

COMPUTATION OF CITY OF HALIFAX CLAIM AGAINST HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION
FOR CURRENT TAXES ON TOTAL ASSESSMENT. AND OTHER ITEMS
FOR PERIOD 1922-23 TO 1957 INCLUSIVE

			<u>TAX DOLLARS</u>
TOTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PERIOD 1922-23 TO 1957 INCLUSIVE -----	\$ 32,096,430.00	AT RELATING TAX RATES -----	\$ 1,275,020.93
FIXED ASSESSMENT FOR PERIOD 1922-23 TO 1957 INCLUSIVE -----	13,842,450.00	AT RELATING TAX RATES (PAID TO CITY OF HALIFAX) -----	544,281.38
TOTAL EXEMPTED ASSESSMENT -----	\$ 18,253,980.00	DIFFERENCE IN TAX REVENUE -----	\$ 730,739.55
		INTEREST 4% PER ANNUM FOR PERIOD 1922-23 TO 1957 INCLUSIVE -----	\$ 623,305.68
		IN SETTLEMENT OF OUR CLAIM DATED JANUARY 13, 1927, 1/3 OF THE CITY OF HALIFAX CLAIM WAS NOT ALLOWED -----	\$ 170,256.84
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE CITY OF HALIFAX -----			\$ 1,524,302.07

March 10, 1958.

HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

BALANCE SHEET

NOVEMBER 30, 1955

ASSETS

Properties (book value)			\$ 170,479.85
Investments:			
Bonds and debentures (book value).....	\$17,725.00		
Mortgages receivable and agreements of sale.....	\$517,289.85		
LESS:			
Allowance for discount on sale price of houses sold.....	30,850.10	486,439.75	1,304,164.75
Furniture, fixtures and equipment.....	9,207.32		
LESS:			
Accumulated allowance for depreciation.....	8,651.85	555.47	
Current Assets:			
Cash on hand and in bank.....	23,184.21		
Interest accrued on bonds and debentures.....	16,185.03		
Accounts receivable.....	188.25		
LESS:			
Allowance for uncollected rents.....	187.25	1.00	39,370.24
Deferred Charges:			
Insurance premiums unexpired.....	295.23		
Supplies and materials on hand	237.88	533.11	
			<u>\$ 1,515,103.42</u>

LIABILITIES

Pension fund account.....			\$ 1,095,276.80
General reserve.....	106,341.15		
Surplus arising from sale of properties....	271,577.85		
LESS:			
Expended to date in connection with develop- ment of Memorial Park.....	146,978.64	124,599.21	230,940.36
			<u>1,326,217.16</u>
Reserve for loss by fire on uninsured properties.....			76,288.70
Contributions to staff Superannuation Fund, less payments to retired staff			110,891.55
Accounts payable			1,706.01
			<u>\$ 1,515,103.42</u>

HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AS AT NOVEMBER 30, 1955

GRANTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVENUE

Federal Government Grants	\$ 18,000,000.00	
Imperial Government Grants	4,815,000.00	
Insurance contributions.....	348,792.78	
Other contributions.....	<u>4,006,240.38</u>	27,170,053.16
Net revenue as at November 30, 1955		2,924,207.73

\$30,094,240.89

EXPENDITURES

Emergency relief	\$ 3,970,808.76	
Claims and reconstruction.....	<u>20,231,727.45</u>	\$ 24,202,536.21
Pensions and Medical services as at November 30, 1955		4,665,086.73
Leaving available for the payment of pensions and Medical services, etc.....		1,226,617.95

\$ 30,094,240.89

HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>PLUS H.W.T.</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>	<u>FIXED ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>PLUS H.W.T.</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>
1922-3	\$ 1,100,000.	3.10	1/10 of 1%	35,200.00	Exempted	3.10	1/10 of 1%	---
1923-4	1,100,000.	3.25	"	36,850.00	"	3.25	"	---
1924-5	1,100,000.	2.99	"	33,990.00	"	2.99	"	---
1925-6	1,000,000.	3.08	"	31,800.00	"	3.08	"	---
1926-7	750,000.	3.24	"	25,050.00	"	3.24	"	---
1927-8	1,000,000.	3.39	"	34,900.00	500,000.	3.39	"	17,450.00
1928-9	1,000,000.	3.55	"	36,500.00	500,000.	3.55	"	18,250.00
1929-30	1,000,000.	3.46	"	35,600.00	500,000.	3.46	"	17,800.00
1930-31	1,000,000.	3.46	"	35,600.00	500,000.	3.46	"	17,800.00
1931-32	1,000,000.	3.45	"	36,500.00	500,000.	3.45	"	17,750.00
1932-33	1,000,000.	3.40	"	35,000.00	500,000.	3.40	"	17,500.00
1933-34	1,000,000.	3.40	"	35,000.00	473,000.	3.40	"	16,555.00
1934-35	1,000,000.	3.46	"	35,600.00	497,775.	3.46	"	17,720.80
1935-36	1,100,000.	3.56	"	40,260.00	496,775.	3.56	"	18,182.19
1936-37	1,100,000.	3.53	"	39,930.00	496,750.	3.53	"	18,032.28
1937-38	1,100,000.	3.62	"	40,920.00	500,000.	3.62	"	18,600.00
1938-39	1,100,000.	3.71	"	41,910.00	450,000.	3.71	"	17,145.00
1939-40	1,100,000.	3.72	"	42,020.00	400,000.	3.72	"	15,280.00
1940-41	1,100,000.	3.74	"	42,240.00	400,000.	3.74	"	15,360.00
1941-42	1,100,000.	3.74	"	42,240.00	400,000.	3.74	"	15,360.00
1942-43	1,176,700.	3.78	"	45,655.96	500,000.	3.78	"	19,400.00

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSMENT</u>		<u>RATE PLUS H.W.T.</u>		<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>	<u>FIXED ASSESSMENT</u>		<u>RATE PLUS H.W.T.</u>		<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>
1952	15,000.	B.R.	10.06	NIL		15,000.	B.R.	10.06	NIL	
	234,900.	R.R.	3.50	"	9,730.50	234,900.	R.R.	3.50	"	9,730.50
1953	15,000.	B.R.	10.17	"		15,000.	B.R.	10.17	"	
	185,100.	R.R.	3.72	"	8,411.22	185,100.	R.R.	3.72	"	8,411.22
1954	15,000.	B.R.	10.19	"		15,000.	B.R.	10.19	"	
	169,400.	R.R.	3.74	"	7,864.06	169,400.	R.R.	3.74	"	7,864.06
1955	15,000.	B.R.	9.95	"		15,000.	B.R.	9.95	"	
	152,000.	R.R.	3.73	"	7,196.60	152,000.	R.R.	3.73	"	7,196.60
1956	18,300.	B.R.	4.85	"		18,300.	B.R.	4.85	"	
	436,000.	R.R.	1.50	"	7,427.55	436,000.	R.R.	1.50	"	7,427.55
1957	28,700.	B.R.	4.85	"		25,850.	B.R.	4.85	"	
	502,500.	R.R.	1.85	"	10,688.20	453,200.	R.R.	1.85	"	9,637.93
					<u>\$ 1,275,020.93</u>					
<u>\$32,096,430.</u>						<u>\$13,842,450.</u>				
						<u>\$ 544,281.38</u>				

COMPILED DEC. 31/57.

HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION


<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>PLUS H.W.T.</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>	<u>FIXED ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>PLUS H.W.T.</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>
1922-3	\$ 1,100,000.	3.10	1/10 of 1%	35,200.00	Exempted	3.10	1/10 of 1%	—
1923-4	1,100,000.	3.25	"	36,850.00	"	3.25	"	—
1924-5	1,100,000.	2.99	"	33,990.00	"	2.99	"	—
1925-6	1,000,000.	3.08	"	31,800.00	"	3.08	"	—
1926-7	750,000.	3.24	"	25,050.00	"	3.24	"	—
1927-8	1,000,000.	3.39	"	34,900.00	500,000.	3.39	"	17,450.00
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1930-31	1,000,000.	3.46	"	35,600.00	500,000.	3.46	"	17,800.00
1931-32	1,000,000.	3.45	"	36,500.00	500,000.	3.45	"	17,750.00
1932-33	1,000,000.	3.40	"	35,000.00	500,000.	3.40	"	17,500.00
1933-34	1,000,000.	3.40	"	35,000.00	473,000.	3.40	"	16,555.00
1934-35	1,000,000.	3.46	"	35,600.00	497,775.	3.46	"	17,720.80
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<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSESSMENT</u>		<u>RATE</u>	<u>PLUS H.W.T.</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>	<u>FIXED ASSESSMENT</u>		<u>RATE</u>	<u>PLUS H.W.T.</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>
1943-4	1,171,700. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	4.25	1/10 of 1%	52,148.95	495,000. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	4.25	1/10 of 1%	21,712.50
1944-5	1,148,800. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	4.85	"	57,045.60	495,000. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	4.85	"	24,682.50
1945	1,147,400. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	4.75	"	55,828.90	495,000. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	4.75	"	24,187.50
1946	1,124,230. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	5.25	"	60,326.31	495,000. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	5.25	"	26,662.50
1947	1,103,050. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	6.82	"	76,511.06	445,000. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	6.82	"	30,974.00
1948	1,203,050. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	6.63	NIL	81,145.27	445,000. B.R.	5,000. R.R.	6.63	NIL	29,678.50
1949	28,500. B.R.	713,650. R.R.	6.80	"	26,915.75	28,500. B.R.	713,650. R.R.	6.80	"	26,915.75
1950	18,500. B.R.	507,050. R.R.	6.75	"	18,995.50	18,500. B.R.	507,050. R.R.	6.75	"	18,995.50
1951	15,000. B.R.	308,700. R.R.	8.10	"	12,019.50	15,000. B.R.	308,700. R.R.	8.10	"	12,019.50

Mr. A. A. DeBard, Jr., City Manager,
L. M. Romkey, Commissioner of Finance,
January 9, 1958

Our local Member of Parliament, Mr. Edmund Morris, called me on the telephone yesterday from Ottawa and told me that at the moment it was impossible to get reservations at any Hotel in Ottawa for the present and up to and including January 19th, also that it was not convenient for me to go through certain files which the City of Halifax are interested in at the present time, so therefore he is reserving a room at the Chateau Laurier, starting the night of January 19th, and is arranging an appointment for me on Monday, January 20th. This he is confirming by letter, so therefore I will be leaving by air on Sunday, January 19th, for Ottawa, to secure the information which the Finance Committee requests, on a certain subject.

LMR/N


L. M. ROMKEY
COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE

✓
Copy to —His Worship Charles A. Vaughan



To: His Worship, Mayor C. A. Vaughan,
From: City Assessor, J. F. Thomson,
Date: January 2, 1958.
Subject: Halifax Relief Commission.

Further to your request regarding taxation on the property
of the above named Commission, the following information is
submitted:

Total taxes payable on the
property from 1922 to 1957:

At the residential rate	...	\$ 1,127,110.77.
At the merged rate	...	\$ 1,261,223.20.

JFT/MP

CITY ASSESSOR.

COMMENTS RE THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION.

March 11, 1957.

Some few years ago I made an examination of the financial status of The Halifax Relief Commission, as it was always my impression that the City was not fully reimbursed for the claim they submitted to the Commission, after the Disaster.

As there was some doubt of the ability of the Commission to pay the claim, and still retain sufficient funds to take care of the Pensioners, the claim for the full amount was dropped in favour of the Pensioners.

At the ^{previous} time, I looked into the matter, I was fully satisfied that there was sufficient money to take care of the Pensioners, with sufficient left to provide the City with a substantial sum.

About that time, I had occasion to go to Ottawa, on City business together with two other Aldermen and Mr. J. F. MacManus, who was then City Assessor.

A meeting was arranged for us with Mr. Abbot, then Minister of Finance, by Senator G. B. Isnor.

Mr. Abbot provided us with a full opportunity of presenting our case and advised us that he would be willing to recommend that the City be paid from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per year, out of the surplus funds of the Commission if Dr. Clark, the Deputy Minister agreed. However, Dr. Clark, later, disagreed with the proposal and the matter was dropped.

As far as the writer was concerned the matter was not forgotten but shelved for further discussion.

I have now before me the financial statement of the Commission for 1955. Statement for 1956 has not yet been issued.

However, the 1955 statement presents sufficient data that makes one feel that the matter might again be presented.

I find that the assets show a value of \$1,511,915.00 while the sum of \$1,082,628.00 has been set up as a reserve for payment to pensioners agreed to by the Department of Pensions as being sufficient on a 2% basis (which is a very low yield to-day)

The surplus, therefore, from the statement, which I claim is a very conservative one, shows as \$429,287.00.

continued.....

I base my claim to the statement being ultra conservative on various factors.

