



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



September 5, 19781 ✓

Mr. Ron Wallace, M.L.A.,
House of Assembly,
HALIFAX, N.S.
B3J 2X3

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Your letter of July 27th has been brought to my attention. I note that you are concerned about (1) existing pensions; (2) reviewing the adequacy of early lump-sum settlements made on behalf of minors and (3) consideration of new claims, and you suggested that there be an inquiry to look into these matters.

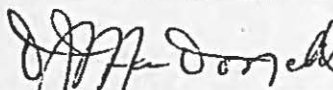
With respect to existing pensions, there would appear to be no need for an inquiry because following a recent review of existing pensions the amounts paid were all increased. Insofar as new claims are concerned, there is no reason why an individual who is suffering a serious disability which can be shown to have been caused by the explosion cannot now apply for a pension. He should submit an application to the Canadian Pension Commission. This application should include as much detailed information about the identification of the individual as possible, including medical details of the injury and the names of any relatives who could assist in confirming the details of his injuries. The address at the time of the explosion would be helpful.

I am advised that the Halifax Relief Commission was given full authority to make lump-sum settlements by Chap. 61 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1918, and Chap. 24 of the Statutes of Canada, 1918. I am also advised that any such payments made to minor children under these authorities were quite legal and at this time should not be the subject of an inquiry. The remaining funds on hand for the payment of relief to such survivors are quite limited and there is little likelihood of any change in the basic ground rules under which the Halifax Relief Commission made its original awards some sixty years ago.

I am assured that all applications submitted under The Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act are carefully considered by the Pension Commission.

I hope that the above has sufficiently clarified the matter for you.

Yours sincerely,


Daniel J. MacDonald



✓ His Worship Mayor Wallace
CITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
CITY HALL

Halifax, N. S., May 5 19 81

Extracts from Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Halifax
held on the 30th day of April 19 81

Halifax Housing Disaster Relief Pensions - Alderman O'Malley

Alderman O'Malley advised of correspondence received from the Hon. 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 Hon. 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 Hon. 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 .

A TRUE COPY

G.I. BLENNERHASSETT
CITY CLERK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

April 16, 1981

Dear Mrs. Fitzgerald:

Thank you for your letter. The Halifax Explosion took place over sixty years ago but we still are hearing from those who were injured. There are a number of people receiving benefits for injuries received and, in addition, we are trying to get some assistance for those not covered for benefits. In this regard we have not been very successful. The argument in Ottawa is that the balance remaining in the fund is only sufficient to cover the continuing payments of the established benefits.

Alderman Nick Meagher is concerned about some people like yourself and has talked to me about it. It is not easy today with inflation and set incomes for our senior citizens.

I hope that things are going well for you and one of these days I may have an opportunity to be up in your area and, if so, I will try to drop in to see you.

Sincerely,

RON WALLACE
MAYOR

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

*Copy of Hon. Gerald Regan's letter
to Mayor Ron Wallace
of April 13/81 attached.*

1
RECEIVED
APR 23 1981
MAYOR'S OFFICE
Dear Sir Wallace
I am writing you this
letter to ask in the
name of god if some
one cant help me
much Mar the
alderman is do his
best for me but now
they say I have to have
had my husband in
the war I am not a
war widow I am
a halifax explosion
victim no the
war salder has nothing
to do with 1917 explosion
the morning war

2
yinner By people
now - why should
they take our money
for ~~solders~~

Solders: pencees.
they have all the records
about me even
the hospital papers I sent
them now they
dont need any
no mr wallace more to
Bless Jan if Jan you will
nice for me god help
those that help his
children I am one of
them; praise the
sord

3
I be praying for you
to have good luck in
the Lord for me my
name was Mrs Joseph
Flemming the time
of the explosion one
~~of the~~ Flemming
died the next week
after the explosion
he was burned terrible
I was living up in my
house but a voice came
by my side said this
way out lead me
out that was my
Lord voice praise him

4
My far man
I hope to hear
from you
after you see
up what you can
do God Bless you
From Mrs
Gertrude Fitzgerald
5846 West St
Halifax N.S
Phone 4290628



15 October 1980

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

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0P4

A.O. Solomon,

Chairman

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

August 18, 1980

Dear Mr. Minister

Further to my letter of June 11, 1980 concerning the Halifax Relief Commission and your reply of July 2, the City has received a number of additional requests for assistance from citizens of Halifax who believe that they warrant assistance from Commission funds.

The matter of the Halifax Relief Commission was, in fact, raised at the Halifax City Council meeting of July 31, 1980, where a number of questions were asked which cannot be answered by either myself or City staff, at the present time. The matter was again raised at the Committee of the Whole meeting of August 6, 1980.


