

1935-1966

32 cm. of textual records (5 v.)

In his inaugural address to council on January 8, 1934 (See series 1) Mayor Pow noted the work of the License and Relief Committee. In commending the previous year's Committee on its work, the Mayor indicated that the burden of providing "adequate food clothing and shelter" was increasing and suggested that Council place relief administration under a commission that was organized outside of Council. In the 1935 inaugural address he expressed the same concern. On April 23, 1935, minutes of both the Fort William License and Relief Committee and City Council reflect a request by Alderman Ross, Chairman of the License and Relief Committee for the creation of a new Welfare Board.

While its first meeting was in June of 1935, the Public Welfare Board was formally established in February 1936 with By-law 3443. Under this By-law three members were appointed and the Board was to be governed by the regulations laid down by the Unemployment Relief Department of the Province of Ontario, the Minister of Public Welfare and the City Council. All appointments to the Board were to be made by Council on the recommendation of the Welfare Board and all accounts were paid similarly. By 1939 the committee consisted of four members with the inclusion of a Director/Manager.

In Fort William the Welfare Board oversaw the operation of the Public Welfare office, the appointment of the Relief Officer and other affiliated staff as well as the payment of all accounts. Early minutes deal primarily with the approval of accounts and an accounting is made on a regular basis for supplementary cash relief issued by the department for fuel, clothing, and shelter. These reports may also outline the number of people in receipt of assistance. Statistical and financial information is also summarized in reports of the Welfare Administrator (included after November 1955) which give details about statutory maintenance payments for the services such as hospitalization/treatment, children's aid, and training schools, as well as assistance for burials, and Christmas allowance. Additional services provided through the years, include Traveller's Aid commencing in Sept 1942, and the implementation of a Day Nursery.

Though undocumented in minutes, The Welfare Board appears to have been a parallel body to the Licensing, Police and Relief Committee, later known as the Licensing and Welfare Committee. When the Licensing and Welfare Committee was renamed License, Traffic and Safety Committee in 1952, management of all relief services was assumed by the Welfare Board.

This series consists of five handwritten volumes ranging from 1935 to 1966. Indexes are available for 1965 through 1967. See also License, Police and Relief Committee (Series 72)

Handwritten

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Further accruals are not anticipated.