1st. Amongst the assets are unsold properties listed as follows:-

	<u>VALUE SHOWN ON STATEMENT</u>	<u>MY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE.</u>
1 - 4 ¹ / ₂ roomed house	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
1- 5 ¹ / ₂ " "	2,200.00	5,500.00
16 - Four roomed flats	64,000.00	128,000.00
11- 5 ¹ / ₂ " "	49,500.00	99,000.00
2- 6 to 7 " "	11,000.00	18,000.00
Business Property	15,000.00	30,000.00
4 Wooden Houses	20,700.00	40,000.00
Vacant Land	<u>3,856.00</u>	<u>3,856.00</u>
	\$168,256.00	\$329,356.00

The above shows an increase in market value over book value of slightly over \$160,000.00 and might be much greater, if there is any appreciable amount of land *to be sold.*

The actual surplus, at this point, is therefore not less than \$589,000.00

continued.....

We now come to pensioners allowances and fund provided to take care of same based on a 2% table. This fund may be quite high when one considers that the explosion took place forty years ago and the largest amount of the pensions is payable to widows and for general disability, the former (50) \$44,598.00 and the latter (24) \$12,912.00.

There is no information regarding ages, but it must be reasonable to assume that in the case of widows the average age would be not less than 65 and that, with normal life expectancy, payment for these pensioners will be reduced fairly rapidly.

In the case of those receiving pensions for eye disability the number was 102 at the end of 1955 and the total payment \$28,225.00 per year. This is no doubt lower to-day.

OPERATION COSTS.

At the present there appears to be 36 properties managed and owned by the Commission from which a total revenue of \$28,368.00 is shown as being received, while against same for taxes, repairs etc. is the amount of \$29,172.00.

I shall not comment on this but would point out that if those properties were sold for the amount I have suggested as being reasonable, the Commission would have an income of over \$15,000.00 yearly (at 5%) instead of the small loss it has shown.

The small loss does not take into consideration the cost of administration.

The administration is seemingly responsible for collecting amounts due through agreement of sale, managing the 36 properties and issuing cheques to about 175 pensioners, about 100 monthly and about 75 half yearly.

All of this could be handled by a Trust Company for less than \$5,000.00 per year, while the actual cost under Commission management is, in part, as follows

Please see page 4.

continued - cost under Commission management

Salaries & Stipends	\$13,720.00
Printing & Stationary	613.00
Lighting & heating	718.00
Insurance	66.00
Telephone	136.00
Postage	176.00
Audit fee	1,200.00
General office expense	1,311.00
TOTAL	<u>\$17,940.00</u>

Difference between estimate of Trust Company cost and Commission Cost about \$13,000.00 per annum.

The total yearly cost, as at the end of 1955 to Pensioners (since reduced) was:-

Widows & dependents	\$44,598.00
General Disability	12,912.00
Eye Disability	28,225.00
	<u>\$85,735.00</u>

The total cost of management, if remaining properties were sold and operated by a Trust Company would be

Revenue from Securities	\$35,000.00	
Additional revenue after sale of remaining properties	15,000.00	
Net Savings through Trust Co. management (\$13,000.-\$5000)	<u>8,000.00</u>	
	\$58,000.00	<u>58,000.00</u>
		<u>\$27,735.00</u>

continued.....

If securities were sold and money invested in first mortgages there would be almost sufficient income to pay the yearly amount due the pensioners to-day and when all the pensioners were paid off the present capital of about \$1,500,000.00, would be intact, in fact it should be considerably greater, under Trust Company management and due to the fact that the amount paid for pensions decreases yearly.

In this respect, it is noted that nine pensioners died during 1955. On this mortality basis the fund could easily carry the payments to pensioners without taking money from capital account, within the next four or five years under Trust Company management and also without any change in present investment ~~properties~~, but subject to sale of remaining properties. ^{Portfolio}

No reflection is intended, in these comments, upon the management and, should the time ever come, that the changes I have suggested were brought about, I feel that those responsible for carrying on this commission, and have followed the wishes of the Finance Department of the Federal Government, should be fairly compensated and if the present pension fund of \$120,024.68 as at 1955 is not sufficiently large, it could be augmented from Capital, without dangerously impairing the Capital Account.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. DeWolf.

Relief Commission
File

December 12, 1955.

Mr. S. J. Perkins,
Room 5,
19 East Canon Perdido Street,
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge your letter of December 6. After checking with the Halifax Relief Commission I find that (1) those killed numbered 1635, (2) injured were 9000 and (3) 199 lost their eyesight during the Halifax Explosion. These apparently are the actual figures the Commission has on record.

Yours very truly,

L. A. Kitz,
MAYOR.

LAK:HW.

November 9, 1955.

The Honourable W. E. Harris,
Minister of Finance,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Harris: Re: Halifax Relief Commission

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of
October 26.

The City of Halifax has a bi-tax system.
Persons who live in their own homes pay at the rate
of \$3.50, all others at the rate of \$9.95.

It was only the last few years indeed that
we received payment at the \$3.50 rate prior to that we
got a much smaller contribution.

We are also anxious to see a large lot of
land ideally suited for industrial purposes, which is
owned by the Commission put to that purpose.

Yours very truly,

L. A. Kitz,
MAYOR.

LAK:HW.

W. J. Perkins
Room 5,
19 EAST CANON PERDIDO STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
December 6, 1955.

RECEIVED

DEC 9 1955

The Mayor,
City Hall,
Halifax, N.S.
Canada.

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Your Honour:

On this 28th anniversary of Halifax Explosion I, as one of the closest survivors, would like to know the official casualty figures of that disaster. Reference books at our library give the death toll as anything from 1200 to 1800 but I would like to use more authentic figures in a talk I am preparing. There were, at the time, fantastic rumours of the number of people blinded by flying glass, but I don't suppose you would have any data on that.

Would you be so kind as to advise me by return AIR MAIL, the most official figures of (1) killed, (2) injured and, if available, (3) loss of eyesight. *1635* *90-1-2*

199
Thank you in anticipation.

Respectfully yours,



S. J. Perkins



To Mr. Durr.

Ottawa 4,
October 26, 1955.

His Worship,
Mayor L. A. Kitz,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mayor Kitz:

Referring to your letter of September 16th, I have received a reply from the Halifax Relief Commission regarding the payment of taxes to the City of Halifax.

I am advised by the Chairman that the Commission is paying the regular rate of \$3.50 per hundred on the assessed value of their properties, being the same rate the City would charge if all the properties they hold were privately and separately owned. Accordingly, I find it difficult to understand your statement that "we hope that the Commission may be terminated before too long or at least, this body called upon to pay normal taxation".