It would appear that Aldermen of the City are receiving quite a number of calls from prospective pensioners, and also, calls regarding the pensions presently being paid by the Relief Commission and the jurisdiction and eventual disposition of the funds contained therein. The City has been trying consistently for something approaching a year, to obtain responses to these questions and I would be obliged if you would make every possible effort through your fellow ministers to obtain a speedy response to these questions.

. . . 2

Honourable Gerald A. Regan, Q.C., P.C., M.P.
Page Two
August 18, 1980

I certainly wish to thank you for your efforts to date on behalf of the City in this matter and look forward to a speedy resolution to what has been an on-going area of frustration on the part of a number of Members of Halifax City Council.

Yours truly,


RONALD J. HANSON
M A Y O R

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

RJH:c11
c.c. Members, Halifax City Council



TO:	His Worship, Mayor Hanson	1. FOLLOW UP
FROM:	B. G. Smith, C.A., Director of Finance	2. FOLLOW UP
DATE:	August 7, 1980	3. FOLLOW UP
SUBJECT:	Halifax Relief Commission Fund	4. COMPLETION DATE

The City Manager had suggested that we might copy the Honourable Minister of Fisheries for the Province of Nova Scotia and although that gentleman was pretty much involved in the Relief Commission matters in his previous office, we must regretably point out that his efforts did not produce results. Furthermore, it would not seem appropriate to copy him on a letter to the Minister of Labour at this time, although a blind copy could, of course, be forwarded at your discretion. Also, you may wish to consider recognizing the amount of feeling expressed on this matter at the Committee of the Whole of August 6th, and send a copy of the attached letter to Honourable Gerald Regan to Council for information.

B. G. Smith
Director of Finance

BGS/ss
Att.

cc: Mr. P. Calda, P. Eng.

RECEIVED

AUG 7 1980

**MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY HALL**

TELEX 019-22641
TELEPHONE
902-426- 6429



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

August 7, 1980

Honourable Gerald A. Regan, QC, MP
Minister of Labour
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Minister:

Further to my letter of June 11, 1980, concerning the Halifax Relief Commission and your reply of July 2, 1980, the City has received a number of additional requests for assistance from citizens of Halifax who believe that they warrant assistance from Commission funds.

The matter of the Halifax Relief Commission was, in fact, raised at the Halifax City Council meeting of July 31, 1980, where a number of questions were asked which cannot be answered by either myself or the City staff, at the present time. The matter was again raised at the Committee of the Whole meeting of August 6, 1980.

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I certainly wish to thank you for your efforts to date on behalf of the City in this matter and look forward to a speedy resolution to what has been an on-going area of frustration on the part of a number of members of Halifax City Council.

Yours sincerely,

RONALD HANSON
M A Y O R



Minister
Labour Canada

Ministre
Travail Canada

*Copy to B. G. Smith, C.A.
Director of Finance*

RECEIVED

JUL 7 1980

**MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY HALL**

July 2, 1980

His Worship Mayor Ronald Hanson,
City of Halifax,
1841 Argyle Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.
B3J 3A5

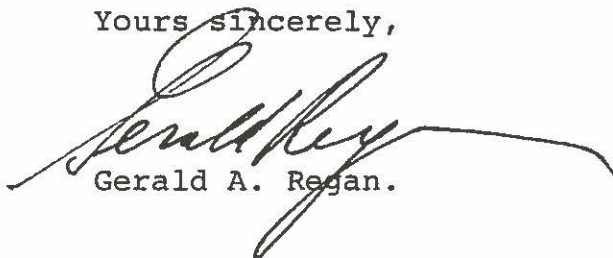
Dear Mayor Hanson:

Thank you for your letter of June 11th on behalf of residents of Halifax who have applied for pensions or pension adjustments from the Halifax Relief Commission.

Representations have been made through the Office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, and I will be in touch with you as soon as I have anything to report.

Meanwhile, thank you for bringing to my attention the difficulties that the staff of City Hall have experienced in obtaining information requested.

Yours sincerely,


Gerald A. Regan.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

June 11, 1980

Dear Mr. Minister

I wish to bring to your attention and seek your assistance in dealing with some difficulties which are being experienced in Halifax, with respect to the functions previously undertaken by the Halifax Relief Commission.

The Halifax Relief Commission was established in 1917 to deal with victims of the Halifax Explosion and the Commission operated until approximately three years ago, when the Commission was disbanded and the funds were put into the custody of the Federal Department of Pensions. A number of persons have contacted the City in this intervening period, since the disbandment of the Commission, claiming handicaps suffered as a result of the explosion, and seeking assistance from that source. These persons have been referred to the Federal Department of Pensions, so far without results. Furthermore, attempts by City staff to obtain an accounting of the results of the investment of the funds passed over the Department of Pensions and the levels of pensions presently being paid, have not met with success.

