

Jan. 13th. 1927

It is scarcely arguable that the Commission should exercise its discretion and pay to the City relief allowances and not take into account the cost of these works which are of such material importance to the northern part of the City.

5. FURTHER CREDITS TO WHICH COMMISSION IS ENTITLED

The Commission made a number of special expenditures on the City account and at its request, aggregating \$36,694.40, and other small items amounting to \$3,665.13.

There can be no substantial difference of view between the City and ourselves as to the propriety of these cross charges.

6. THE NETT BALANCE PAYABLE BY THE CITY

These allowances and various deductions, with the addition of interest from December 1st, 1920 to December 1, 1926 fix the total indebtedness of the City to the Commission at \$687,305.79. This sum, however, as we intimate in a later paragraph may be reduced to \$600,000 by a voluntary contribution to the Civic taxation on the terms indicated in that paragraph.

7. CITY SECURITIES HELD BY THE COMMISSION

In 1919 the various borrowings of the City from the Commission represented by certificates of shares in the Consolidated Fund, were at the City's request, consolidated into one certificate for \$565,000.00 payable January 1st 1921. The Commission stated it would not then ask for payment of the accrued interest pending final adjustment. In 1920 a request for another year's respite was made and a renewal certificate was furnished redeemable on the 1st January, 1922. Since the maturity of this share certificate, earnest but unsuccessful efforts have been made to get the authorities to come to an adjustment. The Commission declined to renew the certificate, and although we repeatedly urged that the sum of at least \$25,000 representing the probable interest payable on the adjusted debt should be assessed each year, no amount for this purpose was so included in the estimates or assessed.

8. REJECTED CLAIMS

Those in authority would appear to us to have been relying on wholly untenable claims in an attempt to set off the City's liability under its borrowings. On the 20th day of April, 1923 there was presented to us, in response to the Commission's repeated efforts to obtain an adjustment of all outstanding claims, a list of claims aggregating over \$1,000,000, but at too late a date to enable the work of adjustment to be overtaken before expiry of the term of the then Mayor of the City. As soon as it was convenient, we urged on the present Mayor and Council the

Jan. 17th. 1923

advisability of having the whole problem discussed and finalised, but only on our own account, a considerable portion of our Pension Fund having been unsatisfactorily tied up, but also in the City's own interests, it should be clear that the City could not justify longer delay in having the amount of its liability fixed, and due steps taken to meet it.

Considerable time has been spent with the Mayor and the Auditor in clearing away misunderstandings which might prevent a speedy adjustment. On the first days of December instant the Commission met at the City Hall with the Mayor, the members of the Finance Committee, and Civic Officials, and the general situation was discussed. The Commission has held a number of conferences with the representatives of the Finance Committee and Engineer and Auditor; and also held one meeting at the Mayor's instance to which all Aldermen were invited, and most of them attended and the various accounts and claims have been thoroughly enquired into from the point of view of the City as well as that of the Commission.

9. INDIRECT LOSSES EXCLUDED

It has been a matter of common knowledge that the orders in Council under which our funds were distributable, provided that direct material losses caused by the explosion were alone to be considered, and that all indirect or consequential damages must be excluded. It was therefore with some surprise that we found that the City was scheduling against us claims that were for this reason quite beyond the scope of our authority, and claims which have been repeatedly disallowed in connection with the settlement of claims of individual citizens. The Commission made it clear on every occasion upon which they met the Committee that claims on the part of the City of this nature amounting to over \$500,000 could not be considered at all. In our opinion the allowance of these claims, in whole or in part, would be wholly unjustifiable, and we must express regret that, instead of our being pressed to consider them further, they were not frankly withdrawn.

10. TAXATION

Under the provisions of its Act of Incorporation the Commission's property was for obvious reasons exempt from all assessments. Notwithstanding this provision the City has assessed the property of the Commission in the devastated area, and at a high valuation. The Commission, however, thought that when the property became revenue bearing it was only right that it should acquiesce in a fair contribution to the City revenues in lieu of taxation, and therefore, in the earlier years the Commission voluntarily paid substantial sums. Later on the Commission paid no taxes, or contributions in lieu of taxes, because the City had failed to pay interest on its borrowings from the Commission. The settlement of the matter of taxation, or contribution in lieu of taxation, has awaited, therefore, the adjustment of the accounts now happily concluded.

Jan. 13th. 1927

13. CONCLUSION

The settlement of the amount of the Civic reparations claim and the accounting on both sides are now to be regarded as finalized and there is no further appeal. The Commissioners anticipate that their conclusions will be received with that measure of respect accorded to the conclusions of other judicial tribunals. They desire to assure the City Council and the citizens in general that consistently with the proper discharge of their important duties they have in this matter as well as in all others in which the City has been concerned done everything in their power to assist the Civic authorities and often under great difficulties. If at times there has been an apparent lack of sympathetic co-operation the blame does not lie at the door of this Commission.

They have been the trustees of very large sums of money contributed principally by the Canadian Government and it is to that Government we have been giving and will continue to give due account of our Stewardship.

Sgt. T.B. Rogers, J.S.C.
CHAIRMAN

Sgt. W.B. Wallace, C.C.J.,
COMMISSIONER

DATED DEC. 30th. 1926.

CITY OF HALIFAX AND HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION
FINAL DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONERS, ADJUSTING
OUTSTANDING CLAIMS AND COUNTER
CLAIMS

The Halifax Relief Commission, after many hearings and due consideration of outstanding claims of the Commission on the one side, and the City on the other, hereby determine that there is due and payable to the Commission as of December 1st, 1926, the sum of \$687,305.79.

Sgt. T.B. Rogers, J.S.C.
CHAIRMAN

W.B. WALLACE, C.C.J.
COMMISSIONER

DATED AT HALIFAX
DECEMBER 30th, 1926

H.R. This decision is accompanied by

1. Statement of the accounts upon which the decision is based.
2. A memorandum explanatory of the various items.

From paragraph ten of this memorandum it will be noted that upon the terms therein set forth the amount of the ascertained indebtedness may be reduced to the sum of \$600,000 by the credit of a substantial voluntary contribution in lieu of taxes claimed by the City, the Commission's property being exempt from taxation by statute.

Jan. 17th. 1927

THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

CASH ADVANCED TO THE CITY OF HALIFAX

On loan account	\$532,300.00
Interest adjusted to Dec. 1-1920 as per Schedule "A"	<u>70,737.30</u> \$603,037.30
On destroyed Schools Account.	<u>154,570.00</u> \$757,907.30

CITY OF HALIFAX CLAIM

School Repairs as per Schedule B.	\$348,375.25
City Building as per Schedule "C"	<u>125,923.75</u>
Sundry losses as per Schedule "D"	<u>36,471.53</u> \$510,770.53
One third off the above.	<u>170,256.84</u> \$340,513.69
Schools totally destroyed as per Schedule "E"	<u>154,570.00</u> \$495,383.69

GROSS RELIEF ALLOWANCE:-

From which is to be deducted City's
usual share of Water, Sewer, Sidewalks
etc., as per Schedule "F"

	<u>252,105.11</u>
--	-------------------

And also the following Special
Expenditures by the Commission
on City Account:-

Market Building	11,617.74
Rockhead Hallport Hospital	6,564.28
Harris St. Infectious Diseases Hospital (Less Commission grant of \$10,000.00)	<u>14,483.84</u>

City Work certified by City Engineer.	<u>4,024.60</u> <u>36,694.40</u> \$206,544.15
--	---

AMOUNT DUE THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION
AS AT DECEMBER 1st 1920 on CITY REPARATION
ACCOUNT

Interest on the above from Dec. 1st 1920 to Dec. 1st 1926	<u>132,317.54</u>
Sundry Accounts as per Schedule "G"	<u>883,640.66</u>
	<u>3,665.13</u>

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE THE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION
AS AT DECEMBER 1-26

