



# Annual Report Rapport annuel 2020–2021



St. Leonard's Society of Canada  
Société St-Léonard du Canada

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## Annual Report | Rapport annuel

# 2020–2021

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## St. Leonard's Society of Canada

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a membership-based, charitable organization dedicated to community safety.

### Mission

The mission of SLSC is to promote a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safe communities. It:

- i) endorses evidence-based approaches to criminal and social justice;
- ii) conducts research and develops policy;
- iii) supports its member affiliates; and
- iv) advances collaborative relationships and communication among individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice.

### Vision

SLSC strives to be a leading learning organization, respected by peers and the community at large for researching and promoting “what works” in community corrections and other areas of social justice.

## Société St-Léonard du Canada

La Société St-Léonard du Canada est un organisme de bienfaisance constitué de membres et voué à la sécurité de la collectivité.

### Mission

La mission de la SSLC est de promouvoir la formulation de politiques éclairées et compatissantes en matière de justice et un leadership responsable qui contribueront à des collectivités plus sûres. La Société:

- i) endosse les approches de justice pénale et sociale reposant sur des données concluantes;
- ii) œuvre dans les domaines de la recherche et de l'élaboration des politiques;
- iii) offre un soutien à ses membres affiliés;
- iv) s'applique à créer des liens de collaboration et de communication entre les personnes et les organismes voués à la justice sociale.

### Vision

La SSLC aspire à être une organisation chef de file en matière d'apprentissage, une organisation qui soit respectée par ses pairs et la population dans son ensemble pour ses activités de recherche et de promotion des approches efficaces dans le domaine des services correctionnels communautaires et d'autres secteurs de la justice sociale.

## Values

### Social Responsibility

We believe in acting ethically and effectively to address the needs of the community and its members as we pursue our vision. We will promote socially responsible conduct throughout the justice system.

### Integrity

We believe in acting with consistency, honesty, fairness and respect. We are accountable and our operations will be transparent and evaluated.

### Vision

We believe in the power of vision to inspire, encourage learning and creativity in realizing our mission. As leaders, we believe our vision will be a rallying call for others to join our quest for safe communities. We will work closely with our members, volunteers and partners to effect system-wide change.

### Commitment

We believe that action must be sustained by determined and enthusiastic dedication in order to achieve positive social change. Long-term commitment and an appreciation of our history are integral to our progress.

### Human Worth

We believe in the inherent worth and potential of all individuals.

## Valeurs

### Responsabilité sociale

Nous croyons qu'il nous faut chercher à réaliser notre vision tout en respectant les principes de l'éthique et en agissant de manière efficace pour répondre aux besoins de la collectivité et de ceux et celles qui la composent. Nous militerons en faveur de comportements socialement responsables dans le système de justice tout entier.

### Intégrité

Nous croyons qu'il nous faut faire preuve de cohérence, d'honnêteté, d'équité et de respect. Nous sommes imputables et nos opérations seront transparentes et assujetties à une évaluation.

### Vision

Nous croyons en la force qui découle d'une vision qui soit source d'inspiration, qui incite à l'apprentissage et à la créativité dans les moyens de réaliser notre mission. En tant que chefs de file, nous croyons que notre vision incitera d'autres gens à se joindre à nous en vue d'assurer la sécurité des collectivités. Nous collaborerons de près avec nos membres, nos bénévoles et nos partenaires en vue de contribuer au changement dans l'ensemble du système.

### Engagement

Nous croyons que pour provoquer des changements sociaux positifs, l'action doit s'appuyer sur une détermination et un enthousiasme à toute épreuve. L'engagement à long terme et une appréciation de notre histoire font partie intégrante de notre avancement.

### Dignité humaine

Nous croyons en la valeur et au potentiel intrinsèques de toute personne.