The City would be most appreciative of any assistance which you are able to provide in this regard. Details of the persons attempting to obtain pension are available within the City's files.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald Hanson
RONALD HANSON
MAYOR

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

RH:c11

111 B. G. Smith

RECEIVED
JUN 9 1980
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

June 6, 1980

RECEIVED
JUN 6 1980
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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

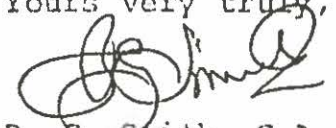
Dear Mr. Lantz:

I wish to thank you for and respond to your letter of May 30, 1980, concerning the Halifax Relief Commission Fund which was, until recently, available for persons who suffered injuries as a result of the Halifax explosion.

The Relief Commission Fund was taken over some two years ago by the Federal government. It had previously been operated by a separate commission and, from that time forward, it has been extremely difficult to obtain any information on the balance of funds available or to have any applications for pension processed. The Fund, I understand, is now administered by the Federal Department of Pensions and we have on file within the City a number of persons who are anxious to obtain payment from it.

I will add your name to the list of potential applicants which I have on file and I will be most happy to advise you if any progress is made.

Yours very truly,



B. G. Smith, C.A.
Director of Finance

BGS/ss
cc: Mr. P. Calda:

Please do

Alderman Meagher has a couple of potential applicants for this and I have 2 or 3 on my files and we really have not been getting any progress at all. I wonder if it would be appropriate to prepare a letter for the Mayor to send to the Hon. Gerald Regan as MP for the area, in an effort to obtain (a) an accounting of the Relief Commission Fund, which I have not been able to obtain since it was taken over by the federal govt. and (b) to attempt to obtain pensions for the 4 or 5

His Worship, Mayor Hanson

B. G. Smith, C.A., Director of Finance

August 7, 1980

Halifax Relief Commission Fund

The City Manager had suggested that we might copy the Honourable Minister of Fisheries for the Province of Nova Scotia and although that gentleman was pretty much involved in the Relief Commission matters in his previous office, we must regrettably point out that his efforts did not produce results. Furthermore, it would not seem appropriate to copy him on a letter to the Minister of Labour at this time, although a blind copy could, of course, be forwarded at your discretion. Also, you may wish to consider recognizing the amount of feeling expressed on this matter at the Committee of the Whole of August 6th, and send a copy of the attached letter to Honourable Gerald Regan to Council for information.



B. G. Smith
Director of Finance

BGS/ss
Att.

cc: Mr. P. Calda, P. Eng.

August 7, 1980

Honourable Gerald A. Regan, QC, MP
Minister of Labour
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Minister:

Further to my letter of June 11, 1980, concerning the Halifax Relief Commission and your reply of July 2, 1980, the City has received a number of additional requests for assistance from citizens of Halifax who believe that they warrant assistance from Commission funds.

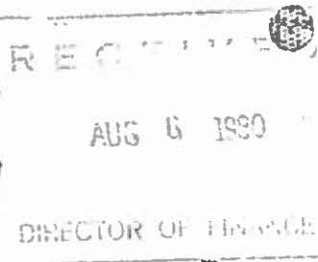
The matter of the Halifax Relief Commission was, in fact, raised at the Halifax City Council meeting of July 31, 1980, where a number of questions were asked which cannot be answered by either myself or the City staff, at the present time. The matter was again raised at the Committee of the Whole meeting of August 6, 1980.

It would appear that aldermen of the City are receiving quite a number of calls from prospective pensioners, and also, calls regarding the pensions presently being paid by the Relief Commission and the jurisdiction and eventual disposition of the funds contained therein. The City has been trying consistently for something approaching a year, to obtain responses to these questions and I would be obliged if you would make every possible effort through your fellow ministers to obtain a speedy response to these questions.

I certainly wish to thank you for your efforts to date on behalf of the City in this matter and look forward to a speedy resolution to what has been an on-going area of frustration on the part of a number of members of Halifax City Council.

Yours sincerely,

RONALD HANSON
M A Y O R



CITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
CITY HALL

City Manager
Director of Social Planning
City Solicitor
Director of Finance

Halifax, N. S., August 5 19 80

Extracts from Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Halifax
held on the 31st day of July 19 80

Halifax Relief Fund

The above item was added at the request of Alderman Downey who advised that he has received a number of calls from persons enquiring as to whether their pensions are to be increased. Alderman Downey asked whether the Provincial or Federal Governments will be releasing the funds.

