

Update from the Mass Casualty Commission – January 11, 2022

Today, (January 11, 2022) we are sharing a media release about the upcoming public proceedings: January 21, 2021, *Preeminent Experts Secured to Lead the Mass Casualty Commission Teams*; February 9, 2021, *Notice to Potential Participants* and March 10, 2021, *Application for Participation*. Additionally, please see below an update we are sharing with stakeholders today and will post on our website. As always, if you have any questions, please email media@MassCasualtyCommission.ca

This week's update includes information about the Commission's 2022 public proceedings schedule, expanded Foundational Document list and Commissioned Reports.

We hope everyone was able to rest and recharge over the holidays. Thanks to your engagement and collaboration, the Commission made important progress in 2021 with our investigation into the April 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia. In 2022, we will be publicly sharing detailed information about what happened during the mass casualty, as well as exploring related issues that provide context to understand why and how the mass casualty could have happened.

The Commission's public proceedings will begin in February and are expected to continue across much of 2022. These proceedings are an important next step in the Commission's work to develop meaningful recommendations to keep communities safer in the future. Public proceedings will include hearings, expert roundtables, the sharing of Foundational Documents and Commissioned Reports.

Proceedings are expected to take place Monday through Thursday, starting at 9:30 am. Most days are anticipated to end no later than 4:30 pm, although exceptions may be made. Proceedings are planned to begin in person at the Halifax Convention Centre and will be webcast online through the Commission's website. The proceedings venue will be open to the media and the public earlier for entrance and set-up. Registration in advance (including proof of vaccination) will be required and available on the Commission website.

Proceedings are planned to be in-person, following public health protocols. The Commission is preparing for contingencies, including virtual proceedings. If changes to location or approach are needed, the Commission will communicate updates to ensure the public is informed.

Our extensive 2022 public proceedings schedule will begin next month with hearings focused on Phase 1 work to determine what happened on April 18 and 19, 2020. During Phase 1, we expect to share a series of Foundational Documents with the public over the course of several months. The list of Foundational Docu-

ments can be found on the Commission's website.

An important part of the process for creating Foundational Documents has been consulting and meeting with Participants to identify gaps or errors to ensure the Foundational Documents are as accurate as possible before they are shared publicly. As we anticipated, through our consultation with Participants, additional information and evidence has been identified that our investigations and legal teams are now reviewing.

As you know, the Mass Casualty Commission is mandated to use a restorative approach, meaning the work of the Commission must be conducted with a principle of minimizing further harm while working to deliver answers to the public. To do this, the Commission has taken various steps, including thoroughly reviewing and redacting documents to protect the privacy and dignity of witnesses and those most affected by the mass casualty, as needed. For example, this includes removing personal information like phone numbers and blurring images of children. The Commission is also working closely with Participants, including those most affected, families, first responders and service providers, to ensure they are prepared and well-informed before information related to them is made public.

The Commission has also engaged report writers to prepare independent reports that explore issues in our mandate. The reports will further the Commission's work by exploring matters such as policing, emergency services responses, communications with the public and how best to support individuals and communities following a mass casualty. You can learn more about the Commissioned Reports on the Commission's website.

We will be sharing a considerable amount of information with the public in 2022 through proceedings, Foundational Documents and Commissioned Reports. The nature of this inquiry means that much of the information will be difficult. We encourage everyone who is engaged in or following our work to consider how to prepare to receive this information and continue to check in with our team members and website about what to expect and where to find wellness supports if you need them.

In 2022, we will continue to work diligently to share the results of our investigation in a way that is accurate, respectful and compassionate. Remember you can contact the Commission anytime by phone at 902-407-7532 (local) or 1-833-0635-2501 or by email at info@MassCasualtyCommission.ca with any questions or information you wish to share.

Sincerely presented by The Mass Casualty Commission: Hon. J. Michael MacDonald, Chair; Leanne J. Fitch (Ret. Police Chief, M.O.M.) and Dr. Kim Stanton.

Mass Casualty Commission: What Does This Mean?