Yours very truly,

H. E. Harris

RECEIVED

OCT 26 1955

ACK
MAYOR'S OFFICE



CANADA
MINISTER
OF
PUBLIC WORKS

September 23, 1955

His Worship L.A. Kitz,
Mayor of Halifax,
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Kitz:

Thank you for your letter of September 8, 1955, in which you brought to my attention the tax condition which exists in Halifax with respect to the Halifax Relief Commission.

Since receiving your letter, I have had an opportunity of discussing this matter here in Ottawa with John Dickey. It's also under review by the Department of Finance and I shall probably be in a position to provide you with further information on this subject in due course.

Yours very truly,

Robert H. Winters

RECEIVED

SEP 28 1955
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ACK
MAYOR'S OFFICE

September 23, 1955.

Honourable Walter Harris,
Minister of Finance,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Honourable Sir: Re: Halifax Relief Commission

I thank you for your letter of September 22 and await your reply with interest after you have had an opportunity of obtaining a report from the Chairman of the Commission.

Yours very truly,

L. A. Kitz,
MAYOR.

LAK:HW.



Ottawa 4,
September 22, 1955.

His Worship,
Mayor L. A. Kitz,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mayor Kitz:

I have your letter of September 26th with reference to the payment of taxes by the Halifax Relief Commission.

I am looking into this question and will write to you when I get a report from the Chairman of the Commission.

Yours very truly,

RECEIVED

SEP 23 1955

ACK

23
MAYOR'S OFFICE

September 16, 1955.

Honourable Walter Harris,
Minister of Finance,
House of Commons,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

Dear Sir:

A few days ago I sent the following letter
to Mr. Robert Winters:

"The Relief Commission owns considerable amount
of property in this City and they pay a percentage
of taxes only on this property. I have been instructed
by the Halifax City Council to enquire what plans the
Government has regarding the Halifax Relief Commission,
a body which was set up after the Halifax Explosion,
which occurred on December 6, 1917. I believe the
Commission has funds in which to carry out their pension
commitments and we hope that the Commission may be ter-
minated before too long or at least, this body called
upon to pay normal taxation.

I may just add, those surpluses which the Commission
built up through the years can be traced to the tax
exemptions on their rented properties, which they held in
this City."

I have since learned that the Relief Commission
comes under your jurisdiction and I would be pleased if
you would be good enough to consider the purport of the
above letter.

Yours very truly,

L. A. Kitz,
MAYOR.

LAK:HW.

Dictated Sept. 15/55.

*Spoke - personally
mayor.*



House of Commons
Canada

September 13, 1955

Mayor L. A. Kitz,
Halifax,
N. S.

Your Worship:-

Re- Halifax Relief Commission ✓

Thank you for the copy of the letter sent to Hon. R. H. Winters re the above. Mr. Dickey and I have discussed the matter of the Relief Commission several times with the former Minister of Finance.

This organization actually comes under his jurisdiction. On receipt of a reply by you from the Minister of Public Works (Bob is now Public Works) we will go into this further with you.

Yours very truly,

S. R. Balcom

SAMUEL R. BALCOM,
M.P. Halifax
Canada's Eastern Gateway
to World Markets.

SRB:s

Cross filed - Robt. H. Winters file

September 8, 1955.

Hon. Robert H. Winters,
Minister of Resources and Development,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Minister:

The Relief Commission owns considerable amount of property in this City and they pay a percentage of taxes only on this property. I have been instructed by the Halifax City Council to enquire what plans the Government has regarding the Halifax Relief Commission, a body which was set up after the Halifax Explosion, which occurred on December 6, 1917. I believe the Commission has funds in which to carry out their pension commitments and we hope that the Commission may be terminated before too long or at least, this body called upon to pay normal taxation.

I may just add, these surpluses which the Commission built up through the years can be traced to the tax exemptions on their rented properties, which they hold in this City.

Yours very truly,

L. A. Kitz,
MAYOR.

LAK/HW

COPIES to Hon. J. H. Dickey,
Hon. S. R. Balcom.

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION ✓

139 YOUNG STREET
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

June 2, 1955.

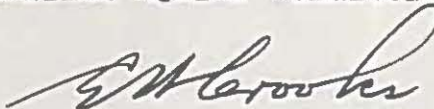
His Worship,
Mayor A. Kitz,
City of Halifax,
City Hall,
City.

Your Worship:

Your request that the Halifax Relief Commission pay to the City of Halifax, municipal taxes based on the \$9.95 rate, for the property the Commission holds in this City was deferred until our next meeting, as we did not have a full meeting of our Commission.

Yours truly,

Halifax Relief Commission.



E. W. CROOKS.
SECRETARY-MANAGER.

EWC/Y.

*make temporary file
Relief and Extension*

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

139 YOUNG STREET

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

MS N-11

May 16, 1955.

His Worship,
Mayor L. A. Kitz,
City of Halifax,
City Hall,
City.

Your Worship:

We acknowledge your letter of May 13th,
requesting that the Commission pay to the City of Halifax,
Municipal taxes based on the \$9.95 rate, for the year 1955.

This request will be considered at the
next meeting of the Commission, and we will then inform you
of our views on this matter.

Yours truly,
Halifax Relief Commission.



E. W. CROOKS.
SECRETARY-MANAGER.

EWG/Y.

May 13, 1955

Halifax Relief Commission,
139 Young Street,
Halifax, N. S.

Attn: Mr. Crooks, Secretary

Gentlemen:-

There is a resolution of the Halifax City Council requesting that your body pay to the City of Halifax Municipal Taxes based on the \$9.95 rate, for the property you hold in this City, for the year 1955.

I am accordingly requesting that you do so, and I would appreciate your comments.

Yours very truly,

L. A. Kitz,
MAYOR

LAK/en

67
SEPTEMBER 11, 1952

MR. F. M. BUTCHER,
SECRETARY HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION,
139 YOUNG STREET,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

DEAR MR. BUTCHER:

I HAVE FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT YOUR LETTER OF
SEPTEMBER 3RD RE THE OLD ABATTOIR PROPERTY
SITUATED ON A LANE LEADING FROM GOTTINGEN STREET
TO ROBIE STREET.