\$687,305.79

Ed. T. S. Rogers,
CHAIRMAN
W. B. Wallace
COMMISSIONER

Jan. 13th. 1927

RECEIPTS "A"

STATEMENT OF ADVANCES ON CITY ACCOUNT
WITH INTEREST AT 6% PER ANNUM
TO DECEMBER 1st. 1920

DATE	AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	AMOUNT OF INTEREST
January 24-1918	\$25,000.00	5% to May 1st	\$328.77
April 24 1918	5,000.00	6% after that date	3,879.45
May. 2-1918	10,000.00	6%	780.82
May 6-1918	5,000.00	6%	1,548.49
May 16-1918	5,000.00	6%	770.96
May 16-1918	10,000.00	6%	1,525.48
May 29-1918	15,000.00	6%	2,256.16
July 12-1918	15,000.00	6%	2,147.67
Aug. 3-1918	50,000.00	6%	6,978.08
Aug. 21-1918	5,000.00	6%	683.01
Sept. 11-1918	45,000.00	6%	5,991.78
Oct. 11-1918	35,000.00	6%	4,487.67
Oct. 11-1918	63,000.00	6%	8,206.03
Nov. 28-1918	50,000.00	6%	6,016.44
Dec. 12-1918	100,000.00	6%	11,802.74
Jan. 31-1918	33,300.00	6%	3,656.61
May 13-1919	40,000.00	6%	3,721.64
July 7-1919	25,000.00	6%	2,100.00
	<u>\$532,300.00</u>		<u>\$66,881.80</u>
Dec. 12- 1918	14,483.88	6%	
Dec. 12- 1918	11,617.74	6%	
Dec. 12- 1918	<u>6,564.28</u>	6%	<u>3,455.50</u>
	<u>\$564,965.90</u>		<u>\$70,737.30</u>

57-7-

Jan. 13th. 1927

SCHEDULE "B"

PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUILDINGS

Appraised Explosion damage to Schools \$346,375.25

SCHEDULE "C"

CITY BUILDING ACCOUNT

APPRAISED DAMAGE

City Hall	\$16,553.71
" " clock not repaired	
" Home	11,000.00
" Prison	21,827.82
" Workshops	5,788.71
Town Clock	1,960.00
Hazelwood-Insulation Hospital City Home Grounds	1,552.29
Inninerator	5,379.67
Infectious Disease Hospital Rockhead R. Ward	
Cont.	9,525.00
Market Building	20,015.64
Public Gardens	4,000.00
Reservoir	976.55
Market St. Tenement	700.00
Engine Houses:	
Bedford Row	2,500.00
Brunswick Street	2,000.00
Grafton St.	714.38
Marrie St.	1,600.00
Quinpool Road	1,705.33
Sp. Garden Road	277.89
West Street	4,078.73
Taleville Street	2,500.00
Outfit Building	2,100.00
Tenement- Langard Rd. Reservoir Bldg.	5,500.00
Chain Lake	298.58
Memorial Tower	369.45
City Hall Clock not replaced	3,000.00
	<u>\$125,983.75</u>

Jan. 13th. 1927

SCHEDULE "D"

CITY OF HALIFAX CURRENCY LOGS

Fire Alarm System	\$3,430.00
Fire Hose	1,750.00
Fire Chief's Car	1,450.00
Seagrave Wagon and Equipment.	1,559.00
Repairs to Patricia	6,000.00
Explosion damage to water service	7,805.00
Water Meters Destroyed	6,734.00
Incinerator Instruments	782.00
Garden Plants	233.25
Wagon Shed	250.00
Motor Car as appraised	1,200.00
Rental of Fire Engine whilst Patricia under repair	714.00
Rockhead small pos hospital	4,564.28
	<u>\$25,471.53</u>

SCHEDULE "E"

TOTALLY DESTROYED SCHOOLS

APPRAISED REPLACEMENT VALUE OF TOTALLY DESTROYED SCHOOLS

Bloomfield	39,099.00
St. Joseph's	54,200.00
Richmond	61,670.00
	<u>\$154,969.00</u>

SCHEDULE "F"

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE
COMMISSION WATER SEWERS SIDEWALKS ETC

Commission Claim - City Estimates

Class 70" Work City's usual Share	\$162,339.25	\$ 126,101.67
Class D Work City's Usual Share	<u>150,340.00</u>	<u>126,093.44</u>
	\$312,679.25	\$252,195.11

On Consideration the City's Share
of the Above costs is fixed at \$252,195.11

Cost of Göttingen Street Cut and Union
Street Grading is abandoned on City
abandoning their Claim for cost of water and
sewer pipes and house water connections
\$12,660.00

Cost Göttingen St. Cut and Union St. Grading is	<u>17,233.17</u>	<u>30,316.44</u>
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Jan. 13th. 1927

SCHEDULE "B"

CLASS "B" WORK

WORK TO BE DONE BY THE CITY OF HALIFAX, N.S.

AS ORDERED BY CITY

COMPLETION OF WORK

CITY ESTIMATE

Item 1. Catch Basin Construction	\$1,419.50	\$1,299.00
2 " "	13,458.05	13,917.75
3 Curb Inlets	2,195.60	2,195.60
4 Repairs to Wrought Iron St	3,000.00	3,000.00
5 Water Pipes	3,339.00	3,339.00
6 Macadam Pavement	95,359.60	68,118.00
7 Connecting Water pipes	516.10	516.10
8 Extending Catch- basins	96.35	96.35
9 Work on Hydrants and Catchbasins	133.75	133.75
10 Water Main Hydro- stone	22,744.25	19,638.50
11 Water Main Wrought Iron St.	9,627.32	9,627.32
	156,849.52	121,837.37
Engineering	5,489.73	4,264.30
	<u>\$162,339.25</u>	<u>\$126,101.67</u>

ITEM	EST	EST	EST	CITY	CITY	CITY
1. Water and Sewer Diagonal streets and Albert St.	\$ 30,056.91	\$7,346.00	\$22,710.91	\$23,805.00	\$7,346.00	\$16,059.00
2. Water and Sewer Hydrostone Area	34,540.65	10,080.00	24,460.65	30,760.00	10,080.00	20,680.00
3. Water and Sewer Hennessey Field etc.	18,947.80	3,185.00	15,762.80	18,947.80	3,185.00	15,752.80
4. Curb & Gutters	44,641.00	22,320.50	22,320.50	40,065.25	20,031.62	20,031.63
5. Concrete Pavement	88,058.21	44,029.11	44,029.11	74,164.00	37,082.00	37,082.00
6. Concrete sidewalks	26,642.50	13,321.25	13,321.25	19,145.50	9,572.75	9,572.75
7. Tervin Diag. Street and Göttingen St.	5,108.55	2,554.28	2,554.28	5,108.55	2,554.28	2,554.28
Total	247,995.62	122,836.14	125,159.50	221,974.10	89,851.65	121,742.46
Engineering 3 1/2%			5,140.98			4,260.98
			<u>\$150,347.08</u>			<u>\$126,003.44</u>

Jan. 13th. 1927

SCHEDULE "C"

ACCOUNTS CHARGED TO THE CITY OF HALIFAX

Cots sold, invoice 612 Nov. 24-18	\$244.00
Cost of Glansy Lot 136-140 Young St., reserved for Iselville St. Extension	400.00

Maritime Construction Co. Ltd in
Liquidation.

Claims	\$1,120.00	
Less Credits	<u>91.23</u>	1,028.77

Insurance Infectious Disease Hospital	237.12
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Balance Plumbing Inspector's Salary	467.74
-------------------------------------	--------

Rental of Willow Park Camps.	<u>1,400.00</u>
	<u>\$3,777.63</u>

Less Credit for Tools, Mortuary
Committee March 23rd, 1918

<u>112.50</u>
<u>\$3,665.13</u>

The following Resolution is submitted:

The report of the Finance Committee on the award of the Halifax Relief Commission having been read IT IS RESOLVED that in view of the loss suffered by the City being the result of a National War Disaster, a delegation be sent by the City to wait on the Dominion Government at Ottawa and present a memorial for relief, and that in the meantime the Halifax Relief Commission be requested to defer action on the said award.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council desires to assure the Halifax Relief Commission of its anxiety to dispose of the matter at the earliest possible date.

