Toronto Central Council

Governance Session

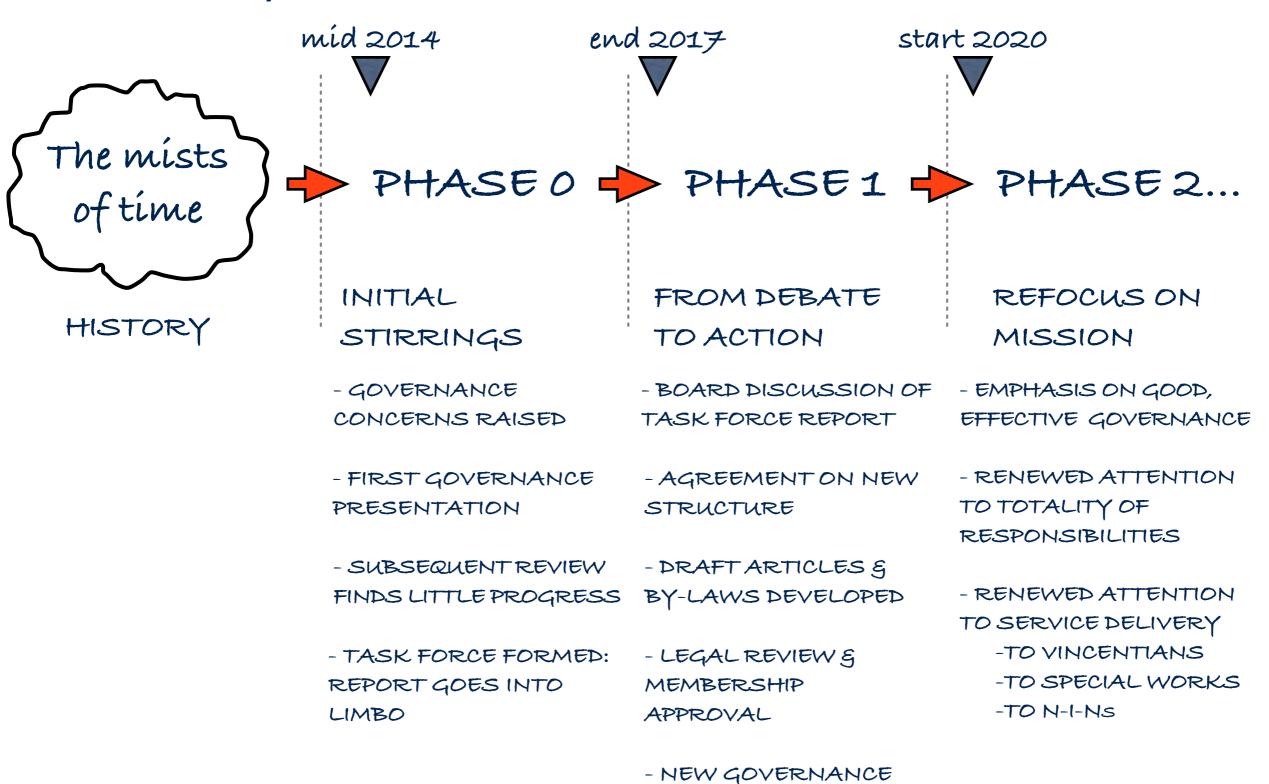
Tuesday 16th June, 2020 4.00pm

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

- Albert Schweitzer

Introduction

The Journey...



STRUCTURE IN PLACE

Introduction

Purpose of meeting

 To revisit just what governance is all about, in terms of roles and responsibilities, both from a legal and from an operating perspective

2. To review how things are shaping up with the new governance model, designed to address more effectively the dual role of the TCC

3. To clarify various apparent issues regarding the same

...to ensure a responsible & effective focus on TCC's mission

Agenda

1. Revisiting governance

2. Review of implementation

3. Structural dichotomies

4. Action

What is SSVP Toronto Central Council?

Answer:

A corporation originally incorporated under the *Benevolent Provident and other Societies Act*, Ontario Statutes, 37 Vict. Chapter 34 on June 4th, 1875...

and presently...

A not-for-profit corporation (#1131751-2), incorporated in Ontario and continued under the Federal *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act,* SC 2009, c.23 and a registered charity

Why incorporation?

The process of establishing a legal entity, separate from its members or shareholders

- ☑ Can provide legal protection, as it is the "corporation" that does things, not individual members, so it is the corporation that gets taken to court!
- ☑ Facilitates contracting for financial services, for premises, for supplies etc. – as the corporation continues regardless of membership changes

Can be under federal legislation:

Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA)

...or provincial legislation – for example:

Ontario – Corporations Act (OCA)

British Columbia - Societies Act

Canada

Revisiting Governance

Incorporation

Letters Patent granted under the current provincial Corporations Act (OCA)

Certificate of Incorporation granted under the Federal Canada Not for Profit Corporations Act (CNCA)

Certificate of Continuance granted under the Federal Canada Not for Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) to organisations originally incorporated under the OCA COLLETY OF SAINT VINCO ORGANICATION CONTINUATION CONTINUATI

...annexed to which are the Articles

Incorporation

The corporation's **Articles** set out key information including:

- The classes of membership & their voting rights
- The number of directors or the min / max numbers
- ► The "purposes" (previously "objects") of the corporation
- Any restrictions on its activities

Why be a charity?

Advantages

- You can issue official donation receipts for gifts that you receive from individuals and corporations.
- You are exempt from paying income tax.
- You are eligible to receive gifts from registered charities.
- You gain increased credibility in the community.

Source: Canada Revenue Agency

Why be a charity?