I HAVE MADE ENQUIRIES AND HAVE ASCERTAINED
THAT THIS PROPERTY WAS LEASED TO THE MARDEN
WILD COMPANY UNDER A LEASE WHICH WILL NOT
EXPIRE UNTIL THE 11TH OF JUNE, 1956. IT IS
APPRECIATED THAT THIS IS A SOMEWHAT UNSIGHTLY
BUILDING, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IN ITS PRESENT
USE IT GIVES MUCH NEEDED EMPLOYMENT TO RESIDENTS
OF THIS CITY.

BECAUSE OF THIS LEASE, THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE
ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN IN THIS MATTER WHILE
THIS LEASE IS OUTSTANDING.

YOURS VERY TRULY,

R. A. DONAHOE,
M A Y O R

RAD/MGV

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

139 YOUNG STREET

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

September 3rd, 1952.

His Worship Mayor Richard A. Donohoe,
City of Halifax,
City Hall,
City.

Your Worship:

The Halifax Relief Commission subdivided an area known as the old Hartlen property, Robie Street, and has disposed of almost all of the building lots.

The subdivision consisted of sixty-four lots of an average size of 50 x 100. We adjusted our price to make it attractive to buyers, and all lots were sold with sewer and water installed at an average price of \$625.00.

The area is commencing to show real development, and it will, in a few years, be a very attractive residential section, and this is particularly so, because of the scenic view of Bedford Basin.

The Commission is anxious to do all it can to help the people, secure the most for their investment, but there is a factor which will always tend to cheapen these properties as long as it remains in its present position.

We are anxious to know what steps the City might take, or which might be taken by us, to remove the very dilapidated stone building at the northern end of Robie Street, used we understand, as a warehouse for an oil business, refining fish oils and the like. It is suggested that the people in this neighbourhood would be very appreciative of some early effort by the City to arrange for the demolition of this building.

We have taken the liberty of addressing copies of this letter to Aldermen Allen and Vaughan of ward six, and have asked them for their good offices to carry through this proposal in accordance with some planned date.

We also ask for your personal assistance in the matter, and would appreciate hearing from you after you have had

....over

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

125 YOUNG STREET

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

His Worship Mayor Richard A. Donohoe.

September 2nd, 1918.

an opportunity of consulting the appropriate committee.

Yours truly,
Halifax Relief Commission.

F. M. Butcher
F. M. BUTCHER.
SECRETARY.

FME/Y.

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

139 YOUNG STREET
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

August 17yj, 1951.

Alderman J. G. DeWolfe,
City Hall,
City.

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Commission held on August 7th, 1951, your letter of August 3rd, regarding the possibility of using the open space at the corners of Devonshire Avenue, Kaye Street (lane), and Barrington Streets for commercial purposes, was read and discussed.

As all open spaces included in the Halifax Relief Commission town planning scheme were intended for use by the City for parks, playgrounds, etc., we feel that we would have to first find out from the City, if they had any objection to the Halifax Relief Commission disposing of this piece of land in the way you suggest.

As soon as we receive word from the City, will let you know.

Yours truly,
Halifax Relief Commission.


F. M. BUTCHER.
SECT'Y-TREAS.

FMB/Y.



House of Commons
Canada

Ottawa, Ontario,
February 5th, 1949.

Alderman J.G. DeWolf,
436 Barrington Street,
Halifax, N.S.

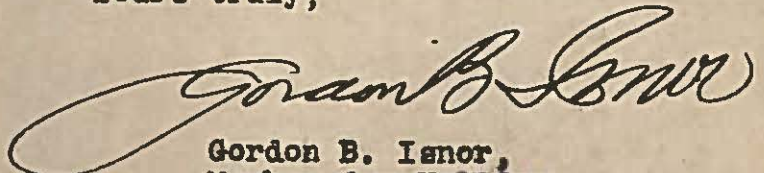
Re: Halifax Relief Commission.

Dear Mr. DeWolf:

While I did not bring my complete 1948 files with me to Ottawa, I am quite familiar with the Halifax Relief situation as the Honourable R.G. Beazley, Chairman, along with the two Commissioners, were good enough to invite my Colleague, John Dickey, and ~~me~~ to meet with them prior to our departure for Ottawa and discuss the various phases of their present and future plans and also the question of the sale of houses, and no steps which they were taking would lead me to think that eventually the area would develop into a slum section. I rather felt that they were endeavouring to meet the city's wishes and particularly those expressed by Alderman Sullivan and yourself in regard to the attached properties as they fully realize the difficulty of making individual sales of this particular type of property.

My suggestion before sending ^{a delegation} ~~an application~~ to Ottawa would be that you arrange a conference with the Chairman and Commissioners of the Halifax Relief Commission to discuss the points raised in your telegram. In the meantime, I have advised Mr. Beazley that, after conference, if you still feel that a trip to Ottawa is necessary, I will be available at any time.

Yours truly,



Gordon B. Isnor,
Member for Halifax.

GBI/MB.



House of Commons
Canada

OTTAWA, October 23, 1948.

Alderman J. G. de Wolf,
C/o City Hall,
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia.

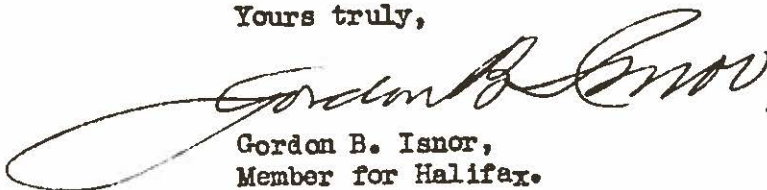
Dear Gerry:

So that you will know we did not overlook the Halifax Relief question when in Ottawa, wish to advise you that my colleague and I took up this matter with the Honourable D.C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, and went over it quite fully.

His first concern was, naturally, that full provision be made for the pensioners.

In respect to the houses, I have every reason to believe that he is quite prepared to enter into an agreement with the City, whereby the City will take over the houses subject to the rights of the present tenants and other rights which the Halifax Relief Commission might feel necessary to safeguard their interests.

Yours truly,



Gordon B. Isnor,
Member for Halifax.

GBI:MM

232 Roy Building.
XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX

September 29th, 1949.

Gordon B. Isnor, Esq. M. P.
Parliament Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Isnor:-

As you may recall, in February last, Alderman Sullivan, Mr. McManus, the City Assessor and the writer visited Ottawa for the purpose of discussing matters in respect to The Halifax Relief Commission (a ward of the Department of Finance).

You and Mr. Dickie very kindly arranged a meeting with Mr. Abbott, The Minister of Finance, and we all appreciated the cordial reception.