Alderman Meagher asked whether it would be possible to have someone in the Social Assistance Department appointed to assist the various pensioners, etc. with their claims and renewal applications. Alderman Meagher requested that the City Manager's office give consideration to the matter of having someone who would be responsible for such action before the Pension Review Board.

His Worship advised that a letter has been forwarded to Ottawa requesting release of funds but that no response has been received.

Alderman Clarke advised that he would like to know who has the legal jurisdiction and final determination with respect to the funds. Alderman Clarke said he would also like to be advised of the number of pensioners remaining and to have the claims reviewed to see if pensions can be upgraded. Alderman Clarke requested further information from staff on the matter including whether the City has any jurisdiction.

The Director of Finance said it was his understanding that during the final wind-up, the City was to be consulted on the matter but it has been difficult to obtain a response to date.

Catherine MacNeil
CATHERINE MacNEIL,
ACTING CITY CLERK

/bd



Minister
Labour Canada



Minister
Travel Canada

Director of Finance

RECEIVED

JUL 7 1980

MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY HALL

July 2, 1980

His Worship Mayor Ronald Hanson,
City of Halifax,
1841 Argyle Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.
B3J 3A5

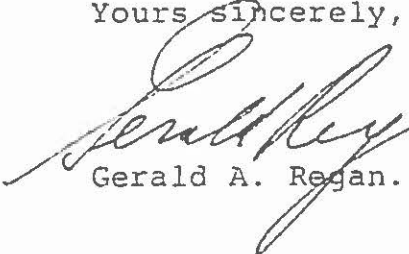
Dear Mayor Hanson:

Thank you for your letter of June 11th on behalf of residents of Halifax who have applied for pensions or pension adjustments from the Halifax Relief Commission.

Representations have been made through the Office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, and I will be in touch with you as soon as I have anything to report.

Meanwhile, thank you for bringing to my attention the difficulties that the staff of City Hall have experienced in obtaining information requested.

Yours sincerely,


Gerald A. Regan.

Noted

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5



June 11, 1980

Dear Mr. Minister

I wish to bring to your attention and seek your assistance in dealing with some difficulties which are being experienced in Halifax, with respect to the functions previously undertaken by the Halifax Relief Commission.

The Halifax Relief Commission was established in 1917 to deal with victims of the Halifax Explosion and the Commission operated until approximately three years ago, when the Commission was disbanded and the funds were put into the custody of the Federal Department of Pensions. A number of persons have contacted the City in this intervening period, since the disbandment of the Commission, claiming handicaps suffered as a result of the explosion, and seeking assistance from that source. These persons have been referred to the Federal Department of Pensions, so far without results. Furthermore, attempts by City staff to obtain an accounting of the results of the investment of the funds passed over the Department of Pensions and the levels of pensions presently being paid, have not met with success.

The City would be most appreciative of any assistance which you are able to provide in this regard. Details of the persons attempting to obtain pension are available within the City's files.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald Hanson
RONALD HANSON
MAYOR

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

RH:c11

copy to: B.Y. Smith, C.A.
Dir. of Fin.

B/S Jan 21/80
8/15/80

His Worship Mayor Morris

B. G. Smith, Director of Finance

January 7, 1980

Halifax Relief Commission Funds

I have been attempting, over the last four or five months, to get a current accounting of the balance of the Halifax Relief Commission monies and to determine the status of the Fund and its rate of earnings from the time of hand over of the funds to the Federal Government to some more current period. It seems to me that the principal of the fund has declined rather more rapidly than I would have expected, in view of the level of pension payments being made and in view of the short term nature of the investments at the time of hand-over and the available rates of earnings at the present time. I have been attempting to keep some monitor on this Relief Commission situation in the hopes that residual monies can be made available to the City of Halifax for one or more of the purposes previously outlined to the Federal Government in your various memoranda.

In order to play any effective role in this, I at least need to monitor the earnings history since the time of hand-over. So far, I have not been successful in this. I have been in regular correspondence with the office of Mr. George Cooper, in an effort to obtain information. Ms. Joyce MacDougall, of Mr. Cooper's office, contacted me on the matter of the Relief Commission Funds at one point and, using this as a point of reference, I have attempted to obtain information which, in fact, she promised to make available to me, so far without results and obviously the present situation in Ottawa does not improve the chances of getting any information at this point.

If you feel that this line of effort is unlikely to be profitable, I would appreciate your comments to that effect. If, however, you feel that there is something to be gained in monitoring the Relief Commission Funds, then I would ask for your advice on how I might obtain the necessary information so to do.