Not-for-profit:

"An organisation organized and operated exclusively for social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure, sport, recreation, or any other purpose except profit (e.g. a club, society, or association). The organisation will generally be exempt from tax if no part of its income is payable to, or available for, the personal benefit of a proprietor, member or shareholder."

Charity:

"An organisation established & operated for charitable purposes that devotes its resources to charitable activities. Its purposes must fall within one or more of the following categories:

- the relief of poverty;
- the advancement of education;
- the advancement of religion;
- certain other purposes that benefit the community in a way the courts have said is charitable.

It must be resident in Canada and cannot use its income to benefit its members."

"Charitable" purposes

Schedule "A"

4 - Statement of the purpose of the corporation

The purpose of the corporation is to:

- Advance the charitable mission of Vincentians, in serving the needs of people experiencing poverty, with a focus on those within the Greater Toronto Area.
- Co-operate with other groups and Vincentian organisations to further any work of charity in Canada that serves to address those in need.
- 3. Provide a stable living environment for the disadvantaged by establishing and operating:
 - (a) emergency shelters, supportive and transitional housing;
 - (b) residential housing for people of low income; and
 - (c) camps for children of low income families.
- 4. Provide basic supplies for the imprisoned and their families within Ontario.

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but...



As such, a type of legal *persona* not contemplated by the original authors of The Rule but a practical requirement today

So where does corporate governance come in?

Governance =

"The act, manner, function of governing"

"The action, manner or system of governing"

"Direction; control; management"

"The way that [an organisation] is controlled by the people who run it"

"The process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented)"

Oxford English Dictionary

Collins English Dictionary

Nuttalls English Dictionary

Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

UN ESCAP

Corporate governance – a Board responsibility

Board of Directors:

"A group of people comprising the governing body of a corporation."

Directors and Officers

Duty to manage or supervise management

124 Subject to this Act, the articles and any unanimous member agreement, the directors shall manage or supervise the management of the activities and affairs of a corporation.

Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act

What are the responsibilities of a Board?

1. Following the Rules

Duty to comply

- (2) Every director and officer of a corporation shall comply with
 - (a) this Act and the regulations; and
 - (b) the articles, the by-laws and any unanimous member agreement.

s. 148 (2) Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act

What are the Rules?

Externally imposed

Framework set by Incorporating Act, Income Tax Act & other legislation e.g CNCA, Charities Accounting Act...

typically regulate membership & powers, meeting notices, record keeping
 & audit requirements and Board composition. They also impose duties &
 responsibilities on directors

Internally imposed

Further refined by Articles (Purposes / Objects) & By-laws

these specify limits and operating requirements & are drafted by the organisation itself



2 sources; 3 levels

What are the Rules?

3 levels:

1. Incorporating Act etc. - overall framework

2. Articles - purposes / objectives
Charitable status - specific, limited & CRA approved

3. By-laws - rules of operation

What are the Rules?





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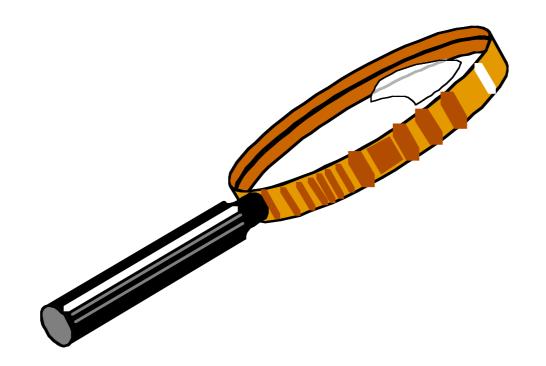
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What are the responsibilities of a Board?

1. Following the Rules <

2. Governance

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?



Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

To establish the organisation's vision and direction and to plan and monitor performance in achieving the same

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

- To establish the organisation's vision and direction and to plan and monitor performance in achieving the same
- To ensure the financial health of the organisation and to manage risk

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- To ensure the organisation has sufficient and appropriate human, physical and technical resources

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- ► To formulate necessary policies & implement appropriate systems to direct and manage operations

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- To establish the organisation's vision and direction and to plan and monitor performance in achieving the same
- To ensure the financial health of the organisation and to manage risk
- To ensure the organisation has sufficient and appropriate human, physical and technical resources
- ► To formulate necessary policies & implement appropriate systems to direct and manage operations
- To ensure effective stakeholder relations through transparency of action and open communications

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

- To establish the organisation's vision and direction and "Management" to plan and monitor performance in achieving the same
- To ensure the financial health of the organisation and to manage risk

"Money"

To ensure the organisation has sufficient and appropriate human, physical and technical resources

"Means"

- To formulate necessary policies & implement appropriate systems to direct and manage operations
- "Methods"

To ensure effective stakeholder relations through transparency of action and open communications

"Manner"

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

"Management"

DIRECTION & PERFORMANCE

"Money"

FUNDS & PROTECTION

► "Means"

CAPABILITY & MAINTENANCE

"Methods"

EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS

"Manner"

UNDERSTANDING & TRUST

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

Management

To establish the organisation's vision and direction and to plan and monitor performance in achieving the same

- √ Vision statement
- √ Strategic Plan
- ✓ Operating Plan & Budget
- √ Monthly reports

Vision

An expression of what the organization wants to achieve in the long term

Answers the general question of "Where are we going?"

May lack precision and detail but is sufficient to facilitate decision making about general direction, resources, etc.

Distinct from:

Mission - what the organization does everyday **Slogan** - engaging catch phrase

Mission

Does this tell me, as a member of the public, what you (TCC) actually do and why I should be encouraged to give you money?

Is this mission
- or motivation?

