



Annual Report Rapport annuel 2021–2022

SSLC

SLS

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



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of Canada

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Annual Report | Rapport annuel

2021–2022

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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

How are you? I mean, really, *how are you?*

I am tired.

We've spent over two years in and out of lockdowns, isolations and uncertainty. Many of us have juggled caring for children while trying to work from home. We have seen the bravery of front-line workers keeping us safe, fed, clean, cared for and so much more. Families have shared final moments over Zoom, unable to be together. My children ask me when will this be over and my honest answer is, "I am not sure, and I don't know what 'over' looks like."

Within this pandemic tiredness, I am also energized, hopeful and grateful. A vaccine was developed and a mass public health effort actualized. Communities mobilized to share information and supplies. We checked on each other, helped each other through isolations and advocated. The St. Leonard's network exemplified this pandemic strength: we saw affiliates manage seemingly impossible issues of how to isolate people returning to community, sick staff, ever changing public health measures, their own family situations and all in a blanket of uncertainty. You amaze me. Your dedication to the mission of your organizations and the people who call your houses home, is beautiful. Thank you.

I got to ride out this pandemic with a team of amazing Board members. Thank you to Anne, Darrell, Merris, Becky, Samantha, Jim, Alan, Kelly and Merrikay. Our Board team is awesome. They show up fully to meetings, participate in various committees, engage



Catherine Kelly

in difficult conversations with humility and passion, and they are available to staff whenever needed. Many of them represent affiliates and others are members at-large. They always hold the needs of their affiliate and the National with such care, united in a shared commitment to our mission and values. I tell everyone how lucky and grateful I am to share the responsibility of being a Board member with all of you, thank you.

The people in this network are our greatest resource. We love welcoming new members, thank you for joining our work. This year, we needed to say 'see you in a while' to Past President Monica, who leaned out of our Board while she focused on family. Monica led St. Leonard's through big changes and we are grateful for her leadership. We wish them well. Our organization was shocked and heartbroken to say good-bye to Christopher, who passed suddenly in February. As a member of the Hamilton Board and their delegate to SLSC,

Christopher brought his humour, authenticity and dedication to meaningful policy. We miss him.

Our little SLSC community grew when Anita welcomed Marcella in the fall of 2020. Danielle and David kept the National's office running through the first months of the fiscal year while Anita took time to be with family. Thank you to David and Danielle for your amazing work, for your time in our weekly meetings and for your dedication to SLSC. We are lucky to have you. Anita was never too far away, checking in and giving advice when needed, resuming her duties last September. Anita, thank you for your leadership, focus and brilliance. Anita has an amazing ability to see the forest and the trees. The staff of the National delivered new opportunities to affiliates, advanced research and grew our network. They do this while mentoring students, advancing local and national priorities and supporting the Board. Thank you.

Social justice, health equity and racial justice have witnessed historic movements this past year. The awakening to racial harm has led to equity, diversity and inclusion efforts across government, business, organizations and communities. The discovery of bodies on the sites of former residential schools gave new meaning to truth and reconciliation. The pandemic prompted our federal government to provide basic income. Conversations are changing in our country. Perhaps there is hope the public is seeing the structures of oppression that have led to the over-incarceration of so many in the country. We need to imagine a better way.

At last year's AGM, *Be the Light: Sharing Positively in Dark Times*, we passed policies on Restorative Justice and Universal Basic Income. We celebrated worthy award recipients, and established the Elizabeth White Award for Mentorship. We congratulated long-time colleague Michel Gagnon on his retirement from Maison Cross Roads. As always, SLSC will continue to build on and reflect on our responsibility towards our mission and hold-space for issues that are critical to our membership. I look forward to the important conversations we will have as a network, and I hope we can have them in person this coming September in Windsor.

When I started as President, my children (age 3 and 5 at the time) thought we were going to have to move to the White House. While we haven't moved, so much has changed. I wish you all well in the year to come and in whatever ways you are changing. I remain so grateful for my time in this organization, for being able to walk alongside all of you in our shared vision of a more just and humane response to harm.

Sending light and love from the East Coast,

Catherine Kelly
President, SLSC

Executive Director's Report

If I had to summarize 2021-22 in one word for St. Leonard's, it would be: perseverance. Affiliates persevered through constantly evolving challenges, pivoting as needed to ensure that the health and wellbeing of their residents, staff, and community remained the highest priority. Pandemic protocols were tested, and stories of exhausted, dedicated people were never in short supply. Thanks to the perseverance, dedication and commitment of the SLSC Team and our amazing Board of Directors, it was no surprise that our organization was in great shape upon my return to SLSC this past September following my maternity leave. To take a step back each spring and think on the year always makes me marvel at the capability, humanity, and determination of this network to step up to great challenges. It never fails to inspire, this year more than any I can recall.