BGS
B. G. Smith
Director of Finance

BCS/ch

December 6, 1979

Ms. Joyce MacDougall
Office of Mr. George Cooper, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Ms. MacDougall:

On October 31, 1979, I wrote to you requesting information regarding the present status of the Halifax Relief Commission Funds. A copy of that letter is attached for your information.

To date, I have not received a reply. Would you please check your files and advise me of the status of the funds.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours very truly,



B. G. Smith, C.A.
Director of Finance

BGS/ch
Att.

October 31, 1979

Ms. Joyce MacDougall
Office of Mr. George Cooper, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Ms. MacDougall:

Further to your letter of August 27, 1979, on behalf of Mr. Cooper, I am wondering whether you now have any information regarding the present status of the Halifax Relief Commission funds.

You will appreciate that the City of Halifax has a particular interest in these funds and, as you may recall, it was your intention to look into the present situation. I am, of course, particularly interested in what has transpired with regard to the balance of the funds since they were transferred from Halifax to Ottawa and the future prognosis in terms of continued level of payment from the funds.

Yours very truly,



B. G. Smith, C.A.
Director of Finance

BGS/ss

**Circulations/Enclosures/
Action Request**

TO Allan Wayne	DATE February 21/80
FROM B. G. Smith	DEPT./ DIVISION Mayor's Office
	PHONE NO. 6498

FOR DISTRIBUTION <input type="radio"/>	AS REQUESTED <input type="radio"/>
FOR YOUR INFO./ ATTN. <input type="radio"/>	NOTE AND RETURN <input type="radio"/>
FOR YOUR APPROVAL <input type="radio"/>	PLEASE FOLLOW-UP <input type="radio"/>
FOR YOUR SIGNATURE <input type="radio"/>	PLEASE PREPARE REPORT/ REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE <input type="radio"/>
FOR YOUR COMMENTS <input type="radio"/>	DRAFT REPLY <input type="radio"/>
MAKE _____ COPIES <input type="radio"/>	BRING FORWARD <input type="radio"/>

MESSAGE/ COMMENTS

① Have you been in contact with Mr. Dixon? ② Am I likely to get any information if I try? ③ Is the Mayor following this or should I continue to attempt to?

① yes ② maybe ③ the Mayor is not following up presently to the best of my knowledge. I advised Bernie Smith Feb. 27/80
Allan

From: *Allan* THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HALIFAX

To: *File*

Date: *March 5/80*



231

As instructed by the Mayor I advised Bernie Smith, Director of the Finance Dept. not proceed on this matter as the Mayor plans to be in Ottawa over the next few weeks to month and he will look into it.

Finance

~~B/G Jan 1/80~~
~~B/G Jan 15/80~~
His Worship Mayor Morris

B. G. Smith, Director of Finance


January 7, 1980

Halifax Relief Commission Funds

I have been attempting, over the last four or five months, to get a current accounting of the balance of the Halifax Relief Commission monies and to determine the status of the Fund and its rate of earnings from the time of hand over of the funds to the Federal Government to some more current period. It seems to me that the principal of the fund has declined rather more rapidly than I would have expected. in view of the level of pension payments being made and in view of the short term nature of the investments at the time of hand-over and the available rates of earnings at the present time. I have been attempting to keep some monitor on this Relief Commission situation in the hopes that residual monies can be made available to the City of Halifax for one or more of the purposes previously outlined to the Federal Government in your various memoranda.

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B. G. Smith
Director of Finance

BGS/ch

December 6, 1979

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Office of Mr. George Cooper, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

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Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'B. G. Smith', written in a cursive style.

B. G. Smith, C.A.
Director of Finance

BGS/ch
Att.

October 31, 1979

Ms. Joyce MacDougall
Office of Mr. George Cooper, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Ms. MacDougall:

Further to your letter of August 27, 1979, on behalf of Mr. Cooper, I am wondering whether you now have any information regarding the present status of the Halifax Relief Commission funds.

You will appreciate that the City of Halifax has a particular interest in these funds and, as you may recall, it was your intention to look into the present situation. I am, of course, particularly interested in what has transpired with regard to the balance of the funds since they were transferred from Halifax to Ottawa and the future prognosis in terms of continued level of payment from the funds.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'B. G. Smith', written in a cursive style.

B. G. Smith, C.A.
Director of Finance

BGS/ss

Dir. of Ins.

April 10, 1979

Dear Mrs. Fitzgerald:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 9, 1979 and our telephone conversation(s) on this matter.

I apologize for the delay but time has not permitted an earlier reply.