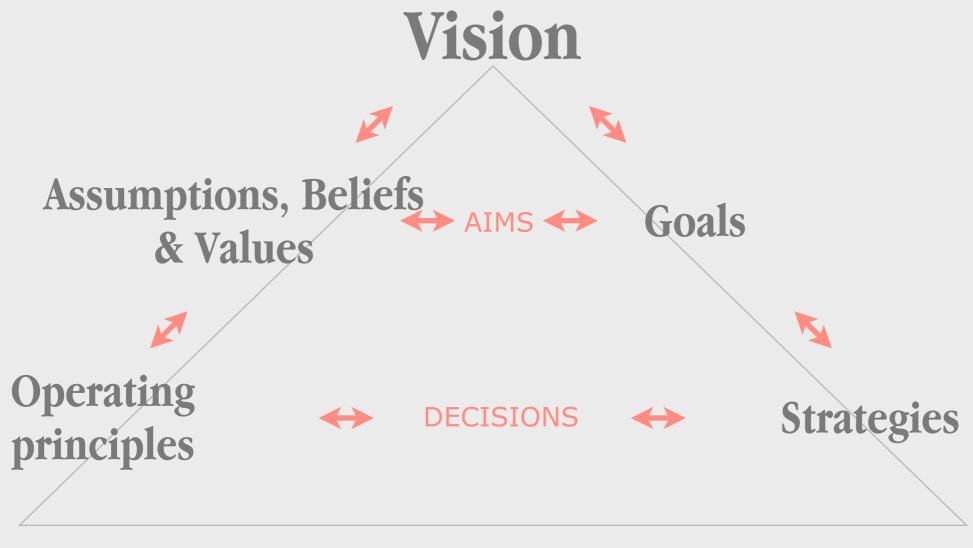
MISSION STATEMENT

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ through our neighbours in need with love, respect, justice and joy.

Members of the Society are committed to turning concern into action. Toronto Central Council provides the leadership, coordination, and support required by our Vincentian volunteers and our staff to succeed in that mission.

Toronto Central Council, of the SSVP, provides shelter, financial assistance and related programmes throughout the GTA to address the human impacts of poverty, while providing leadership, coordination and support to its local volunteers and advocacy on behalf of its clients.

A Framework - The Vision Pyramid







Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

Money

To ensure the financial health of the organisation and to manage risk

- √ Funding strategy
- √ Risk management framework
- √ Policy documents controls, HR, volunteers
- √ Education; codes of conduct
- √ Disaster / contingency plan

Risk Management

Risk identification

Risks to:
People
Property

Income

Goodwill

Employees, Volunteers, Clients, Participants, Donors, Board members...

Buildings, Equipment, Facilities, Contents, Media, Papers...

Donations, Membership fees, Grants, User fees, Investments...

Reputation, Community standing, Public image, Attractiveness to staff, volunteers, donors...

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

Means

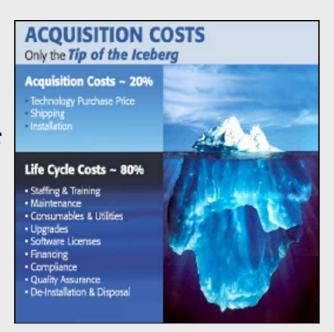
To ensure the organisation has sufficient and appropriate human, physical and technical resources

- √ Strategic Plan resource strategies
- ✓ Operating Plan & Budget
- √ Succession plans
- √ Inventory and asset life-cycle policies

Inventory & asset management

Two key concepts

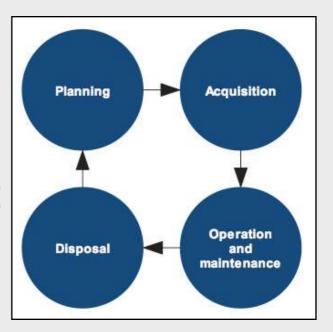
Total Cost of Ownership





Nothing is "free"

Life Cycle Management





Knowing what is where & in what state?

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

Methods

To formulate necessary policies & implement appropriate systems to direct and manage operations

- √ Policy and Procedure manuals
- √ Organisational & workflow documentation
- √ Reporting systems
- √ Mission metrics

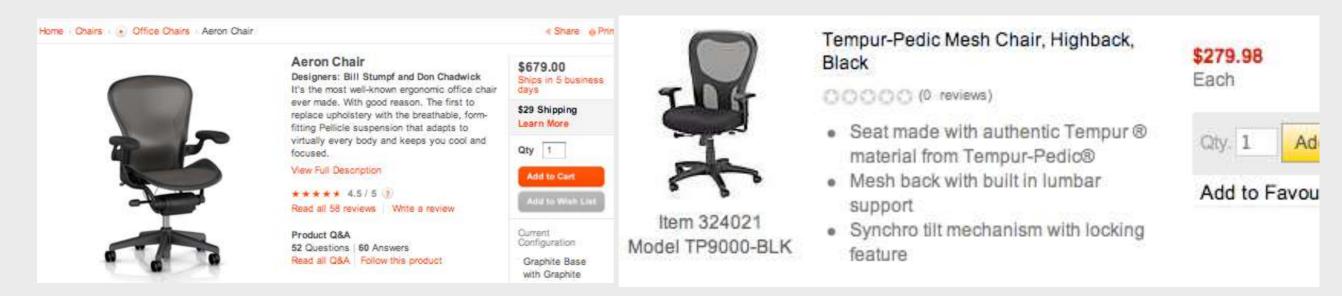
Mission metrics: keeping the focus on purpose & outcomes

MISSION: "HELPING STREET PEOPLE"

POLAR FLEECE BLANKET THROW .

Cost ≈ \$4 each





Cost difference = \$400

Cost differential = "100 blankets"

Governance responsibilities: what's the focus?