Over the course of the year, the SLSC team—under the project leadership of Danielle Kouri and research skills of Jocelyne Lemoine—undertook a significant effort with SLSC affiliates to capture needs and lessons learned through the project, *Infrastructure, Intersections, and Innovations: Understanding Community-based Residential Facilities Within a Shifting COVID-19 Landscape*. The project was funded by Public Safety Canada, and the report and its recommendations offer government and other decision makers a spotlight on how to meaningfully address unique challenges within the community corrections sector when gaps in systems are stretched beyond imaginable limits. I am incredibly proud of the collaborative effort



Anita Desai

of each person involved in this project, pulling together resources for affiliates to better meet their service delivery needs, and mobilizing knowledge beyond our network.

As ever, SLSC is grateful to the team at Public Safety Canada for supporting SLSC's national operations through its Grant Program to National Voluntary Organizations. We could not do what we do without their support. SLSC was also incredibly fortunate to work with the Northpine Foundation this past year to direct financial support to affiliates in two ways: creating training opportunities for affiliate staff to better understand the needs of aging and elderly people (made ever-more pertinent by the pandemic); and, to support affiliates with flexible COVID-19 relief funding to meet needs not covered by other sources. SLSC also gratefully acknowledges support from the Canada Summer Jobs program, which gave us the capacity to undertake a first round of much-needed website updating. Just before year-end, that work was allowed to continue in greater depth thanks to

funding through the Prepr Foundation’s “Flexible Upskilling Network (F.U.N.)” program, allowing us to engage a UX (User Experience) Designer, with additional F.U.N. funding in the new year paying for a Web Developer to complete implementation of the new design.

In June, the SLSC Team pulled off yet another impressive Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually. We passed new policies, celebrated award recipients, and announced the creation of the Elizabeth White Award for Mentorship. We even managed to pull together a great social event through a virtual SLSC trivia night! I think the real show stopper, however, was the tribute to Michel Gagnon: a pre-recorded rendition of the Beatles classic “Michelle” adapted and sung by staff and Board colleagues alike to express our heartfelt feelings for his incredible career with Maison Cross Roads. While I know that we are all keen to get back to our in-person AGM gatherings, I must tip my hat to the Team and our Board of Directors for their ability to create engaging experiences no matter the circumstances.

As we wound down the year, we were saddened by the unexpected passing of our colleague Christopher Cutler, who served as The St. Leonard’s Society of Hamilton’s delegate to SLSC’s Board. In addition to his five years of service there, Christopher supported us as Chair of the Policy Review Committee, and always brought a smile and encouragement to our team at every meeting. We miss him dearly, and send our condolences to those within and beyond his community in Hamilton that he loved so much.

I submit this report to our membership with gratitude for those who stepped up during

my leave over the past year, especially SLSC’s President Catherine Ann Kelly who took on an exceptional leadership role so that I could focus on my growing family. Catherine is set to conclude her term as President in the upcoming year, and I cannot thank her enough for her incredible support, guidance, and leadership over the past three years. I must also thank Past President Monica Ross, who has stepped away from SLSC’s Board to focus on her family’s needs. Her many contributions to SLSC are significant after more than a decade as a Director, and we appreciate the leadership she so graciously provided to us during her tenure. I truly value each Director who always bring their unique perspective and insight to our work: Alan, Anne, Becky, Darrell, Jim, Kelly, Merrikay, Merris, and Samantha. Thank you!

As we look to the coming year, there is so much work to do within the scope of our mission—perhaps now more than ever. I know I will continue to rely on the amazing team at SLSC: David Whiteley, Danielle Kouri, Dallas Dawson, and the incredible placement students and volunteers that dedicate their time and talents to ensuring we meet our objectives. My most sincere thanks to each of you for your contributions to SLSC. As we continue to persevere through the challenges we’ve faced in our own unique and collective ways, there is value in recognizing the resilience that comes from facing them. In whatever way you are connected with St. Leonard’s Society of Canada and its affiliates, I hope that this message finds you honouring your resilience.