I have been advised by Mr. W. D. Dixon of the Canadian Pension Commission that your application is under consideration by their staff in Ottawa, Ontario. Apparently, their delay is due to the abundance of applications to be processed in such matters as the Halifax Explosion and Veterans Pensions. Mr. Dixon also advised me that he has had conversations with you on this matter and was not able to update you. However, he suggested you may get a status report if you write to:

Secretary
Canadian Pension Commission
Veterans Memorial Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P4

I trust that this meets with your satisfaction.

Yours truly,

Allan M. Waye
Principal Assistant to the Mayor

Mrs. Gertrude Fitzgerald
5846 West Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia

AMW:sm

From:

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HALIFAX

To:



Date:

231

Can. Pension Commission

W. Doug Dixon

P.O. 576

Halifax,

B3T 2R7

426-7991

Secretary to

Can. Pension Comm.

Veterans Memorial Bldg

Office

K/A OP4



TO: Mr. Alan Waye, Principal Assistant to the Mayor 1. FOLLOW UP
FROM: B.G. Smith, Director of Finance 2. FOLLOW UP
DATE: March 12, 1979 3. FOLLOW UP
SUBJECT: Mrs. Fitzgerald - 5486 West Street - 4. COMPLETION DATE
Halifax Relief Commission

257

Further to your telephone call today regarding Mrs Fitzgerald of West Street, we are enclosing the two letters which we have written on behalf of Mrs. Fitzgerald, which we forwarded to her for her possible signature.

You have informed me that Mrs. Fitzgerald does not appear to be getting results in response to the letters, which we had written on her behalf and which, of course, we had forwarded to her for possible signature. On the assumption that she had signed them and sent them off, I can only suggest that a follow-up letter on the Mayor's stationery might produce results, if the Hon. Allen MacEachern is ^{not} responding to Mrs. Fitzgerald, herself.

A suggestion of such a letter might be along the lines of "Dear Mr. Minister, I have been contacted by one of the citizens of Halifax, who I understand has been attempting to obtain information regarding Halifax Relief Commission Funds. This citizen, Mrs. Fitzgerald of 5846 West Street, Halifax is, I understand, suffering some disability as a result of injuries received in the Halifax Explosion, and is attempting to determine if she would be eligible for assistance from funds previously managed by the Halifax Relief Commission. In that the Halifax Relief Commission Funds have been returned to the custody of the Federal Government, Mrs. Fitzgerald has been attempting to obtain some response from the Federal level, so far without result. I am wondering whether you are able to intercede in anyway on her behalf. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated."

I trust something on the above lines might take the matter a step further. We have, of course, been as helpful as possible at this end.

B.G. Smith, C.A.,
Director of Finance.

RECEIVED

BGS/bs

MAR 12 1979

MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY HALL

Relief Commission 11/1/79

February 9, 1979.

5846 West Street,
Halifax, N.S.

429-0628

Hon. Allen MacEachern,
Minister,
House of Commons,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

Dear Mr. Minister:

I regret to have to further trouble you at this time but I have not, to this point, been favoured with a response to my letter of January 9, 1979, a copy of which is attached for your further information.

My situation is desperate - I really need help and I believe that the Halifax Relief Commission funds, designated for the assistance of victims of the 1917 explosion, should be available to assist me, a victim of that explosion, in some measure.

I look forward to your assistance in attempting to obtain financial support, which is both justified and gravely needed.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Fitzgerald.

January 9, 1979.

5846 West Street,
Halifax, N.S.

Hon. Allen MacEachern,
Minister,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Minister:

I wish to bring to your attention my concern over the handling of my case with respect to the Halifax Relief Commission.

I understood that my application for assistance from the Relief Commission was being acted upon expeditiously, but I am now subsequently informed that the matter has been taken out of the hands of the Relief Commission and placed with another agency of the Federal Government, and that the whole thing is stalled pending some finalization of documentation in the Upper House of Parliament. As a result, I have received no assistance and the knowledge that this matter is being acted upon is of little cheer to me under the circumstances.

May I ask that you bring your good offices to bear to expedite this matter, and to see what can be done towards getting me some assistance. I look forward to your efforts on my behalf.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Gertrude Fitzgerald.