Moved by Alderman McCarthy, seconded by Alderman Shannon and passed unanimously.

Moved by Alderman O'Toole, seconded by Alderman McCarthy that the delegation to wait upon the Government at Ottawa in connection with the Relief Commission adjustment be composed of His Worship the Mayor, Ex-Mayor John Murphy and City Engineer. Motion passed Alderman Rublev dissenting



CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
CITY HALL

Halifax, N. S.,.....19.....

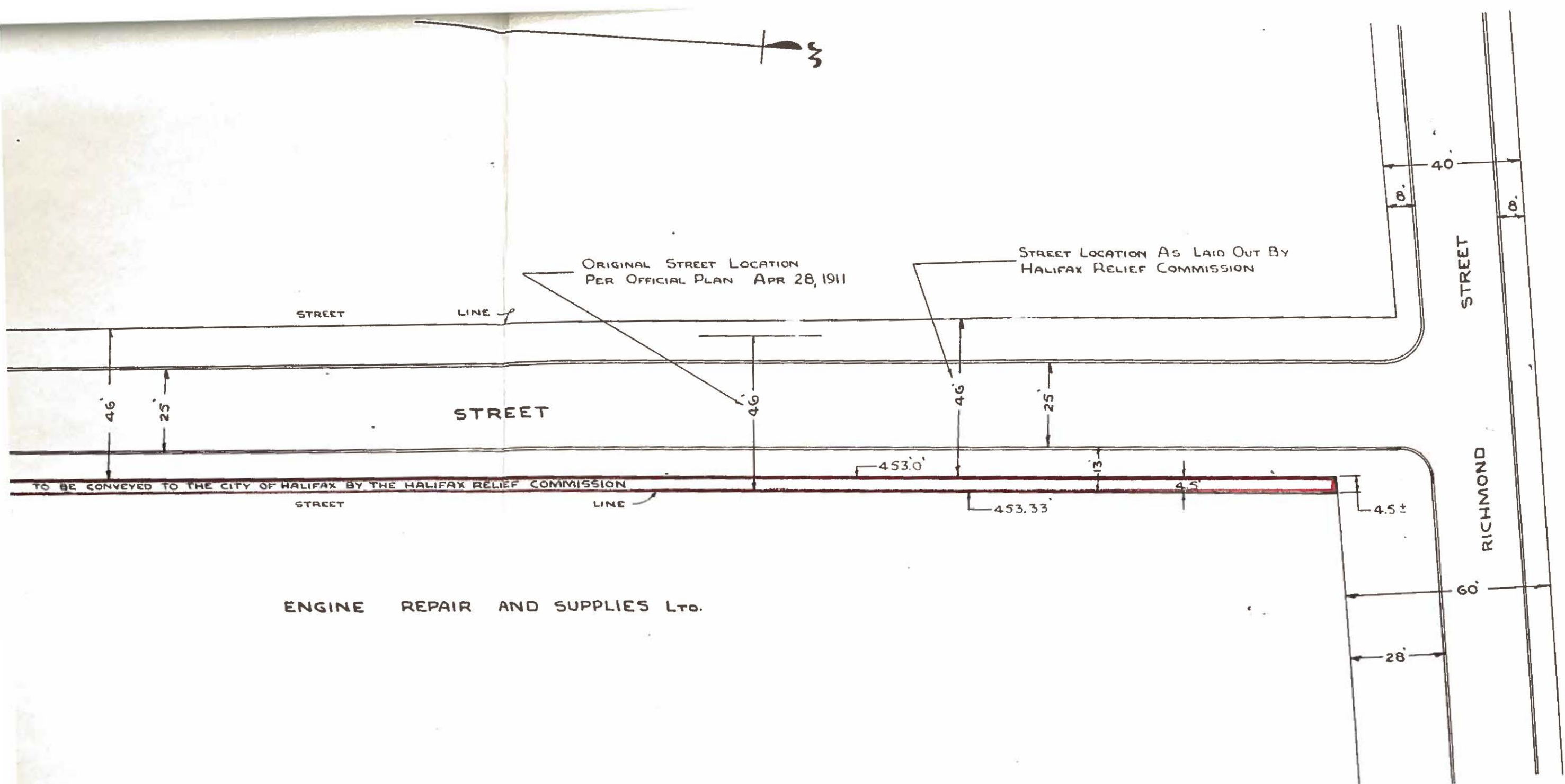
Extracts from Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Halifax

held on the.....day of.....19.....

- 2 -

A true extract,

W. P. Publicover,
CITY CLERK.



COMMISSIONER OF WORKS OFFICE
HALIFAX N. S.

PLAN OF LAND ON EASTERN SIDE OF VEITH
ST. BETWEEN HANOVER & RICHMOND STS.
TO BE CONVEYED TO CITY OF HALIFAX

DATE MAY 20, 1959

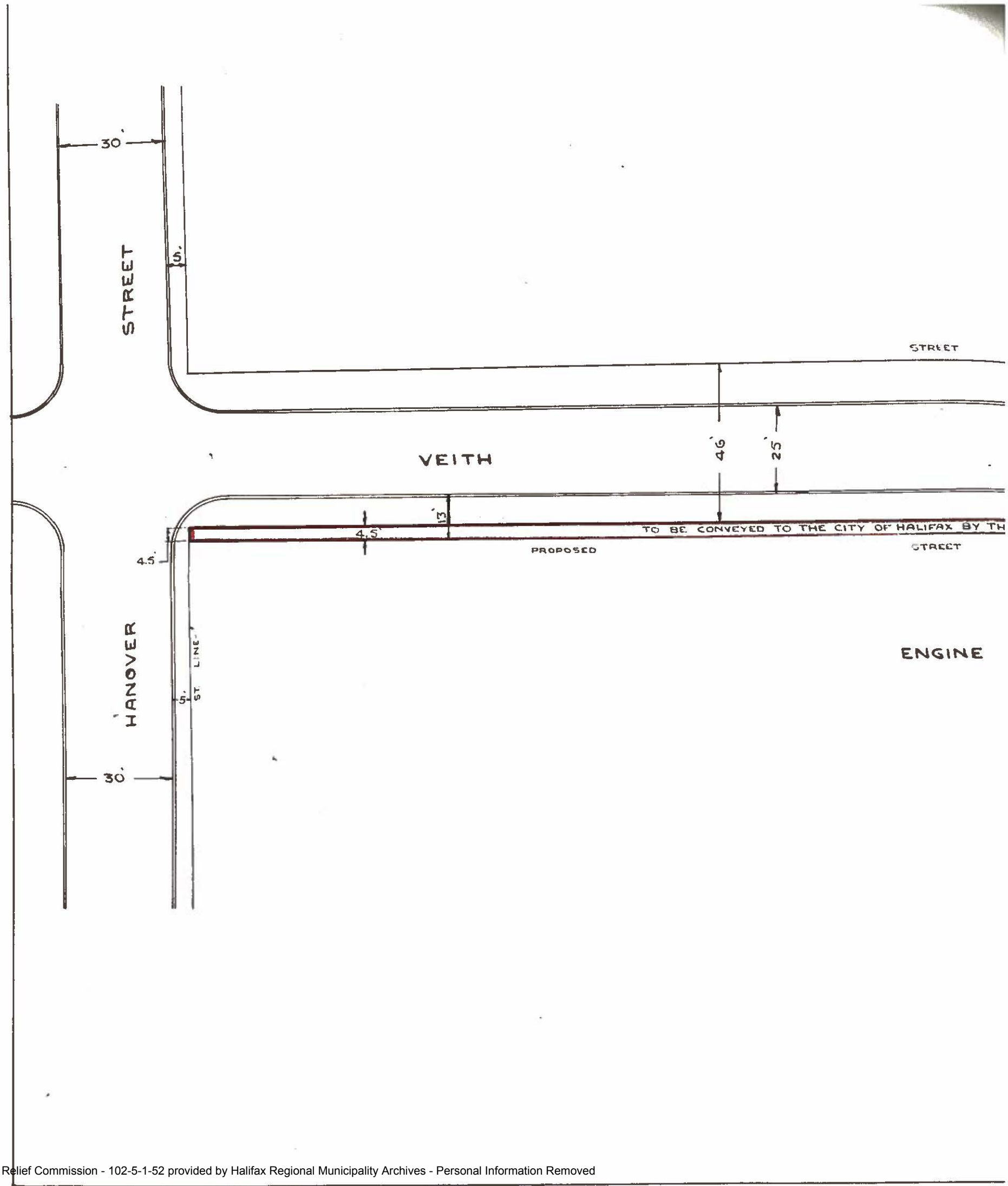
SCALE 1" = 30'-0"

SURVEY

DRAWN R. THORNE

APPROVED J.D.C.

