléphone 514 932-7188, poste 3
Télécopieur 514 932-6668
Courriel michelgagnon@maisoncrossroads.qc.ca
Site Web www.maisoncrossroads.qc.ca

**Les Pairs Aidants du Services Oxygène
une initiative de la corporation Maison Cross Roads**

This information is also available in English on request.

ST LEONARDS SOCIETY OF CANADA



Fretting over last minute gift giving?



Wondering what to get for Aunt Mabel?

You know Cousin Joe doesn't need any more socks, and shopping for young people is getting harder each year. Don't worry! St. Leonard's Canada has a unique gift idea to get people trending about

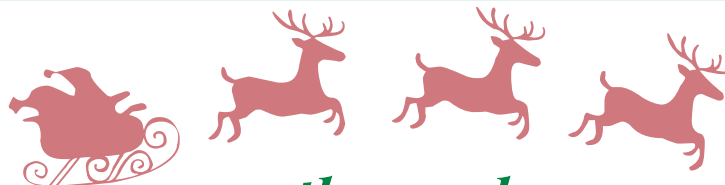
#giftsthatgiveback @StLeonards_Can!

This holiday season, let the loved ones on your list contribute to healthy Canadian communities. It's a gift that you can feel good about giving, and they'll feel even better about receiving! By giving to St. Leonard's, you will be a part of our efforts to make Canada a better place to live through:

- *Advancing research on the best ways to reduce homelessness*
- *Giving former prisoners the chance to give back to society*
- *Sustaining support groups for peer mentors*
- *Improving public safety*

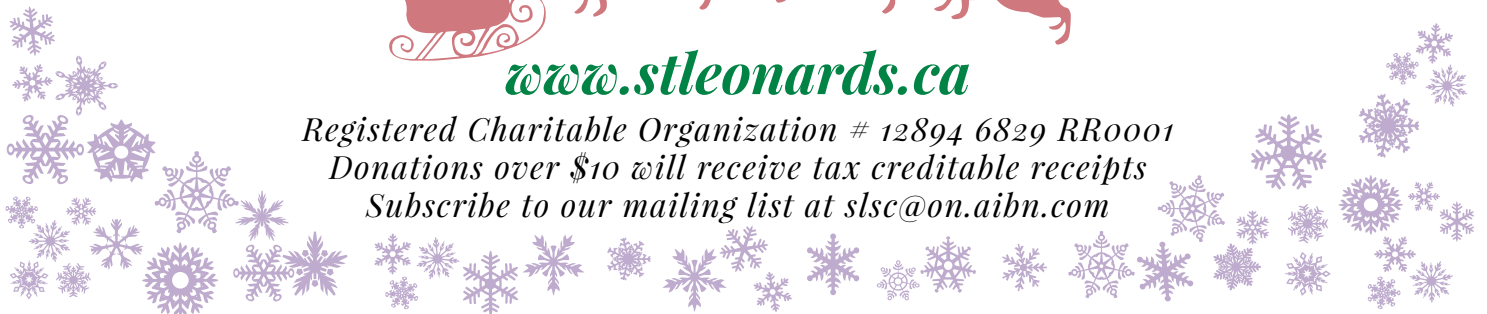
St. Leonard's has cared about the well-being of our communities for nearly 50 years. Innovative approaches to our mission have kept us at the forefront of leading social justice initiatives such as opening the first federal halfway house for men in Canada, and creating award-winning peer mentoring programs. Your donation allows us to promote a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safer communities.

So much better than socks, toys with batteries or fruit baskets!



www.stleonards.ca

Registered Charitable Organization # 12894 6829 RR0001
Donations over \$10 will receive tax creditable receipts
Subscribe to our mailing list at slsc@on.aibn.com



ABOUT US...

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a membership-based, charitable organization dedicated to community safety. The mission of SLSC is to promote a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safe communities.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society or its members. Submissions, inquiries and comments are welcomed. Please contact us at:

SLSC Head Office (Ottawa)

208 - 211 Bronson Ave.
Ottawa ON K1R 6H5
Tel: (613) 233-5170
Fax: (613) 233-5122
Email: slsc@on.aibn.com
www.stleonards.ca
www.facebook.com/SLSCCanada
Twitter: @StLeonards_Can

Executive Director:
Elizabeth White

Director of Operations:
David Whiteley

Research & Policy Advisor:
Anita Desai

Research & Policy Assistant:
Rebecca Hawthorn

Financial Administrator:
Glenn Provick

Co-op Placement Students:
Leslie Cowie

Peer Mentoring Volunteer:
Daryl Clark

Volunteers:
Laavanyan Selvendren
Shannon White

Your support helps us to do more. All donations will receive a tax receipt. Thank you.

Registered Charitable Organization #
12894 6829 RR0001

Online donations may be made
via www.CanadaHelps.org.

PRIVACY STATEMENT:

St. Leonard's Society of Canada respects your privacy. In compliance with the law, SLSC protects any personal information that we have for our members and donors. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. Any information we have is used to deliver services and keep you informed of our activities, programs, services, special events and opportunities to volunteer or donate. If at any time you wish to be removed from our contact listing, please contact us toll-free at 1-888-560-9760 or by e-mail at slsc@on.aibn.com, and we will accommodate your request.

AGM 2014 Recap

This summer, SLSC put out a special "electronic-only" edition of our newsletter. If you only get the print edition, you can sign up to receive e-mail notification when the newsletter comes out—including our occasional "electronic-only" editions. Simply email us at slsc@on.aibn.com.

Meanwhile, here's some key news from our 2014 AGM, previously featured in the special edition:

The 2014 Libby Award was presented to Sarah Crivea
SLSC Board 2014-15

- Catherine Brooke - St. Leonard's House Windsor
Christopher Cutler - St. Leonard's Society of Hamilton
Oliver Doyle - St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough
Rebecca Howse (President) - St. Leonard's Community Services London & Region
Sandy McDonough - Maison Cross Roads
Jennifer Macko - St. Leonard's Society of Toronto
Merrikay Snelgrove (Regional Vice-President, Pacific Region) - St. Leonard's Society of North Vancouver
Tim Stuempel - House of Hope
Victor Sinclair (Regional Vice-President, Ontario and First Vice-President) - St. Leonard's Place, Peel
Members At-Large
Doug Caldwell
Meagan Irving
Catherine Ann Kelly (Secretary)
Jim Murphy
Monica Ross (Treasurer)

Comings and Goings

SLSC is pleased to welcome Leslie Cowie, a student in Carleton University's Criminology program who has joined us on co-op placement this fall and winter. We are also delighted that Laavanyan Selvendren, also enrolled in Carleton's Criminology program, has started volunteering with SLSC. Welcome both!

SLSC is also thrilled that Jim Murphy joined the Board of Directors this fall. We look forward to Jim's continued support for our mission in this new role. Thank you, Jim!

Get Connected!

For the latest updates on SLSC activities, justice matters, and links to related organizations, 'Like' us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SLSCCanada) and follow us on twitter @StLeonards_Can.



Printed on FSC certified, 100% post-consumer, 100% process chlorine free paper



YES! I support St. Leonard's contributions to social justice.

I am enclosing a tax-creditable donation of:

- \$25
\$50
\$100
Other: \$

YES! I want to be a part of SLSC. Please sign me up as a member (with my donation of \$50 or more).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please use my donation to support: Phone (optional): _____

Peer Mentoring Email (optional): _____

The Libby Fund
Wherever it is most needed
Please complete this form and return, along with your donation, to:
St. Leonard's Society of Canada

208 - 211 Bronson Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5

Registered Charitable Organization #12894 6829 RR0001