1

March 9/59

RECEIVED

MAR 12 1979

MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY HALL

Dear Mr Morris
I was in the Halifax Explosion
In 1917 I got hurt in it
They never gave a penny
of the money I got that belongs
to me. I got half ear half
hand burns in my head &
arms and my body Mr
Allan MacEachern wrote
a letter down here to see
what is to be done now
its a month also I haven't
heard from any one or anything
Can you help me any way at
all. At the time of the explosion
I was Mr Joseph Flemming
Mr Flemming died a week after
the explosion he was burned

so badly. now Sir I hope
you can help me my sister
Hazel Stacey was in the
explosion sh got nothing
my name is Bertrude
Fitzgerald now. I am a Widdow
now please rite & let me
now where I can get help
there were 9 in the
Family they were Killed
It was a terable day anyone
who went through it now
And the Good Lord does all
things Answer soon as
possible

over

Mrs Bertrude
Fitzgerald
5846 West St.
Halifax N.S.
Ph 429 0628

we heard they were going to
build a park out the money
that belongs to us. we can't
bring back the dead but
we can live while we
can.



Minister
Veterans Affairs

Ministre
Affaires des anciens combattants

September 5, 19781

Mr. Ron Wallace, M.L.A.,
House of Assembly,
HALIFAX, N.S.
B3J 2X3

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Your letter of July 27th has been brought to my attention. I note that you are concerned about (1) existing pensions; (2) reviewing the adequacy of early lump-sum settlements made on behalf of minors and (3) consideration of new claims, and you suggested that there be an inquiry to look into these matters.

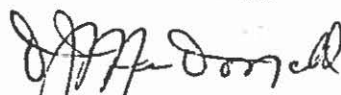
With respect to existing pensions, there would appear to be no need for an inquiry because following a recent review of existing pensions the amounts paid were all increased. Insofar as new claims are concerned, there is no reason why an individual who is suffering a serious disability which can be shown to have been caused by the explosion cannot now apply for a pension. He should submit an application to the Canadian Pension Commission. This application should include as much detailed information about the identification of the individual as possible, including medical details of the injury and the names of any relatives who could assist in confirming the details of his injuries. The address at the time of the explosion would be helpful.

I am advised that the Halifax Relief Commission was given full authority to make lump-sum settlements by Chap. 61 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1918, and Chap. 24 of the Statutes of Canada, 1918. I am also advised that any such payments made to minor children under these authorities were quite legal and at this time should not be the subject of an inquiry. The remaining funds on hand for the payment of relief to such survivors are quite limited and there is little likelihood of any change in the basic ground rules under which the Halifax Relief Commission made its original awards some sixty years ago.

I am assured that all applications submitted under The Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act are carefully considered by the Pension Commission.

I hope that the above has sufficiently clarified the matter for you.

Yours sincerely,


Daniel J. MacDonald

House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0X2

Chambre des communes
OTTAWA, Canada
K1A 0X2



July 27, 1978

The Honourable Daniel MacDonald,
Minister of Veterans Affairs,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Minister:

Enclosed please find copies of letter to the Acting Secretary of Pensions, and reply to that letter.

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 27, 1978

The Honourable Daniel MacDonald

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 to be held in Halifax.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Wallace, M. L. A.
Halifax Citadel

/sw
Encl.



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.

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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



July 4, 1978.

Mr. Ron Wallace, M.L.A.
House of Assembly,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Wallace:

I have your letter of 21 June, 1978. You were inquiring about the Halifax Explosion fund.

The Halifax Relief Commission, established to assist victims of the Halifax Explosion which occurred in 1917, was incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly of Nova Scotia in 1917 and confirmed by an Act of the Parliament of Canada in 1918. Originally, the Commission was funded by substantial grants from the public funds and by voluntary contributions. During the early years, following the explosion, the Commission was concerned with the rebuilding of the north end of Halifax which had been devastated by the explosion and with providing emergency housing and relief to the victims. The legislation also provided for the payment of compensation or allowances to persons who had suffered injury in the explosion and to their dependents.

By 1975 the role of the Halifax Relief Commission had greatly diminished. The only remaining function was with relation to the payment of continuing pensions to some 70 individuals. Early in 1976 legislation was passed by the Government of Nova Scotia and by the Government of Canada which dissolved the Halifax Relief Commission, transferred the funds to Canada and authorized the Canadian Pension Commission to assume the responsibilities previously vested in the Halifax Relief Commission to continue to pay the pensions, grants and allowances which were in effect and to make such payments to any person the Canadian Pension Commission determines is eligible to receive such payments. The provisions of this legislation came into effect at 1 July 1976.

The Canadian Pension Commission, a quasi judicial body established under the Pension Act, reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Daniel J. MacDonald. Mr. Allan O. Solomon is Chairman of the Canadian Pension Commission.

At the present time, 56 persons are receiving pensions each month. Pensions range from \$117.83 to \$440 and total \$12,085 monthly. The balance of the Fund at January 1977 was just under \$1,425,000.

The Fund is examined on a regular basis to ensure that it is actuarilly sound, bearing in mind the Commission's Policy to increase pensions at 1 January each year in accordance with increases to the Consumer Price Index.