FILE SS-3-14515





Canadian Pension
Commission

Chairman

PO Box 9900
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 8V6

Commission canadienne
des pensions

Président

Casier postal 9900
Charlottetown (I.-P.-E.)
C1A 8V6

RECEIVED

JUL 16 1987

MAYOR'S OFFICE

*ap. 15
cit
old Downey (ques).*

July 13, 1987

RECEIVED

JUL 16 1987

CITY CLERK
CITY HALL

His Worship Mayor Wallace
City Hall
1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Wallace:

Thank you for your letter of May 25, 1987 concerning the funds administered by the Canadian Pension Commission under the *Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act*.

You will see from the attached that as of July 1987, the Halifax Explosion Pension Fund has a balance of \$917,646.79. In June 1987, \$16,795.91 was disbursed from the fund to the 40 remaining recipients. As you may be aware, this fund is carefully examined each year and an actuarial forecast of expenditures is prepared. Based on this forecast, and the revenues received by the fund, the amount of pension paid to the recipient is established for the next period. A projection by the Department of Insurance indicates that, with prudent management, the funds will be exhausted at approximately the same time as the demise of the last pension recipient. However, should there be monies left in the fund at that time, the Act provides for the transfer of the balance of the credit of the Account to a provincial or municipal body in Nova Scotia to be used for the continued rehabilitation of the area of Halifax that was damaged by the explosion.

I trust this information will be helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maj.-Gen. (Ret'd) John P. Wolfe, CD, QC
Chairman

*xc Aldermen
cm/cc/cs
14/07/87
CP*

Canada



*Copies sent
July 21/81
A*

July 16, 1981

His Worship Mayor Ron Wallace
City of Halifax
City Hall
1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

Your Worship:

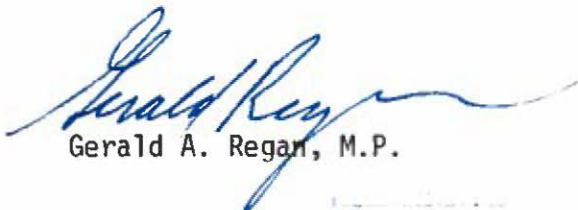
Mr. A.O. Solomon, Chairman of the Canadian Pension Commission, has now provided me with a copy of a letter he sent to you on June 18 concerning the Halifax Relief Commission. If you have anything further you wish to discuss concerning the two items covered in that letter, please feel free to contact me.

Meanwhile, you already have previous correspondence concerning the applications by Mrs. Gertrude Fitzgerald (formerly Mrs. Gertrude Flemming) and Miss Hazel Stacey.

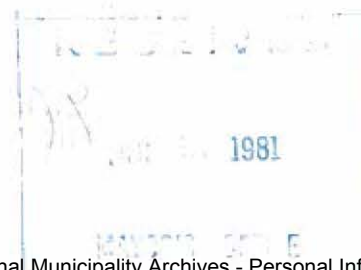
Insofar as Miss Catheryn Harlen and Mr. Quinton Lantz are concerned, Mr. Solomon reports that there is no record of either of these individuals having applied to the Commission for pension benefits. Will you please let them know that if they now wish to apply, the Commission will consider their applications. Detailed correspondence should be sent to Mr. Solomon informing him of the details of their injuries, giving the names and addresses of parents or persons with whom they were living before and after the explosion, and information concerning medical treatment or hospitalization.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,


Gerald A. Regan, M.P.

GR/ds





Government of Canada
Pension Commission

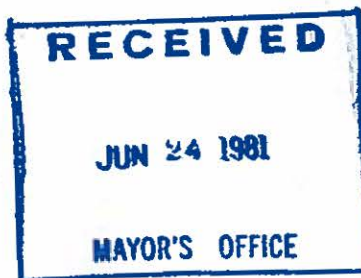
Gouvernement du Canada
Commission des pensions

Chairman

Président

*Letter sent
June 24/81
B*

OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0P4
18 June 1981



His Worship Mayor Ron Wallace
City Hall
1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Wallace:

Thank you for having sent me a copy of your letter to the Honourable Gerald A. Regan dated 19 May 1981, respecting the Halifax Relief Commission.

Two points were raised in your letter. One was that you had requested an inquiry in Halifax into certain aspects of the work of the Commission relevant to pensioners and prospective pensioners who were injured or alleged to have been injured in the Halifax explosion. The other was in relation to a resolution of the Halifax City Council that the pension rates be increased to a rate more favorably compared to the cost of living index.

With respect to the first item, you enclosed a copy of a letter dated 5 July 1978 addressed to the Honourable Jean Chrétien, then Minister of Finance in which you questioned the legality of certain lump sum payments made by the Halifax Relief Commission shortly after the explosion, and in which you also suggested that the Commission hold an inquiry in Halifax.

Unfortunately I had no way of knowing that you had written Mr. Chrétien or what you were seeking.

In any event you are aware that the Commission does review existing pensions and has in fact authorized changes in rates when warranted. It also considers new claims.

Insofar as the adequacy of lump sum settlements to parents on behalf of minors is concerned, the Commission is of the opinion that the legislation then in effect provided all the authority necessary to the Halifax Relief Commission to make such payments. As you know, that Commission was operating under difficult circumstances and with very limited funds.

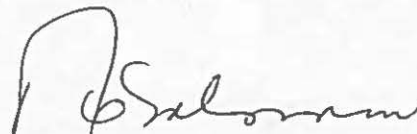
Canada

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Insofar as the resolution requesting increased payments is concerned, I must reiterate my former comment that as much as the Commission would like to improve the position of the individual recipients, it is bound to operate within the bounds of actuarial realities. We would be derelict in our duty and subject to severe criticism if we authorized an increase in the pension rate when the funds were not there to support it. Such action would be irresponsible and could result in the fund not having sufficient monies with which to continue paying the pensioners until their deaths. With a small group it is very difficult to predict the incidence of death. It is now almost two years since the last death of a Halifax explosion pensioner. In that period we would normally have lost four or five through death. Personally, I hope they all continue to live and enjoy life for many years to come, but I must add that if they do, the probability of any pension increase even approaching the cost of living changes will be remote. I know you are aware that the monies available for these pensions come from a trust fund established at the time of the explosion. No new funds have been voted by Parliament or the Nova Scotia legislature for that purpose in the intervening years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A.O. Solomon', written in a cursive style.

A.O. Solomon,
Chairman.



June 15, 1981

His Worship Mayor Ron Wallace
City of Halifax
City Hall
1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Wallace:

I have your letters of May 19th and 28th, concerning the
Halifax Relief Commission.

Please be assured that I will be following through on the
matters you have raised, and reporting back to you as soon
as possible.

In the meantime, you will be interested to note the contents
of a letter I sent to Alderman Nick Meagher on May 14, 1980,
concerning applications by Mrs. Gertrude Fitzgerald (formerly
Mrs. Gertrude Flemming) and Miss Hazel Stacey.