The five essentials

Manner

To ensure effective stakeholder relations through transparency of action and open communications

- √ Two way communication strategy
- √ Media training
- ✓ Market surveys & needs analysis
- √ Relationship managers

Manner: market surveys & needs analysis



Vincentian Survey: Summary Report to the Members January 2019

Thank you to all who participated in the recent Survey. We had an excellent response from across Toronto Central Council. The Task Force has been analyzing the data and comments made and can now summarize our initial findings.

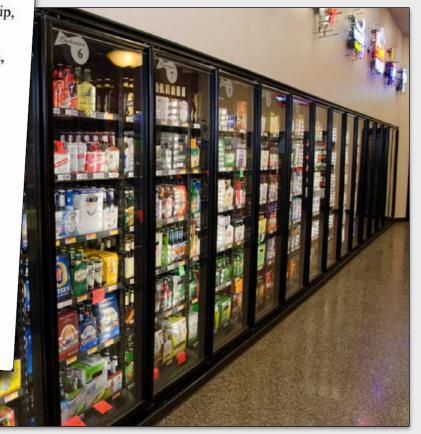
Feedback:

Most Vincentians appear to feel very pleased about their connection with – and the nature of – outreach provided by the Society. That is indeed good news!

That said, we did receive valuable feedback on areas where you, the membership, would like to see positive change.

The priorities for continued support and improvements, as identified by you, are listed in order of most frequently indicated:

- Training and Information
- ➤ Recruitment of additional members
- ➤ Added Services for Neighbours in Need
- ➤ Policy guidance on a variety of matters
- Sharing of experiences, problems and potential solutions
- Advocacy for those in need
- Succession Planning
- > Technology
- ➤ Parish Relationships



What are the responsibilities of a Board?

1. Following the Rules <

2. Governance

...but what about individual directors?

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors

A collective Board responsibility

An individual accountability

"Ignorance is no defence"

- Legal maxim



Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors

Legislation imposes, among other things, a **duty of care** for individual Directors:

Duties of directors and officers

- 148. (1) Every director and officer of a corporation in exercising their powers and discharging their duties shall
 - (a) act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the corporation; and
 - (b) exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors



Can you articulate where the organisation is going and how it plans to get there?

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors



Can you name the top three priorities at the present time?

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors



Can you identify the biggest risks the organisation presently faces - and what is being done about them?

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors



Can you put figures to the current year's operating budget and the present variance?

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors



Are you exercising the "care, diligence and skill" that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in running an \$18m turnover corporation?

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors

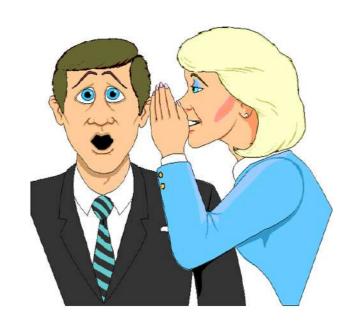
Confidentiality - as a Board

Established policy required

- Topics & circumstances
- Minutes

Strictly limited applications

- Personal matters
- Personnel matters
- Financial matters
- Legal matters



Confidentiality - as an individual

Respect Board policy & decisions
(What if it was you that was being talked about?)

Legal duties & responsibilities of individual directors

Avoiding conflict of interest

- **141.** (1) A director or an officer of a corporation shall disclose to the corporation, in writing or by requesting to have it entered in the minutes of meetings of directors or of committees of directors, the nature and extent of any interest that the director or officer has in a material contract or material transaction, whether made or proposed, with the corporation, if the director or officer
 - 1. (a) is a party to the contract or transaction;
 - 2. (b) is a director or an officer, or an individual acting in a similar capacity, of a party to the contract or transaction; or
 - 3. (c) has a material interest in a party to the contract or transaction.

Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act



Fulfilling expectations

1. Know your stuff

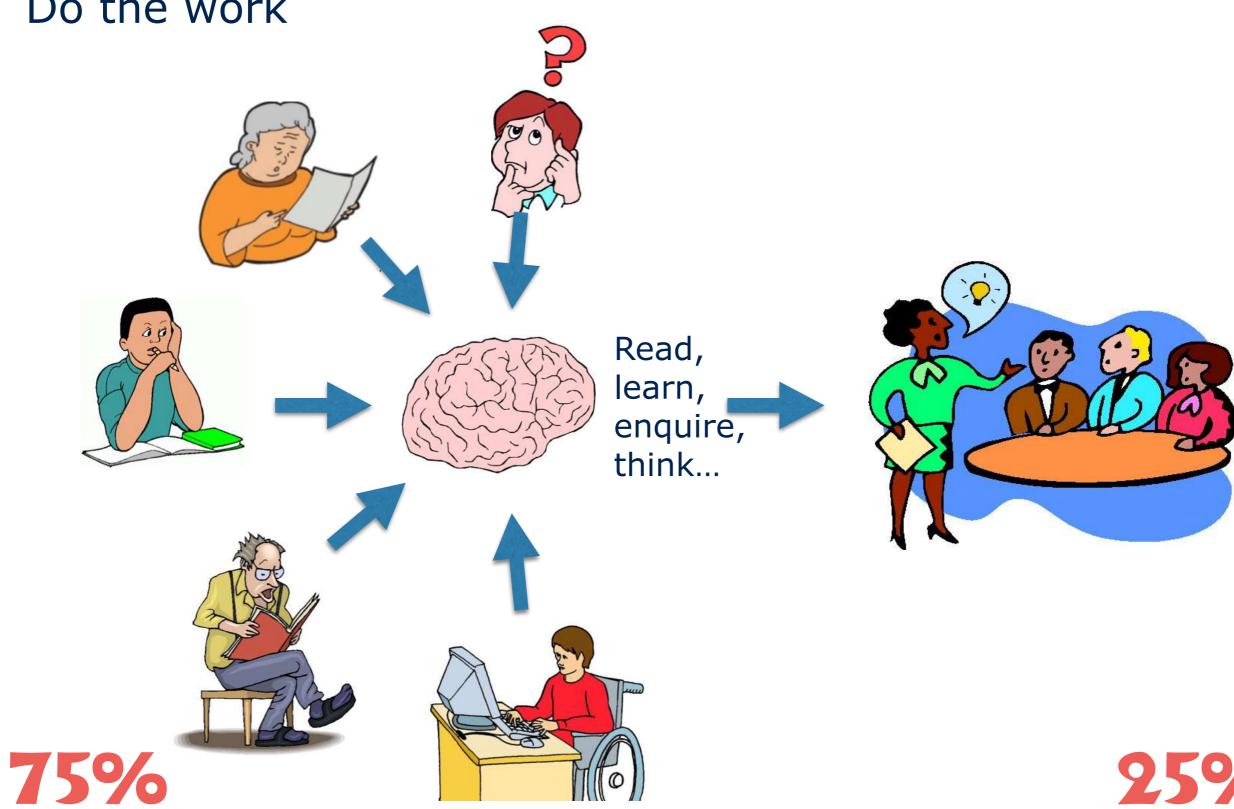
Know your stuff

- Read your Board Manual
- ✓ Be familiar with the "Rules" (especially Purposes & By-laws)
- ✓ Meet with and become knowledgeable about key staff members
- Review the Policies Manual

Fulfilling expectations

- ✓ 1. Know your stuff
 - 2. Do the work

Do the work



25%

Fulfilling expectations

- ✓ 1. Know your stuff
- ✓ 2. Do the work
 - 3. Participate fully

Participate fully











Task forces



Committees & tasks forces

Purpose:

- Getting on-going work done
- Providing specialized input

Mandate:

- Decide, do, recommend, advise...
- Constraints, finances, communications...

Membership:

- Board director as Chair
- Volunteers including non-members or ex-officio
- Staff person

Committees & tasks forces

- v. Task Forces:
- Finite need
- Project oriented





- Informal
- Specialized experience
- Extended representation





Committees & tasks forces

Purpose:

- Getting on-going work done
- Providing specialized input

Mandate:

- Decide, do, recommend, advise...
- Constraints, finances, communications...

Membership:

- Board director as Chair
- Volunteers including non-members or ex-officio
- Staff person

Committees – the PCPC

Purpose:

- Getting work done
- Providing specialized input

Animating and supporting the Vincentian community

Collectively recognized by peers as experienced and knowledgeable

Mandate:

Decide, do, recommend, advise...

Plan g do - subject to overall focus g budget constraints

Constraints, finances, communications...

Membership:

Board director as Chair

- Same governance principles apply
- duty of care for all aspects
- -5M's
- success metric for the committee?
- Volunteers (including non-members) or ex-officio
- Staff person

Agenda

1. Revisiting governance

2. Review of implementation

3. Structural dichotomies

4. Action

Context

"The urgency and focus should not be on producing a theoretically perfect solution but rather on implementing a good solution and then working to make it better over time."

Observations

* Vincentian "Council"

PCP Committee

Observations

* Vincentian "Council"

PCP Committee

* Coordination Committee

Not needed

Observations

* Vincentian "Council"

PCP Committee

* Coordination Committee

Not needed

* Mandate

In progress

Observations

* Vincentian "Council"

PCP Committee

* Coordination Committee

Not needed

* Mandate

In progress

* Board focus

Lack of "survey" equivalent

Observations

* Vincentian "Council"

PCP Committee

* Coordination Committee

Not needed

* Mandate

In progress

* Board focus

Lack of "survey" equivalent

* Challenges with "National"



Problem #3. The inappropriateness of the Rule re governance

Philosophy

What it means to be a Vincentian

THE RULE AND STATUTES

OF THE

SOCIETY OF

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

CANADA

"Help honors when, to the bread that nourishes, it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering that which we would perhaps not be able to bear ourselves; since he is among us as the messenger of God, sent to put our justice and charity to the test, and to save us by our works."

(Frédéric Ozanam, from an article in L'Ère nouvelle, October 21, 1848.)

Administration

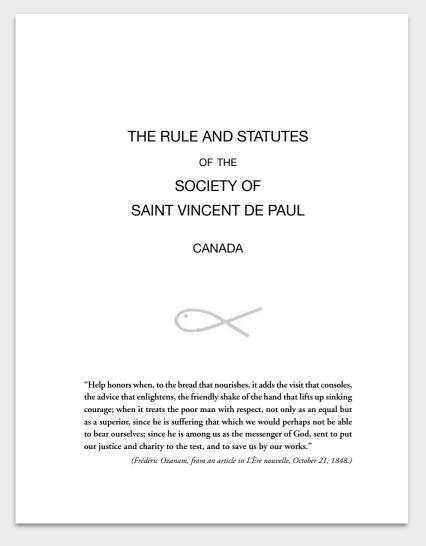
How to operate a registered charitable corporation (e.g. TCC)

Current edition June 2006

Problem #3. The inappropriateness of the Rule re governance

The Rule

The Law (since June 2006)







Current edition June 2006

Corporations Act – 16 changes

Regulations - 6 changes

Problem #3. The inappropriateness of the Rule re governance

The Rule - on governance

The Law

Members elect President	NO!
President serves 5 years	NO!
Different voting rights attach to same class of members	NO!
Directors may send substitutes to Board meetings	NO!
Officers appointed by President	NO!
Non-voting directors	NO!
Proxy holders required to be members	NO!