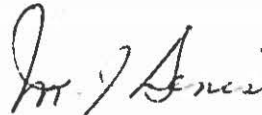
After considerable study the Commission was able to make some substantial changes in January 1978 to most of the pensions paid, but not all pensions were increased at the same rate. Some disparities were found which appeared to be contrary to current social thinking. Examples are that women who were blind were paid at a lesser rate than men with the same affliction. These disparities have been corrected. The Commission felt that in keeping with the principles established in its own Table of Disabilities that there should be a differentiation between the pension paid to a person blind in one eye and someone who had an enucleated eye. Other changes relating to the degrees of disabilities were also considered.

In the result, all pensions under the Halifax Relief Pension Continuation Act were increased on 1 January 1978 by at least 8.5%. (Under the Pension Act pension increases for the military and their dependants were held to the Consumer Price Index change of 7.2%). The funds on hand will not permit a greater increase at this time. We intend to adjust our payments annually, but any adjustment will of necessity be made taking into account the actuarial realities. On an actuarial basis there are only sufficient funds on hand to maintain the above program during the life times of the current recipients.

The Halifax Relief Commission Pension Continuation Act provides that when no further pensioners will require to be paid the Governor in Council may, after consultation with the Government of Nova Scotia authorize the transfer of the balance of the funds remaining 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 of 1917.

I trust that the above information is what you require.

Yours sincerely,



M.J. Denis,
A/Secretary.



THE HALIFAX HERALD LIMITED

Publishers of The Chronicle-Herald and The Mail-Star

Friday, June 30, 1978

Explosion compensation

Over 60 years have passed since the Explosion burst, with catastrophic suddenness, upon this city. The magnitude of the calamity that followed the explosion of the ammunition ship Mont Blanc after it had collided with the Belgium relief ship Imo, Dec. 6, 1917, may be seen in the casualty figures — more than 1,600 dead, over 6,000 injured, many of them blinded by flying glass.

Only this city's senior citizens, some of them still carrying the scars left by one of the greatest man-made explosions in history until the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, have memories of that fateful December day. But other citizens, born long after the Halifax Explosion, continue to show their interest in and their concern for the shattered survivors.

In the forefront is Halifax Citadel MLA Ronald Wallace. Ever since he became a member of the legislature, Mr. Wallace has devoted a great part of his time to matters arising out of the Halifax Explosion. He believes, for instance, that a more suitable memorial to the Explosion should be built in this city. To this end he has repeatedly suggested that a cairn be built in Halifax North that would incorporate the no-longer used chimes of the United Memorial Church — chimes which, originally, were donated as a memorial to the dead of Dec. 7, 1917.

But his main concern has been the fate of those maimed Haligonians who, many years ago, accepted a small settlement instead of lifelong pensions from the Halifax Relief Commission — the agency which had been set up within a few months of the disaster to compensate the victims.

In Ottawa, the balance of the Relief Fund remains at over \$1 million. Two years ago, the books were closed, locally, and the commission ceased to

exist. But the plight of many of those who had suffered continued, especially of those misguided victims who had accepted settlements of between \$400 and \$500 for injuries that would plague them for life.

The sum of \$500 seemed large in 1918, says Mr. Wallace, and he is of the opinion that "salesmanship was involved in the settlements that was questionable." Had these people refused to accept the first offer, their monthly payments over a period of more than half a century would have been 500 times the money accepted in 1918.

To this end, Mr. Wallace has been collecting files on victims of the Explosion, especially those who accepted what today would be seen only as "token payments." He has brought the attention of the Office of the Secretary of State in Ottawa to the matter of equitable compensation for the rapidly dwindling number of citizens who were seriously injured 61 years ago.

When the fund was established, with grants from the federal government and from the State of Massachusetts — the latter made a magnificent contribution of doctors, nurses, and ad hoc hospitals in addition to building supplies and money — it was the intention to give every assistance to those who had suffered the most physically.

That assistance should continue — on a far higher level than it has in the past — so that the remaining years of the rapidly dwindling number of Explosion victims could be made easier. This is Ron Wallace's objective. All Haligonians will be grateful for his concern and will wish him every success in dealing with bureaucracy in Ottawa.

July 4, 1978.

Mr. Ron Wallace, M.L.A.
House of Assembly,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Wallace:

I have your letter of 21 June, 1978. You were inquiring about the Halifax Explosion fund.

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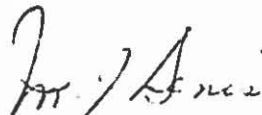
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I trust that the above information is what you require.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M.J. Denis', is written above the typed name.

M.J. Denis,
A/Secretary.