Yours sincerely

Gerald A. Regan

Enclosure

May 14, 1980

Alderman Nick Meagher ✓
6415 Quinpool Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3L 1A7

Dear Nick:

This refers to our earlier correspondence concerning the applications by Mrs. Gertrude Fitzgerald and her sister, Miss H. Stacey, under the Halifax Relief Pension Act.

In a reply from the Office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, I am advised that, initially, representations were made in August 1978 by the Nova Scotia Department of Social Services on Mrs. Fitzgerald's behalf. Mrs. Fitzgerald believed that she should be entitled to some assistance as a result of injuries suffered in the Halifax explosion. Following receipt of the letter from the Department of Social Services, an exhaustive search was made of the records of the Halifax Relief Commission. Very little progress was made for some time in finding enough information on which to base a decision, as at the time of the explosion, Mrs. Fitzgerald's name was Mrs. Gertrude Fleming. Mr. Fleming apparently died as a result of the explosion and his widow subsequently re-married more than once. A record of her involvement in the explosion was finally found under the name of Leach, which was her name at the time her case was settled in 1918.

Once Mrs. Fitzgerald's file was located in October 1979, her case was reviewed, and the Commission, unfortunately, had no alternative but to reject her claim. The rejection was based on the fact that, while she was paid pension following the explosion until her second marriage, at that time the Halifax Relief Commission made a lump sum payment to her in full settlement of all claims, both past and future. It was the normal procedure of the Commission not to continue such pensions on re-marriage. In the Commission's letter to Mrs. Fitzgerald dated February 27, 1980, she was advised of the decision in her case, that is, that her request for pension had been thoroughly examined and it had been determined that pension had been properly awarded following the explosion, paid, and discontinued

following her marriage to Charles Leach. A copy of the receipt she signed in November 1918 in which she was paid "in full for all claims against the Commission past and future", was also sent to her for her information.

In the case of Miss Hazel Stacey, sister of Mrs. Fitzgerald, the records show that she did not receive any injury as a result of the explosion and that any health problems from which she suffered in 1918 and later, pre-existed the explosion.

Apparently there have been a number of inquiries from various sources on behalf of Mrs. Fitzgerald and Miss Stacey, requesting that pension be paid to them as they are experiencing considerable financial hardship. As much as the Canadian Pension Commission is sympathetic to their circumstances, it does not have the funds, nor does it have the authority, to pay pension purely on the grounds of financial distress.

Since Mrs. Fitzgerald was married at the time of the explosion, I must assume that she is receiving the Old Age Security Pension and, if eligible, the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

I regret that I am not in a position to give you a more favourable response with regard to the Halifax Relief Pension Act applications, and hope that you will not hesitate to contact me again if you feel that I might be of further assistance in any way.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

Original Signed By
Original Signé Par

Gerald A. Regan



Government of Canada
Pension Commission

Gouvernement du Canada
Commission des pensions

Chairman

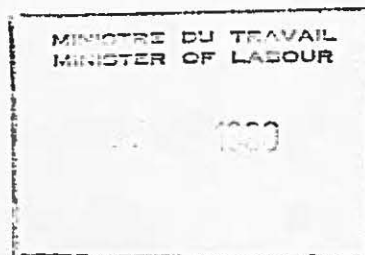
Président

30-30-2

2 October 1980

Halifax Pension Commission

The Honourable Gerald A. Regan
Minister of Labour
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6



Dear Mr. Regan:

Reference is made to your letter of 25 September 1980 respecting the funds remaining in the Halifax Explosion 1917 Pension Account as established under the authority of the Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act.

I was unable to find any recent correspondence with you on the subject, but am aware that you had correspondence with the late Honourable Daniel J. MacDonald, Minister of Veterans Affairs, on the subject.

You have asked for my views on the suggestions put forward by Mayor Hanson of Halifax that a portion of the funds be used for street repairs to the area surrounding the site of the explosion or that a contribution be made to a proposed memorial to the victims of the explosion.

I am afraid that my response would be negative for two reasons. The first is that under the terms of the recent legislation the assets of the Halifax Relief Commission were turned over to the Minister of Finance who was bound by subsisting obligations and liabilities of the Commission that were transferred to him by the legislation which dissolved the Commission. The legislation provided that these funds be paid into a pension account and that the Canadian Pension Commission is vested with the authority to pay out these funds in relation to pensions, grants and allowances in respect of death or injury sustained in the explosion at Halifax in 1917. In my view this Commission does not have the authority to expend the remaining funds for any other purpose but pensions, grants or allowances as stated

.....2

Ottawa, Canada

K1A 0A6

The second, and more important reason is that the funds remaining in the Trust are limited. It is of greater importance to ensure that there be sufficient money to continue paying pensions during the lifetime of those entitled. As much as this Commission tries to be as generous as possible in its awards, we are faced with actuarial realities. There were not sufficient funds on hand last year to enable us to provide more than a nominal increase. On 1 January 1980, pensions paid from the fund were able to be increased by 5.3% although the Consumer Price Index increase authorized for veterans' pensions was 8.9%.

You are no doubt aware that the legislation provides that when no further amounts are required on account of pensions, grants or allowances, any balance shall be transferred to a provincial or municipal body in Nova Scotia for the continued rehabilitation of the area that was devastated by the explosion in 1917.

I am sorry that I did not meet with any of the municipal officials of Halifax during my recent visit there. I was not aware that they wanted to meet with me.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely,


A.O. Solomon,
Chairman.



Government of Canada
Pension Commission

Gouvernement du Canada
Commission des pensions

Chairman

Président

15 October 1980

When are the 4 1/2% bonds due

The Honourable Gerald A. Regan, P.C., M.P.
Minister, Labour Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

ATTENTION: Mr. Peter Dalglish

Dear Mr. Regan:

RE: Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act

Please refer to your letter of 25 September and my reply of 2 October respecting the funds remaining in the Halifax Explosion 1917 Pension Account. In my letter I indicated that I had been unable to locate any recent correspondence from you on the subject.

Your letter to me of 18 September 1980 finally arrived in my office yesterday, 14 October.

Following a discussion with Mr. Peter Dalglish of your office, the following additional information may be helpful to you.

The current value of the fund is approximately \$1,320,000. Of this amount, approximately \$500,000 is in the form of bonds, the bulk of which pay interest at rates varying between 4 1/2% and 5 1/2%. These were investments made by the Halifax Relief Commission. The remainder, which has been paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, draws interest at 90% of the three month Treasury Bill rate. At the present time pension payments are running at the rate of \$155,587 a year and if at all possible actuarially, the Commission would like to provide an increase in January 1981 to help offset the increased cost of living.

No thought has been given to making lump sum payments to the remaining pensioners to free up a sum for other purposes. To do so, would, I feel, be doing a disservice to the remaining pensioners whose needs will not grow less with the passing of time.

Your inquiry about the eventual disposal of any balance of the fund after the death of the last surviving pensioner was answered in my letter of 2 October.

Yours sincerely,

A.O. Solomon
Chairman.

Ottawa, Canada



[Handwritten signature]

TO
A

Gerald A. Regan

FROM
DE

Peter Dalglish

[Handwritten initials: P.D.]