• • •

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Following the Rule would place every Director in breach of the CNCAs. 148.4

Problem #3. The inappropriateness of the Rule re governance

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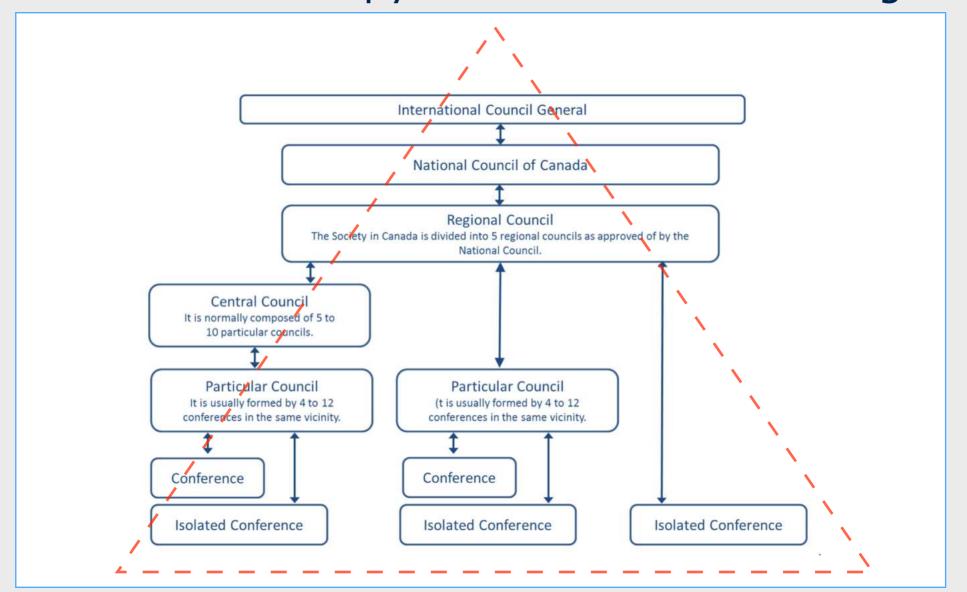
Administration

How to operate a registered charitable corporation (e.g. TCC)

Referring to "The Rule" is misleading and problematic – references should be to the **Philosophy** and to the **Administrative Guidelines**

"What was in the original French version?"

Problem #4. Mindset - the pyramid inversion challenge



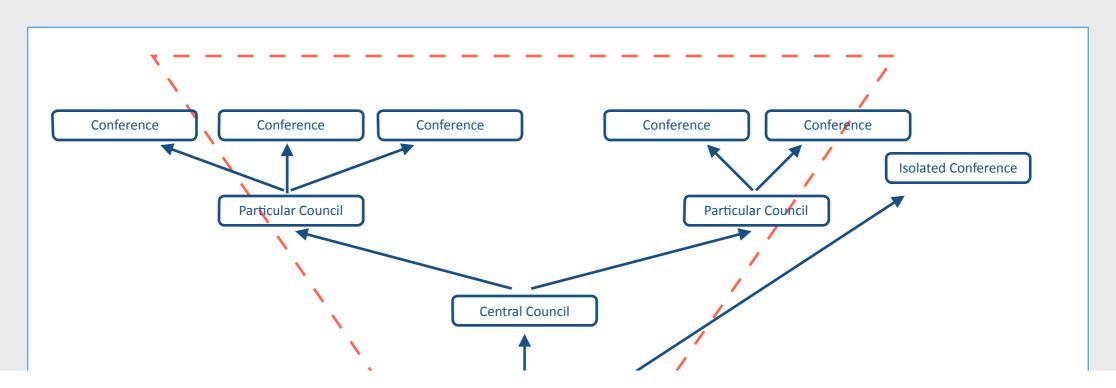


3.6 Councils

Councils exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They help the Conferences to develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.

Rule of the International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Problem #4. Mindset - the pyramid inversion challenge





3.9 Subsidiarity and freedom of action

The Society embraces the Principle of Subsidiarity as its basic standard of operation.

Rule of the International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Command & control Supervision



Help & assist Support

Review of implementation

Observations

* Vincentian "Council"

PCP Committee

* Coordination Committee

Not needed

* Mandate

In progress

* Board focus

Lack of "survey" equivalent

* Challenges with "National"

CENSORED

* Mindset

The pyramid issue

Review of implementation

Mindset

Purpose - Support & help, not represent or control*

Achieved by - Collaborative use of combined talents & experience

Exemplifying - "A desire to help and willingness to learn"



Board Focus - Totality of TCC



Focus - Vincentian Community

*Legal considerations apart

Agenda

1. Revisiting governance <a>

2. Review of implementation <a>\checkmark

3. Structural dichotomies

4. Action

"Rule" or Guidelines / Advice

Philosophy

V.