## President's Report

Dear members,

What a year! When I last reported to you, our country was in lock down, our lives were changing in vast and dramatic ways, it seemed as if “unprecedented” was in every headline and we were left with a collective longing to be with others. Zoom became the connection of choice, masks became a way of life and we had our hands rubbed raw from cleaning. Gone were the days of having a sniffle yet still going out. In all of this, we witnessed the best of us—those going to work everyday to ensure important services were continued; and the worst—long term care deaths, with the military reporting of horrific conditions. This against the back drop of a national awakening around racism, the impact of white supremacy and the call to be anti-racist.

In all this uncertainty, SLSC joyously celebrated the arrival of baby Desai. Anita and her family welcomed Marcella this past September. With Anita busy growing a beautiful little human, our staff took on more responsibilities: Danielle moving into the Co-ordinator role and David managing all financial and reporting matters. Anita left us well organized with charts and plans, a well prepared staff and Board. We were all hands on deck, with the Executive meeting more, Danielle, David and I meeting weekly and Board members doing more committee work. To Danielle and David, for your stepping up this year, to ensure that seamless transition—thank you. It's been a joy to work with you so closely this past year.

Thank you to all of our past and current years' volunteer placements: Abidemi Adebisi, Bryan Birch, Dallas Dawson, Natasha Ford, Gabrielle Guizzo, Victoria Heppenheimer and Mallorie Young. A heartfelt thank you to the staff, joined by Jocelyne Lemoine and Teisha Williams (and in this new fiscal year by Rija Gillan and placement-student-turned-employee Dallas Dawson), for keeping the work of the society going, without skipping a beat while working from home. We are grateful for your dedication.

SLSC is a value-based network of community-based organizations and individual members, who are tied together in a shared belief in the power of second chances and the values of social responsibility, integrity, vision, commitment and human worth. Affiliates work every day, advancing best practices for people leaving federal institutions. They do this through a vast array of programming



Catherine Kelly

photo: David Whiteley

and services. Thank you to the staff of all these affiliates for keeping your homes open to people leaving institutions, for working under uncertain conditions. This work was highlighted in the Public Safety-funded project Infrastructure, Intersections, and Innovation: Understanding Community-based Residential Facilities Within a Shifting COVID-19 Landscape. This project helped our network pursue and identify effective innovations in response to the pandemic. Thank you for everything you have done.

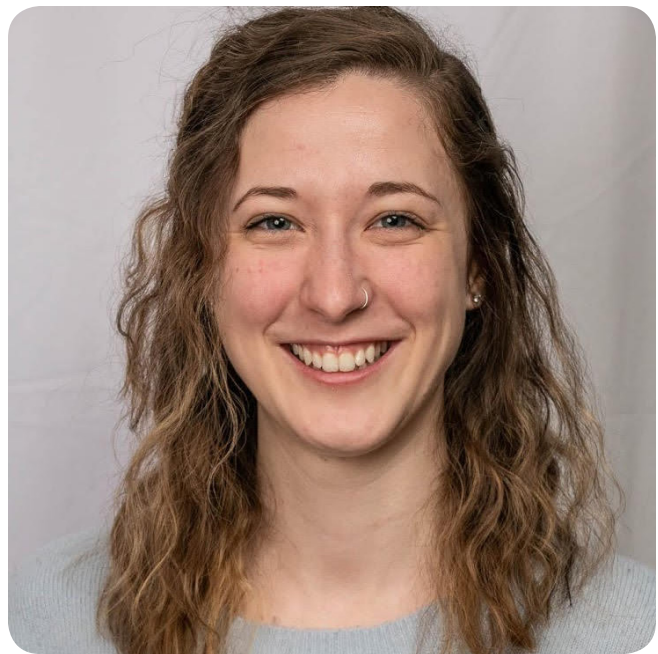
Our AGM in 2020 saw our first online AGM for the Society. We look forward to seeing all your beautiful faces in your Zoom square at AGM 2021. We have an exciting program of learning and social events. I am so proud of our staff and our network. I am so grateful to share space with such dedicated and wise people. To the Board of directors—Anne, Christopher, Darrell, Jim, Kelly, Merrikay, Merris, Monica, Rebecca and Samantha—thank you for your continued contributions of time and talent. For making SLSC apart of your life, for your thoughtful discussions and leadership. So many of you, while staying at home, responded by doing even more at SLSC—many Zoom meetings and extra work this year. During this year, Committees have reviewed our By-laws, developed Restorative Justice and Universal Basic Income policies, created a benefits plan for staff and the Executive became more involved in management. Thank you to this awesome group of volunteers.