SECURITY-CLASSIFICATION-DE SÉCURITÉ

OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE

YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE

DATE

October 8, 1980

SUBJECT
OBJET

Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act

- 1) The Halifax Relief Commission was established in 1917; money for relief came from many sources and amounted to some \$30,000,000. The Commission had broad powers with respect to clearance, rebuilding, repairing, looking after the injured, and the provisions of pensions when they considered it to be warranted.
- 2) By 1975 the number of pensioners had declined to 65 and today the number has been reduced to 53. In 1976 the Commission was disbanded and the Canadian Pension Commission assumed all responsibility for the administration of pensions.
- 3) Mr. A.O. Solomon, Chairman of the Pension Commission, has recently replied to your letter concerning the possible use of the pension funds for a memorial dedicated to the victims of the explosion, or for street repairs. Mr. Solomon states that it would not be possible to put the funds to this use for two reasons:
 - a) When the Commission was dissolved in 1976, the Minister of Finance in assuming responsibility was bound by subsisting obligations and liabilities of the Commission. In Mr. Solomon's view the Commission does not have the authority to expend the remaining funds for any purpose other than pensions, grants or allowances.
 - b) The second and more important reason is that the funds remaining in the Trust are limited. Over the years the Commission has received voluminous correspondence specifically requesting that the question of additional pensions be raised. After considerable study the Commission was able to make some substantial changes in 1978; while not all pensions were increased at the same rate, there was a minimum increase of 8.5% compared to the 7.2% Consumer Price Indexchange. In 1979 the increase was established at 9.1% and in 1980 it amounted to only 5.3%, while the Consumer Price Index authorized for veteran's pensions was 8.9%. The funds presently on hand will not permit a greater increase at this time; therefore it would be extremely difficult to justify allotting a portion of the remaining funds for a memorial or street repair, even if it were within the mandate of the Commission.

cc: David Zareski



Sent by Mem.

TO
A

Minister

FROM
DE

Peter Dalglish

SUBJECT
OBJET

Halifax Relief Commission

Mr. A.O. Solomon, Chairman of the Pension Commission, indicated the following to me today:

- 1) The present assets of the Fund total approximately \$1.3 million. Last year approximately \$140,000 was paid out in pensions.
- 2) Concerning the eventual disposition of the funds of the Trust, the Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act provides that the Minister of Finance may authorize the transfer of the funds to a provincial or municipal body to assist in the continued rehabilitation of the area affected by the explosion. Mr. Solomon believes that the words of the Act limit the use of the funds to what could be considered to be "rehabilitation"; therefore a memorial probably would not qualify.
- 3) As I indicated in my earlier memo, there are about 53 individuals receiving pensions from the Fund at present. Some of these were infants at the time of the explosion, and now are only in their mid sixties. The Fund could therefore be paying out pensions for another twenty years, or longer.
- 4) Mr. Solomon indicates that no thought has been given to the idea of terminating the pensions once all recipients have reached sixty five years of age and are eligible for the Old Age Security Pension. He believes the limited resources of the Fund prohibit the funding of either street repair or a memorial until the responsibility to the pensioners no longer exists.
- 5) Mr. Solomon is preparing a letter for you containing this information. I'll have it for you in time for your trip to Halifax.

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ

OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE

YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE

DATE

October 15, 1980

Relief Commission

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

January 30, 1981

Dear Mr. Minister

I wish to thank you for your letter of November 4, 1980, concerning the Halifax Relief Commission, and further, to express the appreciation of the City for the obvious effort made on our behalf in this matter.

I have now had an opportunity to review the files in the context of the points raised in your letter. I believe the matter which you raise in your letter concerning the eventual disposition of the funds in the trust to be very valid. The funds in the trust have only marginally reduced in the period since custody was transferred to the Federal Pensions Commission in June, 1976. Present rates of interest should permit substantial discharge of the current annual obligations of \$155,587 from the proceeds from investments of the current assets of \$1,320,000. We are, hopefully, able to look forward to an eventual capital surplus within the fund.

I find that I must disagree with Mr. Solomon of the Pensions Commissions regarding subsisting obligations which might restrict the making of capital contributions apart from pensions grants and allowances. It appears very probable that the full discharge of all pensions, grants and allowances will leave a residual credit balance, which should be used for a public purpose in the immediate area of the explosion damage. There is no doubt that the original terms of the fund permitted such expenditure. The Halifax North End Library, a number of parks and the Police Boys Club are tangible proof of the ability of the Commission to make capital contributions to public facilities in the explosion area. The North End Library, in particular, was constructed by Relief Commission funds.

...2

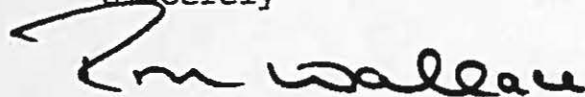
The Canadian Pension Commission now has the powers of the original Relief Commission. Those powers were quite clearly conveyed to the Canadian Pension Commission by the Act to provide for the dissolution of the Halifax Relief Commission. The Canadian Pension Commission has the power to make capital grants of the above nature. I believe that this should be clearly established at this time in preparation for eventual windup of the fund. In additional support of this view, I attach a copy of a letter from the Honourable Allan MacEachern dated February 20, 1976, which clearly supports the view that any remaining funds are to be used for the on-going benefit of the area of Halifax damaged by the explosion.

I would be obliged if you would endeavour to obtain clear acceptance of this situation by the Federal Pensions Commission on our behalf.

One further point of concern which has not been addressed, is the question of the addition of pensioners to the present beneficiary list. As Member for Halifax Citadel I had been pressing for an inquiry in Halifax by the Canadian Pension Commission. A number of the points which I then raised, and in particular the level of pensions being paid have now been dealt with. Another aspect of the work of the Commission has not been dealt with. Namely, the consideration of any new claims. This is authorized in the Act at Section 4 (a) (ii). Over the years a number of persons have contacted me personally on the question of achieving some review of their situation by the Commission. I find now that the City of Halifax has a file of names of persons in like circumstances. These persons are not presently receiving pensions from the Relief Funds but are wanting to make their case for such support. Are you able to determine whether there is a process by which these persons are able to make a case for pension from Relief Funds?

I look forward to the results of your further efforts on behalf of the citizens of Halifax in this matter.

Sincerely



RON WALLACE
M A Y O R

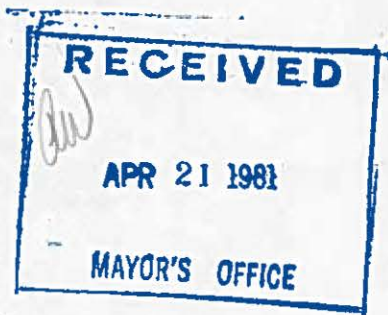
The Honourable Gerald A. Regan, MP
Minister of Labour
House of Commons

OTTAWA

cc: Alderman N. Meacher



April 13, 1981



His Worship Mayor Ron Wallace
City of Halifax
1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Wallace:

This refers to your correspondence of January 30th requesting certain information concerning the Halifax Relief Commission.

Mr. A.E. Solomon, Chairman of the Canadian Pension Commission, asked me to attempt to explain what appears to be a misunderstanding. In his letter of October 2, 1980, he intended to convey the view that so long as there were pension recipients alive to whom pension is payable under the authority of the legislation, the Commission did not have authority to make grants or capital contributions from the fund for other purposes. However, when funds are no longer needed for pension purposes, the legislation provides that any balance may be transferred to a provincial or municipal body in Nova Scotia for the continued rehabilitation of the area that was devastated by the explosion of 1917.

For your convenience, I am attaching a copy of the relevant sections of the "Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act". You will note that the Pension Commission is limited to acting in "relation to pensions, grants and allowances in respect of death or injury sustained in the explosion ...". Nothing in the legislation allows it to make grants for other purposes.

Also attached is a copy of the section of the Act which provides that "after no further amounts will be required to be paid out ... may, after consultation with the Government of Nova Scotia ... authorize the transfer of the balance ... to be used for the continued rehabilitation of the area of Halifax that was damaged by the explosion ...".

*Copied to:
Aldermen
City Manager
City Solicitor
22/04/81*

....2

Mr. Solomon expects that in due time there will no doubt be some funds left for transfer, but he points out that there have been no deaths among the pensioners for about a year and a half although their ages range from 64 to 89. While this in itself is very good news, we must recognize that the longevity of the recipient will continue to deplete the funds available. While the Commission would like to further improve the position of the individual recipients, it is bound to operate within the bounds of actuarial realities. On this basis it was able to provide an additional increase of 5% in the rates paid as of January 1, 1981. Unfortunately this is not keeping up with Consumer Price Index changes. For comparison, pensions paid to disabled veterans and their dependants were increased by 9.7% at that time.

|| Mr. Solomon was not aware that you had been pressing for an inquiry in Halifax by the Canadian Pension Commission, and can find nothing on file relating to such a request. ||

With respect to your question about whether persons who feel they may have a claim for pension may still make application, I can confirm that they most certainly may. There have been a number of such claims in the last few years, and two were dealt with in the past several days.