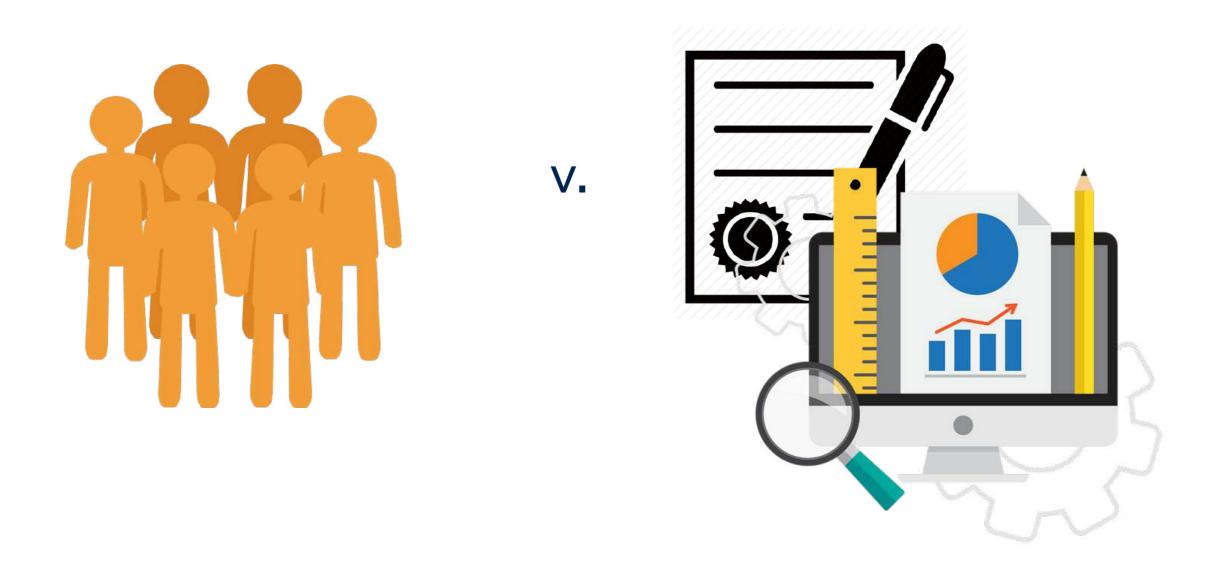
Administration

What it means to be a Vincentian

How to operate a registered charitable corporation (e.g. TCC)

Combination into one document is confusing

SSVP - Community (people) or Corporation (persona)



One name - two realities

Revisiting Governance

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Membership capacity

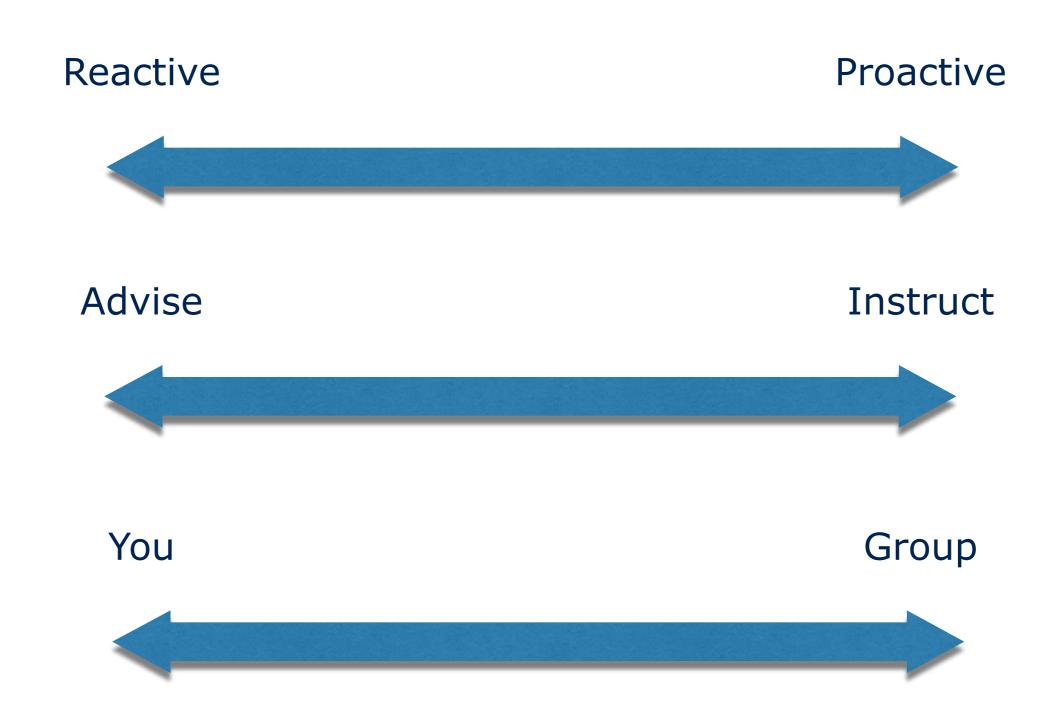


Vincentian Moral philosophy



TCC Member Secular responsibilities

Servant / Leader



Subsidiarity v. "Collective Good"



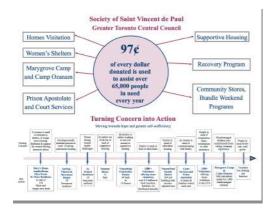
"Branding"

"It can be a logo, a symbol or even a slogan, but above all it is an identity and a reputation"