The excitement this year has been the possibility of seeing, in real time, what can be achieved when the world comes together to solve an issue. Within record time, we have vaccines. The marvel of science and what is possible! It is my hope that in the column of what stays, post COVID-19, there will be a remembrance of this energy of togetherness. That we build brave spaces of community and togetherness to solve our society issues—poverty, addictions—in deeply human ways. Systems rooted in shame and punitive approaches cannot get us to better.

From my sunny deck by the Atlantic Ocean in Harbour Main, NL, I wish you and your family the very best. Thank you for being apart of our mission, for sharing our vision and for engaging in the difficult work of creating a community for all. I wish you and your family the vaccine, a strong social network and a summer full of joy and health. To our members who are residents or former residents, I wish you continued success in creating health and happiness.

In peace and gratitude,

Catherine Kelly  
President



Danielle Kouri

photo: Dana Nield

## Coordinator's Report

Rather than the traditional Executive Director's Report, it is my honour to present you with the Coordinator's Report in Anita's absence. The 2020-21 fiscal year began with St. Leonard's Society of Canada's (SLSC) team setting up home offices and strategizing on how to continue effectively working towards promoting humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership within this new work-from-home reality. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the focus of SLSC's activities and methods of engagement shifted, but fortunately, the team was ready to adapt to the needs of the network.

When the pandemic began, SLSC started having weekly communications with the Executive Directors within our network, colleagues at the National Association Active in Criminal Justice, and other stakeholders working to engage with Federal partners at Correctional Service of Canada, Parole Board of Canada, and Public Safety. SLSC's priority has continued to be ensuring that the critical role halfway houses play in safe, supported, gradual release is well understood and that resources are in place to meet the needs of halfway houses within strategies related to community corrections.

On June 9, 2020, 3 months after all Canadian provinces and territories declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness announced that SLSC, along with four

other national voluntary organizations, would receive funding to conduct independent pilot projects. SLSC's project was entitled *Infrastructure, Intersections, and Innovation: Understanding Community-based Residential Facilities Within a Shifting COVID-19 Landscape*. The project was a wonderful opportunity to work more closely and better understand the operations of our affiliated agencies. The final report will be publicly available by the end of July 2021.

Also in June, SLSC hosted its first virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM), which went off without a 'glitch'! Although we certainly missed our usual in-person get-together, we were glad to still be able to come together virtually to discuss SLSC's business, policies, and priorities. At our AGM, we learned that St. Leonard's Society of North Vancouver's (SLNV) Executive Director, Mike Horne, would be retiring after 12 years in the position. We are grateful to have benefited from Mike's insightful contributions and thoughtful leadership. We wish Mike the best of luck on his new adventure and give a heartfelt welcome to Stuart Diggon in his role as SLNV's Executive Director.

Following AGM, we had a couple of exciting changes within our membership. We were pleased to welcome the Alberta Seventh Step Society as our newest associate agency. We also said 'goodbye' to St. Leonard's Home Trenton and 'hello' to St. Leonard's Community Supports, Prevention and Residential Services (SLCSPRS), the name for their new entity. For more information about agencies affiliated or associated with SLSC, please visit our website: [www.stleonards.ca/affiliates-and-associates](http://www.stleonards.ca/affiliates-and-associates).