The difficulty is that many persons seem to feel that awards should be made on the basis of need rather than in relation to the injury caused and from which an individual may still suffer. Insofar as the explosion relief fund is concerned, need cannot be sole cause for an award. However, if there is serious and permanent injury as a result of the explosion, which can be documented, the Commission will be glad to consider an application.

I hope the foregoing information will be helpful in clarifying the situation relating to the administration of the pension fund, but if you should have further questions, either in relation to the Act or concerning specific applications, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,


Gerald A. Regan

Encl.

Short title	1. This Act may be cited as the <i>Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act</i> .	1. La présente loi peut être citée sous le titre: <i>Loi sur la prise en charge des prestations de la Commission de secours d'Halifax</i> .	Titre abrégé
Definitions	2. In this Act,	2. Dans la présente loi,	Définitions
"Commission"	"Commission" means the Halifax Relief Commission, the incorporation of which was confirmed by chapter 24 of the Statutes of Canada, 1918;	"Commission" désigne la Commission de secours d'Halifax dont le chapitre 24 des Statuts du Canada de 1918 a confirmé la constitution en corporation;	5 "Commission"
"Minister"	"Minister" means the Minister of Finance.	"Ministre" désigne le ministre des Finances.	"Ministre"
Powers of Canadian Pension Commission	3. (1) When the General Assembly of Nova Scotia enacts a measure to provide for the dissolution of the Halifax Relief Commission and the transfer of the moneys, securities and other assets of the Halifax Relief Commission to the Minister and the Minister accepts those moneys, securities and other assets pursuant to this Act, the Canadian Pension Commission is thereupon vested with and may exercise, in relation to pensions, grants and allowances paid in respect of death or injury sustained in the explosion at Halifax in 1917, all the powers, duties and functions that, immediately before the dissolution of the Halifax Relief Commission, were vested in and exercisable by the Halifax Relief Commission in relation to those pensions, grants and allowances.	3. (1) La Commission canadienne des pensions est, à l'adoption par l'Assemblée législative de la Nouvelle-Écosse du texte prévoyant la dissolution de la Commission de secours d'Halifax et le transfert des sommes, valeurs mobilières et autres biens de la Commission de secours d'Halifax au Ministre et après acceptation par celui-ci, conformément à la présente loi, de ce transfert, investie des pouvoirs et fonctions dévolus jusqu'à la dissolution de la Commission de secours d'Halifax à cette dernière touchant les pensions, subventions et allocations pour décès ou blessures provoqués par l'explosion survenue à Halifax en 1917.	10 Pouvoirs de la Commission canadienne des pensions
Idem	(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Canadian Pension Commission may (a) continue to pay a pension, a grant or an allowance to any person who, immediately before the dissolution of the Halifax Relief Commission, was receiving a pension, a grant or an allowance from the Halifax Relief Commission in respect of death or injury sustained in the explosion at Halifax in 1917; and (b) pay a pension, a grant or an allowance to any person who the Canadian Pension Commission determines is eligible to receive a pension, a grant or an allowance in respect of death or injury sustained in the explosion at Halifax in 1917.	(2) La Commission canadienne des pensions peut, notamment, a) continuer à verser les pensions, subventions ou allocations aux personnes qui, jusqu'à la dissolution de la Commission de secours d'Halifax, y étaient admissibles; ou b) les verser aux personnes qu'elle juge admissibles.	Idem 25
Transfer of property and obligations to Minister	4. (1) The Minister shall accept the moneys, securities and other assets held by or in the name of or in trust for the Commission and is bound by any subsisting obligations and	4. (1) Le Ministre accepte les sommes, valeurs mobilières et biens détenus par la Commission, en son nom ou en fiducie à son profit, et il est lié par le solde de ses dettes et	Transfert de l'actif et du passif au Ministre

Balance for
continued
habilitation

6. When, in the opinion of the Minister, no further amounts will be required to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund pursuant to subsection 5(3), the Governor in Council may, after consultation with the Government of Nova Scotia, authorize the transfer of the balance to the credit of the Account to a provincial or municipal body in Nova Scotia to be used for the continued rehabilitation of the area of Halifax that was damaged by the explosion at Halifax in 1917.

6. A l'épuisement, constaté par le Ministre, des prélèvements exigibles sur le Fonds du revenu consolidé visés au paragraphe 5(3), le gouverneur en conseil peut, après consultation du gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse, autoriser le transfert du solde créditeur du Compte à un organisme provincial ou municipal de cette province afin de poursuivre la reconstruction du secteur de la ville d'Halifax endommagé par l'explosion du 6 décembre 1917.

Utilisation du
solde

Credits to
Public Service
Superannuation
Account

7. (1) There shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and credited to the account referred to in the *Public Service Superannuation Act* as the Superannuation Account (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Public Service Superannuation Account")

(a) the moneys accepted by the Minister pursuant to subsection 4(1) that were held by or in the name of or in trust for the Commission on account of the superannuation fund established under the Superannuation Plan and administered by the Commission; and

(b) the moneys realized from the liquidation made pursuant to subsection 4(2) of securities or other assets that were held by or in the name of or in trust for the Commission on account of the superannuation fund described in paragraph (a).

7. (1) Sont versées au Fonds du revenu consolidé et portées au crédit du compte mentionné dans la *Loi sur la pension de la Fonction publique* sous le titre "Compte de pension de retraite" (ci-après dénommé "Compte de pension de retraite de la Fonction publique")

a) les sommes acceptées par le Ministre en vertu du paragraphe 4(1) et précédemment détenues par la Commission, en son nom ou en fiducie à son profit pour le compte du fonds, intitulé *superannuation fund*, créé en vertu du Régime de retraite et géré par la Commission; et

b) les sommes provenant de la liquidation effectuée en vertu du paragraphe 4(2) des valeurs mobilières ou autres biens précédemment détenus par la Commission, en son nom ou en fiducie à son profit pour le compte du fonds visé à l'alinéa a).

Versement au
Compte de pen-
sion de retraite
de la Fonction
publique

Charge to
Public Service
Superannuation
Account

(2) There shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and charged to the Public Service Superannuation Account, subject to the terms and conditions of the Superannuation Plan, any benefit payable out of the superannuation fund described in paragraph (1)(a) pursuant to that Plan.

(2) Sont prélevées sur le Fonds du revenu consolidé et portées au débit du Compte de pension de retraite de la Fonction publique, sous réserve des conditions du Régime de retraite, les prestations payables sur le fonds visé à l'alinéa (1)a) en vertu de ce régime.

Prélèvements
sur le Compte
de pension de
retraite de la
Fonction publi-
que

Definition of
"Superannua-
tion Plan"

(3) For the purposes of this section, "Superannuation Plan" means the Halifax Relief Commission Superannuation Plan, as it exists on the dissolution of the Commission, that was established for the benefit of employees, officers and members of the Commission pursuant to an Order of the Governor in Council dated January 24, 1945 (P.C. 163/505).

(3) Dans le présent article, "Régime de retraite" désigne le *Superannuation Plan* de la Commission de secours d'Halifax, en son état à la dissolution de celle-ci, créé au profit de ses employés, de ses dirigeants et de ses membres en application du décret du gouverneur en conseil daté du 24 janvier 1945 (C.P. 163505).

Définition de
"Régime de
retraite"

R.S. 1952, c.
148; 1970-71-72,
c. 63

8. Paragraph 81(1)(f) of the *Income Tax Act* is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

8. L'alinéa 81(1)f) de la *Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu* est abrogé et remplacé par ce qui suit:

S.R. de 1952, c.
148; 1970-71-72,
c. 63

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

May 28, 1981

Dear Mr. Minister:

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 1981 concerning the Halifax Relief Commission.