Anita Desai
Executive Director, SLSC

Membership and Support Adhésion et soutien

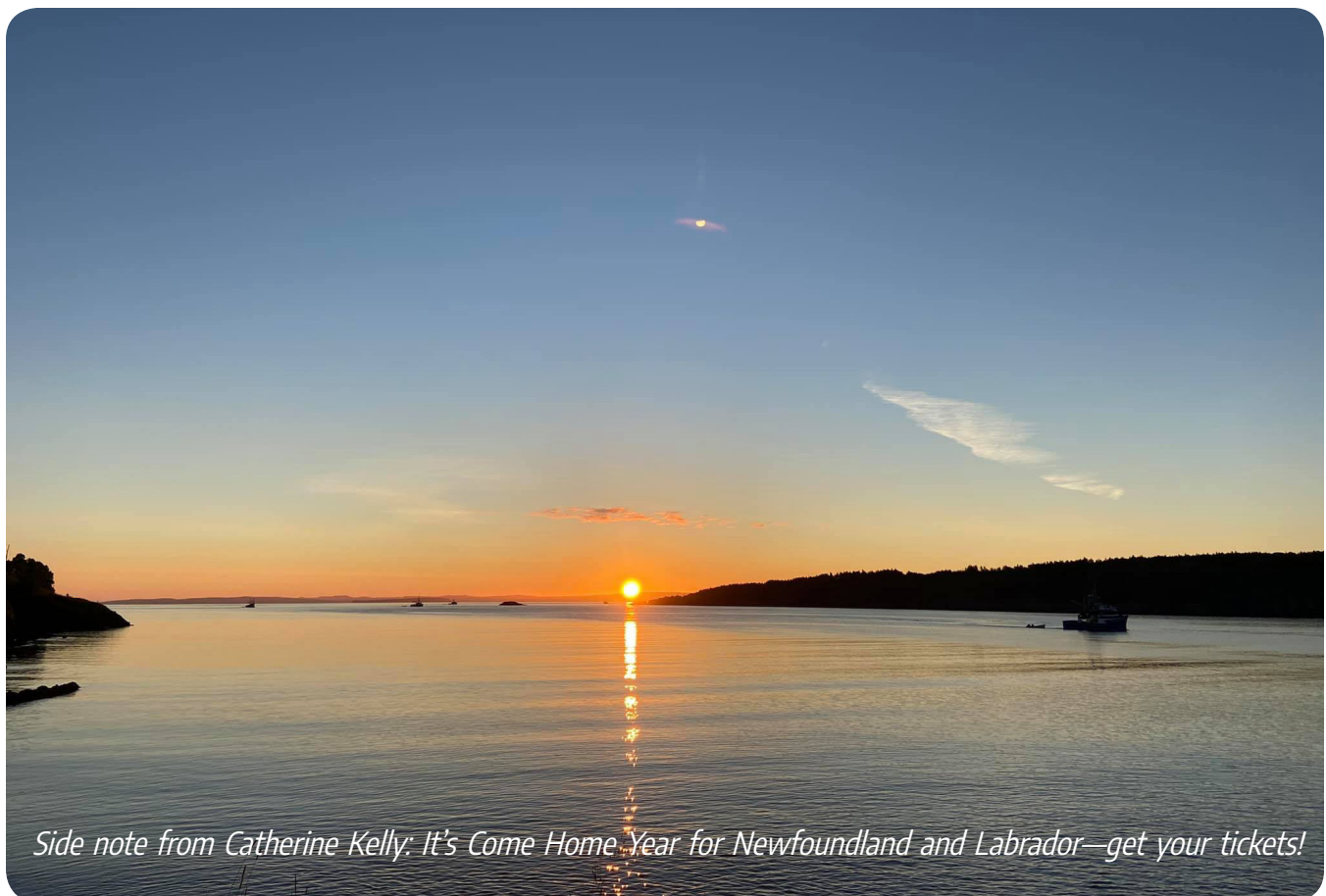
We would like to thank the many individuals and organizations whose generous support over the past year as members or donors helped us to carry out our mission and goals.

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.

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

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

photo: Catherine Kelly





**St. Leonard's
Society
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2021-2022

Board of Directors Conseil d'administration

Merris Centomo
Christopher Cutler
Rebecca Howse
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Samantha McAleese
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Kelly Nolan

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Staff, Placement Students & Volunteers Équipe, stagiaires et bénévoles

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Jocelyne Lemoine
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David Whiteley
Teisha Williams

Affiliate Members | Organismes Affiliés

Alberta Seventh Step Society (Calgary)
House of Hope (Ottawa)
Maison Cross Roads (Montréal)
St. Leonard's Community Services
London & Region
St. Leonard's Community Support,
Prevention and Residential
Services (Trenton)

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

Audited Financial Statements available on request

registered charitable organization

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États financiers vérifiés disponibles sur demande

organisme de bienfaisance reconnu

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