Over the winter holidays, we turned our fundraising spotlight onto SLSC's Libby Award Fund. Donations received from our fundraiser will help provide funds for future recipients to use for opportunities related to education or professional development. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped us to exceed our goal and raise a total of \$2,050!

Of course, none of the work listed in this report (or the many other activities too numerous to include) would have been possible without the support from our volunteers, students, and staff. As a positive outcome of the pandemic, SLSC was able to increase the number of people on our team as well as the locations across Canada from which they could join us. We were fortunate to have been engaged by volunteers, Alexandre Darveau-Morin, Gabrielle Guizzo, Laura Brown, and Mikaela Graf. As placement

students, our team was pleased to welcome Mallorie Young, Victoria Heppenheimer, and Natasha Ford from University of Ottawa, Dallas Dawson from Carleton University, and Bryan Birch from Humber College. To support *Infrastructure, Intersections, and Innovation* project activities, SLSC was grateful to be able to hire Jocelyne Lemoine as Research Associate, Teisha Williams as Research & Admin Assistant, Jadlyn Sadik as Graphic Designer, and Dave Farthing as Facilitator. As always, we extend our sincere thanks to the fantastic support we received from SLSC's Board of Directors, chaired by President Catherine Kelly who has taken on an enhanced role this year. Of course, our faithful Director of Operations, David Whiteley, has continued to ensure the smooth operations of our organization and project. SLSC's Executive Director, Anita Desai, has been on maternity leave since the fall, but we have appreciated that she has never been too far out of reach. Catherine, Anita and David have provided invaluable guidance and input to support organizational activities, as well as my transition into the role of Coordinator.

Despite having been an incredibly unusual and challenging year, this has also been one full of successes and resilience. It has been so encouraging to see how this network has faced the pandemic with integrity and innovation, ensuring that the high-quality service delivery we are accustomed to is maintained. I am so proud to work in collaboration with such intelligent, caring, and dedicated people in the effort to advance effective, humane, and just corrections policies and practices in Canada.

Danielle Kouri  
Coordinator Update ready

A new update is available to install.



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of Canada**

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## **Board of Directors Conseil d'administration**

Merris Centomo  
Christopher Cutler  
Rebecca Howse  
Catherine Kelly

Samantha McAleese  
Anne Murphy  
Jim Murphy  
Kelly Nolan

Monica Ross  
Darrell Rowe  
Merrikay Snelgrove

**2020–2021**

## **Staff and Placement Students | Équipe et stagiaires**

Bryan Birch  
Dallas Dawson  
Anita Desai  
Natasha Ford

Gabrielle Guizzo  
Victoria Heppenheimer  
Danielle Kouri  
Jocelyne Lemoine

David Whiteley  
Teisha Williams  
Mallorie Young

## **Affiliate Members | Organismes Affiliés**

House of Hope (Ottawa)  
Maison Cross Roads (Montréal)  
St. Leonard's Community Services  
London and Region  
St. Leonard's Community Support,  
Prevention and Residential Services

St. Leonard's House Windsor  
St. Leonard's Society of North Vancouver  
St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough  
St. Leonard's Society of Sudbury  
The St. Leonard's Society of Hamilton

*SLSC welcomed Alberta Seventh Step Society as an Associate in July 2020.*

## **Membership and Support**

We would like to thank the many individuals and organizations whose generous support over the past year as members or donors helped us to carry out our mission and goals.

Funding for SLSC is gratefully acknowledged from Public Safety Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada and the Northpine Foundation.

## **Adhésion et soutien**

Nous désirons remercier les nombreux organismes et individus dont l'aide généreuse offerte l'année dernière comme membre ou donateur nous a permis de poursuivre notre mission et la réalisation de nos objectifs.

Merci à Sécurité publique Canada, Emploi et Développement social Canada et la fondation Northpine pour subventionner les activités de la SSLC.

*Audited Financial Statements available on request - États financiers vérifiés disponibles sur demande*

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