You may again recall, that The Minister advised us that he would take up the matter at an early date with Dr. Clark, the Deputy Minister, but at that particular time Dr. Clark was extremely busy on The Budget.

The Minister advised that he would recommend that a substantial sum of from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per annum be allowed the City in respect to their claims. This information was passed on to the City Council, on our return.

The writer is not being critical, as even the ordinary man can appreciate the matters of tremendous importance confronting the Minister and his Deputy ever since that time.

However, is there not someone in the Department to whom authority might be delegated, for the matter to be further considered?

The writer has asked many times for a list of pensioners (the individual names are not important, if it is secret information) the amount paid to each per annum, the age of each and the nature of disability.

Gordon B. Isnor, Esq. M. P.

September 29th, 1949

There are now less than 250 pensioners and a list leaving out names should not take very long to prepare.

We have not received a copy of last years financial report, a copy of this would also be greatly appreciated.

I would imagine about half the properties owned by the commission have now been sold, so it should not be very difficult to arrive at some definite conclusion as to the future, and as we have represented many times, we do feel that the City of Halifax should receive full consideration after pensioners have been amply secured.

Thanking you for your help in the past and trusting, when convenient, that you will further advise me re above.

With kindest personal regards to you and Mr. Dickie,
I am,

Yours very truly,

J. G. DeWolf.

JGD/p.

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

139 YOUNG STREET

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

May 21, 1949.

67

To His Worship,
Mayor Gordon S. Kinley,
Mayor of Halifax,
Halifax,
N. S.

Your Worship:-

The Mail-Star of May 20, carried a report that at a meeting of the Fort Needham Park Commission held on the previous day, you were authorized to arrange an early meeting with the Commission, its technical advisors, and the Fort Needham Park Commission.

The proposal made by the Halifax Relief Commission, as discussed with your Commission on April 7, made it clear that if and when our proposal was accepted by City Council, (this became effective on May 12, 1949), the Halifax Relief Commission would advance its plans through consultations with its technical advisors, following which the Relief Commission would call the Fort Needham Park Commission to a meeting.

Yours very truly,
Halifax Relief Commission,



R. G. BEAZLEY,
CHAIRMAN.

RGB/Y.

67

APRIL 21, 1949

HON. R. G. BEAZLEY,
CHAIRMAN, HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION,
9 COLLEGE STREET,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

DEAR MR. BEAZLEY:

I WAS VERY MUCH DISAPPOINTED WITH THE STORY
RELATING TO THE GENEROUS OFFER OF THE HALIFAX
RELIEF COMMISSION REGARDING FORT NEEDHAM.
THE PAPER CERTAINLY DID NOT PRINT THE STORY
AS I GAVE IT TO THEM.

I ADVISED THEM OF YOUR PLANS, POINTING OUT
THAT IT WAS THE RELIEF COMMISSION'S MEMORIAL
TO THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE
GREAT CATASTROPHE OF 1917. I FELT BADLY
WHEN I READ THE ARTICLE BECAUSE I WANTED THE
RELIEF COMMISSION TO HAVE FULL CREDIT FOR
PROVIDING SOMETHING THAT THIS CITY HAS LONG
SOUGHT.

I FELT THAT I SHOULD DROP THIS LITTLE NOTE TO
YOU, EXPLAINING THAT IT WAS MY DESIRE TO SHOW
APPRECIATION OF YOUR KIND OFFER.

YOURS VERY TRULY,

JOHN E. AHERN
M A Y O R

JEA/mcv

67

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

139 YOUNG STREET
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

April 11, 1949.

Mayor J. E. Ahern,
Mayor of Halifax,
City Hall,
City.

Your Worship:

In accordance with your request we confirm our proposal to finance certain permanent improvements of Fort Needham as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the disaster of December 6, 1917, discussed with the Fort Needham Park Commission.

The members of the Fort Needham Park Commission present at the meeting were:

Monsignor C. F. Curran
O. N. Lane and yourself

The Chairman stated that the Halifax Relief Commission proposes to allocate \$100,000.00 to this development, but pointed out that it would be necessary for City Council to approve of this proposal and to agree to assume in full the future maintenance of the Park.

The Chairman also stated to you that a Committee is being set up consisting of the Halifax Relief Commissioners with Mr R. W. McColough, Mr D. F. MacIsaac and, with your concurrence, Mr J. P. Dumaresq, to consider detailed plans for the improvements.

The Hon Angus L. MacDonald, who has expressed himself as most interested in our proposal, has very kindly agreed to arrange for Mr McColough to give us his technical advice, and also suggested that Mr N. V. Jankov, landscape advisor to the Provincial Government, would assist us in preparing our plans.

The Halifax Relief Commission is most anxious to ensure that this Park development shall be a worthy and permanent living memorial to those who lost their lives in the disaster of December 6, 1917.

Yours very truly,
Halifax Relief Commission.

W. E. TIBBS.
SECRETARY.

*Mr. Regan
Cheque*

REPORT OF HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION.

67

At the request of the Special Committee appointed to deal with the Halifax Relief Commission, a delegation composed of Alderman Sullivan and DeWolf and City Assessor was appointed to proceed to Ottawa. This action was confirmed by Council, at a Special Meeting February 8th, 1949.

This delegation met our Federal Representatives Messrs. Isnor and Dickie, who arranged an appointment with Hon. D. C. Abbott and favoured and assisted us by their presence at the meeting. At this meeting which was held in Mr. Abbotts office on February 10th, at 8.30 p.m., your delegation presented a brief summary of affairs leading to the request for such a meeting.

SUMMARY ATTACHED

A full discussion followed dealing with matters relevant to the Commission and a most satisfactory hearing was given by Mr. Abbott, who was amazingly well informed on the subject. Mr. Abbott was most courteous and expressed himself as sympathetic to our claim, while not losing sight of the past and present value of the Board of Management of the Halifax Relief Commission, with which we think it is only fair to agree.

Mr. Abbott promised us that within the next few days he would further discuss the matter with the deputy Minister Dr. Clark and we might expect some favourable consideration at a very early date.

One suggestion we made, which is the one that we feel will be acted upon, and implemented to a considerable degree was a payment to the City of \$50,000. per year, for 10 years, or a total sum of \$500.000.

It was felt that the Commission could do this quite easily and that there would still be left an amount ample to take care of all pensioners and provide a substantial memorial, if desired.

SUMMARY

Extract letter Mr. G. B. Isnor, Oct. 23, 1948:

"In respect to the houses, I have every reason to believe that he (Mr. Abbott) is quite prepared to enter into an agreement with the City whereby the City will take over the houses subject to the rights of the present tenants and other rights which the Halifax Relief Commission might feel necessary to safeguard their interests."