The proceedings contribute to our fact-finding, research, policy and analytical work as we learn what happened leading up to and during the April 2020 mass casualty. The information gathered will inform our findings and recommendations.

Community Engagement: The Commission will seek input on its process and different aspects of its work from various groups and community members. The Commission held four public Open Houses in September 2021 and intends to host more throughout the mandate. If your workplace or community group would like to meet with the Commission, please contact info@MassCasualtyCommission.ca

Hearings: These are public sessions where Commission Counsel present evidence to the Commissioners and to the public. Hearings are scheduled to start in February 2022 and continue into the following months.

Roundtables: These are sessions where experts and others with helpful knowledge will be invited to share their perspective, experience and/or research on a specific theme, issue or topic.

Share your experience: This will be an opportunity for community members to share the story of how the mass casualty has impacted them, and their sense of safety in their community. This is considered informal testimony.

The **Shoreline** Journal Deadline for the March issue of is February 22

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OP-ED

No Cash, More Cash

(An Op-Ed from from publisher) By Maurice Rees

When I started to write this short piece, I wasn't sure if it should be an editorial based on my opinions, or a bit of information to be passed along to readers. It's based on some of the not-so-good things which are starting to come to the forefront and are impacting our every day life.

I've called this story "No Cash, More Cash". Soon you will understand why.

CoVid-19 has been disruptive causing thousands of deaths; changing every aspect of our daily routine, from going to a sporting event, dining out, getting together with the gang for a cold one after work, attending a funeral or a relative or close friend; disrupting education of students; not visiting close ones in hospital, or parents in a senior's facility and anything you did in the normal day.

The largest negative impact is soaring rises in inflation far outstripping any raise in earnings. Inflation is something governments are unable to control. It is based on shortage of supply and a hyper active need to purchase. CoVid has shut down manufacturing plants... electronic parts are in short supply, so new car purchasers are waiting 6-9 months for a new vehicle. Because we can't travel, the money saved is burning a hole in our pocket, so we want to renovate the castle... didn't stop many when 2 x 4 studs approached \$9.00 each; contractors were unable to find enough tradespeople; all contributing to a significant increase in renovation contracts.

Not enough truckers to deliver the containers, piled high at container ports, causing hundreds of cargo ships sitting idle to unload and load. Crude oil production has been lower; some refineries on shut down and oil companies flexing their greedy muscles contributing to increased gasoline and furnace oil prices. One Shoreline reader informed me, when they called to pay for furnace oil they were told they could not do it with a "debit/visa". Local companies should not complain about softness in the economy. Order from Amazon or Indigo, and they gladly accept debit / visa.

Speaking of furnace oil it just cost me \$1,101.00 at \$1.30+ per litre to fill my oil tank. (That's about double from five years ago). Then this week, a few repair garages started complaining they were not permitted to pay cash for delivered recycled parts and the driver did not have a mobile interac / credit card machine. (When I operated a t-shirt company (2008-2016) travelling the Maritimes to trade shows and exhibitions, or in brick and mortar retail store a wireless debit / credit machine was a necessity.

Now you know why "No Cash, More Cash". Some areas won't take cash, when it is legal tender, and with rising prices and shortages of inventory, it takes a lot more cash to complete the purchase. I won't provide an opinion, but fair warning to local businesses. Get with the program and offer the same services as the large multi-nationals, or don't complain when customers start avoiding you.

Warfarin INR tests done IN-STORE.
Call for details!

Guardian

We administer the Shingles Vaccine. Prevention is the best medicine!!

We offer FREE local delivery – just let us know if you can't make it in and we will bring your prescription to your door!

Our pharmacists perform minor ailment prescribing!

Thank you to all of our loyal customers!

Sincerely,
Todd MacKinnon, Pharmacist Owner

Bayside Pharmacy
6044 Highway #2
Bass River
Tel: 902-647-2552

Hours of Operation:
Monday 9:30-7
Tuesday 9:30-5
Wednesday 9:30-5
Thursday 9:30-5
Friday 9:30-5

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