The difficulties of this year's tax rate setting process have precluded my dealing with this matter to this point, but I certainly appreciate your action on behalf of the City of Halifax. I believe that further clarification which you have received from Mr. A. E. Sullivan, Chairman of the Canada Pension Commission, regarding the eventual disposition of the Halifax Relief Commission funds and the assurance that any residual funds will be used for the continued rehabilitation of the area of Halifax that was damaged by the explosion, puts one of the City's concerns in this matter to rest.

There remains the matter of a number of individuals who feel they have justifiable claim for assistance under the Relief Commission. You have been most helpful in explaining that the Commission will indeed look at these claims and I am pleased to hear that two additional awards have, in fact, been made in the past short while.

I am attaching to this letter a listing of the names and addresses of those persons who have contacted the City with respect to claims against the Relief Commission and I would ask that you forward these to Mr. Sullivan, in order that a review can be made of these specific situations. Possibly, the two recently approved cases are among these cases listed, in which instance nothing further is required.

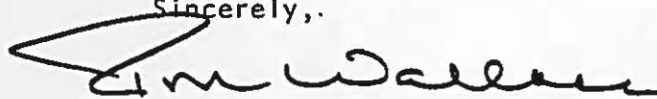
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The Honourable Gerald Regan

Page 2

Once again, I thank you for your involvement in this matter on behalf of the City of Halifax, which has resulted in a most satisfactory clarification of the situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

RON WALLACE
MAYOR

/cm

The Honourable Gerald Regan, M.P.
Minister of Labour
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA, Canada K1A 0A6

cc Members of City Council

Director of Finance

APPLICANTS

HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

Miss Catheryn Hartlen
c/o Marie Slaunwyte
5672 Livingstone Street
HALIFAX, N. S. B3K 2C

Mr. Quinton V. Lantz
5573 Falkland Street
HALIFAX, N. S. B3K 1A6

Mrs. Gertrude Fitzgerald
5846 West Street
HALIFAX, N. S. B3K 1J3

Miss Hazel Stacey
5846 West Street
HALIFAX, N. S. B3K 1J3

Mrs. Gertrude Flemming
c/o Ms. Joyce MacDonald
Office of George Cooper, MP
House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada
(Last address for contact on file)

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

May 28, 1981

Honourable Gerald A. Regan
Minister
Labour Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Minister:

I wish to thank you for your letter of April 13, 1981, concerning the Halifax Relief Commission.

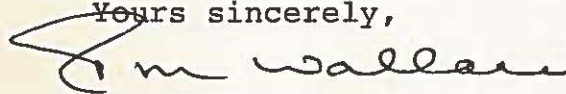
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I am attaching, to this letter, a listing of the names and addresses of those persons who have contacted the City with respect to claims against the Relief Commission and I would ask that you might forward these to Mr. Sullivan, in order that a review can be made of these specific situations. Possibly, the two recently approved cases are among these cases listed, in which case obviously nothing further is required for those individuals.

Once again, may I thank you for your involvement in this matter, on behalf of the City of Halifax, which has resulted in a most satisfactory clarification of the situation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ron Wallace
MAYOR

/ch

Att.

cc: City Council, for Information

APPLICANTS

HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

Miss Catheryn Hartlen
c/o Marie Slaunwyte
5672 Livingston Street
Halifax, N. S.

Mr. Quinton V. Lantz
5573 Falkland Street
Halifax, N. S.
B3K 1A6

Mrs. Gertrude Flemming
c/o Ms. Joyce MacDonald
Office of Mr. George Cooper, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Miss Hazel Stacey
c/o Ms. Joyce MacDonald 5846 West St.
Office of Mr. George Cooper
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Mrs. Gertrude Fitzgerald
5846 West Street
Halifax, N. S.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

May 19, 1981

Dear Mr. Minister

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 1981 and information on the Halifax Relief Commission. I note that applications for pensions are still eligible for consideration even after all these years. My concern as an MLA was to establish this eligibility but also to establish a review of the one-shot settlements. These were payments of \$400. to \$500. in full settlement for claims. Acceptance of these amounts eliminated a lifetime pension. Parents and guardians accepted these for minors and there is a question of law involved.

I can appreciate that at this late date any review of old claims would be very difficult.

You will note my request for an inquiry in Halifax and the reply received is enclosed. Your April 13th letter stated:

"Mr. Solomon was not aware that you had been pressing for an inquiry in Halifax by the Canadian Pension Commission, and can find nothing on file relating to such a request."

The relevant correspondence on this is enclosed.

Finally, I want to bring to your attention a resolution of Council:

/2

"Halifax Housing Disaster Relief Pensions - Alderman
O'Malley

Alderman O'Malley advised of correspondence received from the Honourable Gerald A. Regan, dated April 13, 1981 with regard to the Halifax Housing Disaster Relief Pension with the recommendation of a 5% increase in Pension rates. Alderman O'Malley asked that Council consider the matter of writing to the Honourable Minister requesting that Mr. Solomon review the decision in this matter.

Moved by Alderman O'Malley, seconded by Alderman Cromwell that Council write a letter to the Honourable Mr. Regan requesting that Pension benefits be reviewed with a view to increasing same to a rate more favourably compared to the Cost-of-Living Index.

Motion passed."

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

RON WALLACE
M A Y O R

Honourable Gerald A. Regan, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Labor
House of Commons
OTTAWA, Ontario

c.c. Mr. A.E. Solomon
Chairman
Canadian Pensions Commission



✓
July 5, 1978

Honourable Jean Chrétien,
Minister of Finance,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Minister:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to the Acting Secretary of Pensions.

In 1976, legislation in Ottawa, and also in Nova Scotia, dissolved the Halifax Relief Commission. The Minister of Finance was empowered to establish the Halifax Explosion Pension Account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The Act imposed a statutory duty on the Canadian Pension Commission to continue existing pensions, to make any required adjustments, and also to initiate new grants or pensions to any persons determined eligible.

Enclosed is a copy of the Nova Scotia Act.

My special interest is in the lump-sum settlements made shortly after the explosion to parents on behalf of their children. I am advised these were not legal because they were not approved by the court and therefore the claims for injuries were not satisfied. I have twenty letters with names and addresses, but the Commission will have complete records.

I suggest the Commission hold an inquiry in Halifax. This would be in line with their statutory responsibility:

1. to review existing pensions
2. to review the adequacy of early lump-sum settlements made to parents on behalf of minors
3. to consider any new claims. This is authorized in the Act 4(a)(11).

Page 2

July 5, 1978

Honourable Jean Chretien

There are not many survivors who would qualify under the above three classifications. There is still a balance in the fund. On behalf of those injured who still survive, I respectfully request an inquiry be held in Halifax.

Sincerely,

✓
Ron Wallace, M. L. A.
Halifax Citadel

/sw

Encl.



P. O. Box 998
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1W1
June 21, 1978

Mrs. Joan Denis
Acting Secretary of Pensions
284 Wellington Street
Room 2033
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mrs. Denis:

I have an interest in the original Halifax Explosion Fund. Could you bring me up to date on this? Any information will be appreciated. For instance, what is the balance? What is the annual (or monthly) pay-out on pensions? How many survivors are receiving pensions? What amount would be required in an insurance type fund to cover future pension payments? What is planned for any balance remaining? Is it planned to wait for the last claim to be paid before freeing the balance of the fund?

My interest is based on correspondence and contacts with a great many victims of the Explosion. My file contains reports on many claims satisfied in the early days of the Commission by one-time settlements. For instance: \$400 or \$500 for the loss of an eye. It is my conviction that it is still not too late to make some additional compensation. These victims were often underage and settlements were made by parents on their behalf. This would not be legal today without permission of the Court.

Please advise who is the Minister and the Deputy Minister responsible for the fund. Any answers, information or advice you can give in reply to this letter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Wallace".

Ron Wallace, M.L.A.
Halifax Citadel

/rt