Since the last discussion with Mr. Isnor, the Relief Commission has started to dispose of their holdings and up to February 1st had disposed of 32 houses.

As many of these houses are attached, in some cases five under one continuous roof, and with diversified ownership we can foresee possible slums in the future. This comment is more or less incidental.

The selling prices we suggest are somewhat low, but if all the houses are sold on present asking price the amount that will be obtained is \$771,400.00.

To this must be added commercial buildings and other residential properties.

16 - 4 roomed flats @ \$5000.	(suggested)	\$80,000.
11 - 5½ " " @ 5500.	"	66,500.
2 - 6 & 7 " " @ 6000.	"	12,000.
Garage	"	7,500.
1020 Robie (20 acres)	"	12,000.
74-76 Gladstone - 4 flats	"	6,000.
205-9 Russell St.	"	7,500.
33-35-37 Veith St. @ 4000.	"	12,000.
163-5 Windsor - 4 flats	"	9,000.
Odd Parcels of land		10,000.
		<hr/>
		\$222,500.

Figures taken from 1947 Statement:

Bonds & Debentures at cost		\$941,506
Mortgages & Interest		
Cash on hand, Bank		17,799.89
Interest due		6,351.96
A.c receivable		937.53
		<u>\$966,595.38</u>
Reserve for superan.	\$19,379.56	
" City of Halifax	25,000.00	
	<u>\$44,379.56</u>	
		<u>44,379.56</u>
		<u>\$922,215.82</u>
Net Cash Assets		
Add: Properties on Conservative		
values, as before mentioned	1068,900.00	\$1,068,900.00
	<u>\$1,991,115.82</u>	<u>\$1,991,115.82</u>
Deduct allowance sug-		
gested by Commission		
for purchasing Pensions	1,234,872.00	1,234,872.00
(which is too high)		<u>\$756,243.82</u>
Therefore of pensioners were paid off and Commission		
would wp the minimum surplus would be		<u>\$756,243.82</u>

The amount of taxes which the Commission proposes to pay in 1949 is \$28,679.55, whereas if properties were owned by an individual, or private corporation, the amount payable for 1949 would be \$52,966.37. The difference is \$24,286.82

Ralph Williams
J. L. Fryer

Mayor J.E. Ahearn,
54 South St.,
Halifax, N.S.

Halifax, N.S.
January 18/49.

67

Dear Sir:-

As a member of The Port Needham Committee and a public spirited citizen of Halifax North, we, the members of The Hydrostone Horseshoe Club, are taking this opportunity of presenting to you the problem that is uppermost in the minds of our organization and which we would ask you to give your very sincere consideration.

In September of 1946, a small group of sport minded neighbours in the Hydrostone section got together with the idea in mind of building a horseshoe pitch, something that would create a community spirit and give the residents a form of recreation during the summer evenings.

Within a very short time we had erected the most up to date Horseshoe pitching beds to be found anywhere across Canada and this was done with the full cooperation of all those interested in the procedure, who donated lumber, nails, paint, and anything else that they could contribute.

When the courts were completed at 23-25 Stairs Place, we called upon His Worship, Mayor J.E. Ahearn, to attend the official opening and to throw the initial shoe and at this time our membership was no more than fifteen. Since that time we have created an interest throughout the whole of Halifax and our membership has grown by leaps and bounds until the present roll of over eighty active members.

Another point of interest is the fact that the Daily Star thought enough of the adventure to donate a very large trophy for the city championship, the same symbol having been won by this club for three years in a row, in spite of very earnest opposition from other clubs, and now belongs to the Hydrostone Club as it's own property. We already have an offer of a new sponsor for a new trophy this year.

During the Winter seasons when it was impossible to carry on with horseshoes, cribbage tournaments were founded, the first years enrollment being sixteen and playing from house to house in the immediate vicinity. At the start of the second season we utilized the basement of 13 Stairs Place which was so kindly offered to us by our Vice President, A.S. MacMichael, and space was made to accommodate thirty-two players. At the start of the present season it was necessary to provide more space for the steadily increasing cribbage membership and again we were lucky enough to have Geo. Pauze, 26 Stairs Place, donate his basement, space enough to accommodate an extra thirty-two men. So, at the present time, we are operating the only cribbage tournament in the city and are playing over sixty numbers every Monday night, as the newspaper items will verify.

However, a group of men as active as The Hydrostone Horseshoe Club, men with the determination to build a club from nothing to what it is to-day, it is very hard to hold down expansion and that is exactly the situation as it stands at the present time. We can not always stay in an alleyway nor in basements if we are to accomplish our desires and for this club to grow

properly, until it comes into it's own as one of the most popular in the entire city, a pinnacle that we are very rapidly reaching, then it will be necessary to solicit some outside help from people such as yourself who are in a position to give us the proper advice and to help us to realize our ambitions.

With the present situation the way it is, namely, the selling of the Hydrostone properties, this places us in a very clouded position, and unless something is done and done immediately, then three years of hard work, of community spirit and good fellowship, sportsmanship, and entertainment, will all go for nothing and the north end of Halifax will again be without a non-political, non-sectarian club where all are welcome and may spend many enjoyable hours with his neighbour and fellow man.

And so, we are approaching the Fort Needham Committee, to ask for a small portion of land, either by rental, grant, or lease, that we can turn into one of the beauty spots of the city and to erect a much larger setup for horseshoe pitching than we have at the present time.

We understand that it is in the power of Mayor Ahearn to obtain for us one of the army buildings of the same type that was used for the Tourist Bureau on Spring Garden Road. If such a thing is possible, then we can do all our own renovating, every member being more than willing to do his share, and within a very short time we would be able to show the city something to be really proud of. The proof is in the seeing of what we have done to date with nothing but an alleyway and two basements and we would ask any member of your committee to pay us a visit on any Monday night and to see for yourself just exactly what we are doing.

One more item that is of vast importance is the fact that we have put our shoulders to the wheel this season in a special drive to accumulate the necessary funds for expansion and in a personal interview with your committee we will be able to show you how far we have progressed along these lines, being confident that you will be greatly impressed with the results.

We, The Hydrostone Horseshoe Club know that we have the makings of a great club, one that will be second to none in the whole city, and one that will grow in membership and community spirit as we expand, and with this idea in mind, we ask you to give this letter your very serious consideration and to advise us accordingly in due course. In the meantime, we would sincerely appreciate a visit from either yourself or any other member of the committee so that you could gain first hand knowledge of our operations.