Legal

Corporation#1131751-2 Reg. Charity#11915 5133 RR0002



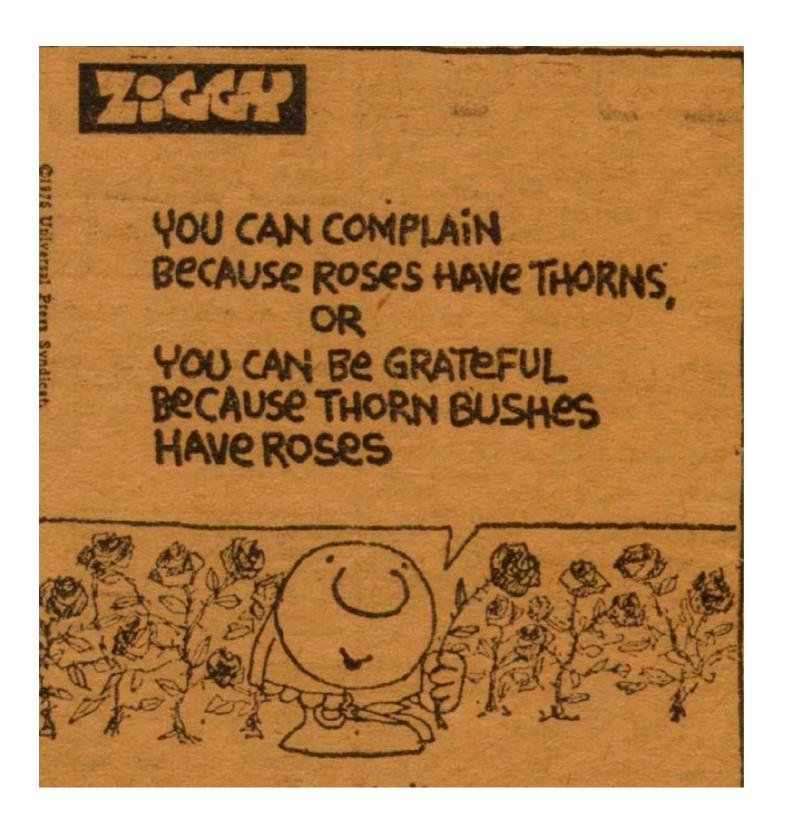
Financial

Pass-up's

Organisation structure

	National	Regional	Toronto
Operating budget	\$0.54m	\$0.38m	\$8.64m
Capital assets	\$0.26m	_	\$10.67m
Board members	17	50+?	9

Who has the knowledge, practical experience and wherewithal to support who, in terms of operations & effective governance?



- 1. Acknowledge these issues exist
- 2. Seek to minimise them
- 3. Remember what it means to be a Vincentian
- 4. Ask "Is this discussion helping a Neighbour in Need?"

Agenda

1. Revisiting governance <

2. Review of implementation <a>\checkmark

3. Structural dichotomies <a>\checkmark

4. Action

"God provides the wind, but man must raise the sails."

St. Augustine

...so what's to be done?

Raising the sails

Individually:

Know the Rules / Mandate and what all your responsibilities are. Act on them

... "with a desire to help and willingness to learn"

Raising the sails

Board:

Revisit the Vision & Mission to focus on "what" rather than "why"

Develop a "5M's aware" strategic plan and derive an operational plan from that

Commence implementation; utilise committees, etc.

Manage by using it

Raising the sails

PCPC:

Agree Mandate (to include focus and financial constraints)

Develop a "5M's aware" plan and associated budget for approval

Commence implementation

Manage by using it

Raising the sails

Meetings:

Have a shared purpose!

Establish a clear agenda

Circulate information / reports ahead of time

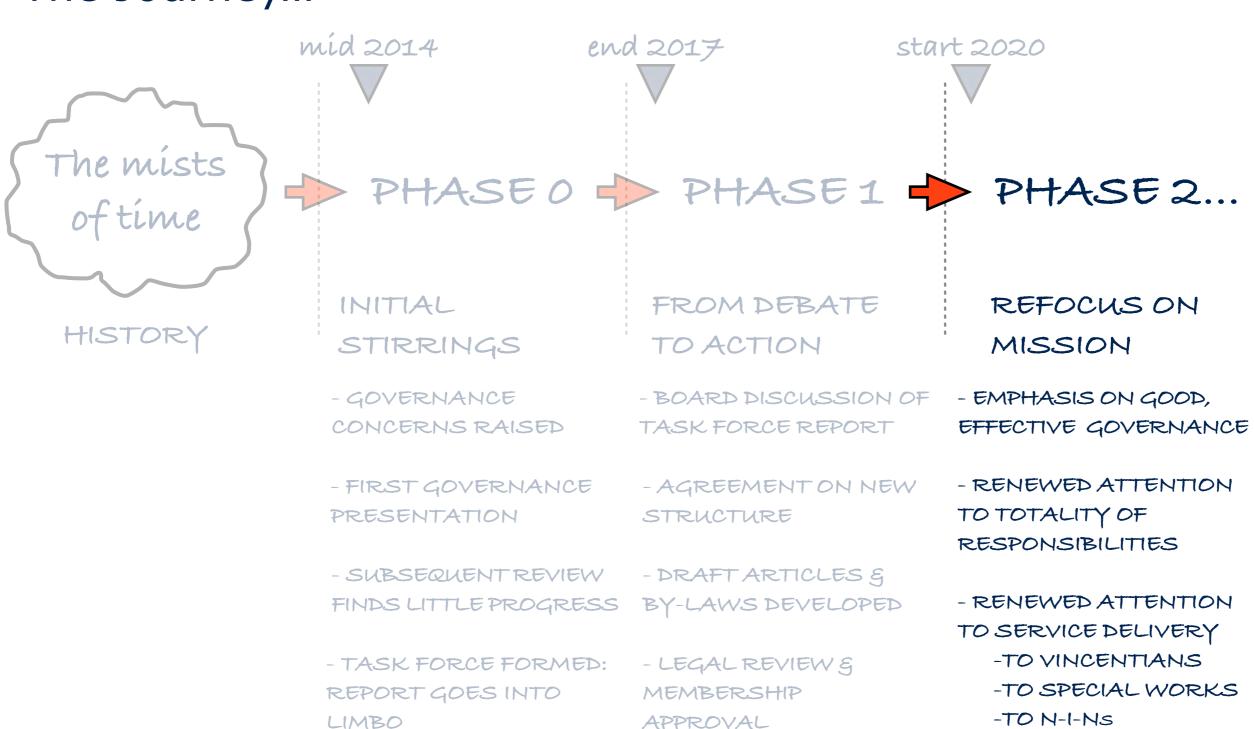
- Deal only with Matters Arising

Discuss and decide

Ensure action item / responsibility assignments known

Ask: "Who have we helped today?"

The Journey...



- NEW GOVERNANCE

STRUCTURE IN PLACE

The Journey...



STRUCTURE IN PLACE