Thanking you in advance for your very kind attention and trusting that we will hear from you in the very near future.

Yours very faithfully,

HYDROSTONE HORSESHOE CLUB.

BRI/P

SECRETARY.

George Pauzi



January 27, 1958

CONFIDENTIAL

*Sydney
Sydney*

His Worship, C. A. Vaughan,
City of Halifax,
CITY HALL.

Your Worship:

You have asked me to compile certain data relating to the Halifax Relief Commission. After going into this problem extensively I would think that the first thing I should do here would be to give a history of the Halifax Relief Commission, which is as follows: -

On December 6, 1917 at 9:05A.M., one of the most devastating explosions occurred in the City of Halifax, with a great loss of life, and property damage, and immediately following the Explosion, emergency relief was handled by a Committee which was known as "The Citizens' Relief Committee".

On January 22, 1918 His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council appointed the late Honourable Justice T.S. Rodgers, His Honour W. B. Wallace and F. L. Fowke, Esquire, Commissioners, under the name of the "Halifax Relief Commission" with power to take over and receive all unexpended monies and undistributed goods contributed from any source and in any manner for the relief of the sufferers, or restoration of the property destroyed or damaged by the Explosion, and to expend and distribute the same equitably for the general purpose for which they were supplied and to receive, subject to the same powers, and for the same purpose, any further contributions which might come to hand; the application or distribution of these monies and supplies to be, in the discretion of the Commission, subject to the direction of His Excellency-in-Council; that the said T. Sherman Rodgers shall be the Chairman of the said Commission and that a majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Halifax Relief Commission was incorporated by Chapter 61 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia 1918, the said Act of Incorporation being ratified and confirmed by Chapter 24 of the Statutes of Canada 1918. Therefore the Commission was given considerable freedom and power. All monies contributed for disaster relief were vested in it and could be used at the Commission's discretion.

His Worship, C. A. Vaughan (continued)

Town Planning authority was granted for reconstructing the so-called "devastated area" of 325 acres. The Commission and its employees, contractors and agents were exempted from Provincial and Municipal Taxes.

The Commission had received in grants and various kinds of donations, the amount of \$27,165,120.00. They were as follows:

Federal Government Grant-----	\$18,000,000.00
Imperial Government Grant-----	4,815,000.00
Provincial Government Grant-----	100,000.00
Other Contributions-----	3,901,327.00
Cash contributions (Insurance)-----	348,793.00
	<u>\$27,165,120.00</u>

Following are some of the accomplishments of the Commission:

- (1) It compensated for property losses sustained by individuals, business, and part of the City of Halifax claim; in some cases this took the form of cash settlements, while in others buildings were reconstructed or repaired at the Commission's expense.
- (2) The devastated area was reconstructed according to a Town Plan, which incorporated new streets, playgrounds and open spaces.
- (3) A low rental project known as "The Hydrostone Development" was undertaken for the benefit of people who had been occupying rental properties destroyed by the Explosion.
- (4) Financial assistance was given to individuals in the form of pensions, allowances and medical and surgical care.

The bulk of the Commission's work had now been done, and the chief service then, was the payment of pensions, and the supervision and provision of medical and surgical care as required, and also the maintenance and administration of the Commission's investments and properties.

In 1950 Senator Gordon B. Isnor and John Dickey, former Member of Parliament, after consulting with the Chairman and Members of the Commission, made certain recommendations to the Deputy Minister of Finance, and it was agreed that in future the Commission would conduct its operations on the following basis:

- (A) It would proceed to sell all real property in an orderly manner.
- (B) It would proceed with the development of Fort Needham as a memorial park and playground. The Fort Needham property was originally purchased by the Commission as part of its plan for reconstruction. In 1949 the Commission decided to have it graded and landscaped to provide a permanent memorial to those who lost their lives in the Explosion. This work was almost completed by December 1952. It is understood that the project was first urged by the citizens of Halifax, and as a condition of receiving financial assistance from the Commission, the City agreed to accept maintenance charges in perpetuity.

His Worship, C. A. Vaughan (continued)

- (C) It would ensure that all demands on its funds for pension or compensation, present and future, were adequately provided for.
- (D) Any surplus, after adequate provision for all claims, would be disposed of by some method agreeable to the Commission and to the Federal and Provincial Governments, in conformity with the general purposes for which the fund was originally established.

There was some doubt in the minds of certain people as to whether the Federal or Provincial Governments had the power to dispose of any surplus. At this point it might be appropriate to attempt to clarify the legal status of the Commission and the Federal Government's relation to it. On several occasions uncertainty has arisen as to the authority which the Federal Government may legally exercise over the Commission. These will be reviewed briefly:

LEGAL STATUS

statute
First it might be well to mention the specific reference which the Provincial status made to the Federal Government and its authority.

- (A) The Governor General-in-Council was authorized to appoint members of the Commission to replace vacancies.
- (B) Monies which were vested in the original Commission of Inquiry by order-in-council were vested in the new Corporation.
- (C) All powers which the order-in-council conferred on the members of the Commission of Inquiry were given to the newly incorporated Commission.

The Act of Parliament which ratified the Provincial status, also provided for auditing of the Commission's accounts as prescribed by the Governor-in-Council.

In 1948 the Provincial status was examined with a view to determining the extent to which the Federal Government had been given jurisdiction over the Commission's affairs. At this time a Commission report to the Governor-in-Council recommended repeal of the Town Planning provisions of the Provincial status. Shortly afterwards the Province passed repealing legislation, but the question remained if this action required the Governor-in-Council's approval. The Solicitor to the Treasury's opinion was that "the statute is prima facie within Provincial jurisdiction. It provides however for appointments by the Governor-in-Council; for the transfer of funds from a Commission established by the Dominion to the Commission; and for the exercise of power under Dominion legislation. It is submitted that the confirmation of the statute by the Parliament of Canada was intended only to relate to these matters and to confirm them in so far as the authority of Parliament was necessary. The Provincial Legislature is quite at liberty to repeal the Town Planning provisions of the Act and also the provision that no tax or fee of a Provincial character be levied against employees of the Commission." Subsequently the Deputy Minister of Justice advised that the provisions which the Commission wish to appeal were within authority of the Province, and would not be affected by confirmation of Parliament.

In December of the same year, the Chairman of the Commission asked the Minister of Finance if it would be in order for the Commission to contribute funds to the Fort Needham memorial.