



Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

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**AID TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS IN CANADA TO NEARLY TRIPLE IN 2015;
CLAIMS CONFERENCE ALLOCATING USD \$18.6 MILLION FOR HOMECARE, OTHER SERVICES**

Negotiations with German Government Led to Sizeable Funding Increase Worldwide

NEW YORK, NY – December 15, 2014 – Elderly Jewish Holocaust victims in Canada, the last of their generation to have endured the horrors of the Nazi genocide, will receive significantly more aid in 2015, announced Julius Berman, President of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference).

In 2015, total Claims Conference allocations to 11 social service agencies in Canada will be USD \$18.6 million, nearly triple the USD \$6.4 million allocated for 2014, with most of the increase earmarked for homecare, a top social welfare priority for these survivors. A first-time direct allocation of USD \$1.1 million will be made to Jewish Family Services in Edmonton.

The Claims Conference is the only organization assisting Holocaust survivors worldwide by supporting homecare and other vital services specifically for Jewish Nazi victims.

“All Shoah victims should be able to receive the help and support that they need to live the rest of their lives in dignity, after having endured indescribable suffering in their youth,” said Claims Conference President Julius Berman. “This tremendous increase in funding will directly help many survivors, including those who need more help at home than they currently receive as well as those needing care for the first time. Abandoned by the world in their youth, Holocaust victims deserve all the aid and comfort that it is possible to give them in the twilight of their lives.”

The increase stems from Claims Conference negotiations with Germany, where support for homecare has been an urgent priority for more than a decade. With this substantial increase in allocations, the Claims Conference will be able to provide more help for the essential and special needs of Holocaust victims, which continue to increase as they age.

The Canadian organizations that provide aid with Claims Conference allocations are:

- Circle of Care, Toronto
- Baycrest Center for Geriatric Care, Toronto
- Bikur Cholim Jewish Volunteer Services of Toronto
- Jewish Family & Child Service, Toronto
- B'nai B'rith Canada, Toronto
- Jewish Family Services of Edmonton
- Jewish Family Service Agency, Vancouver
- Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver
- Jewish Family Services of Ottawa
- Cummings Centre, Montreal (which in addition to serving Holocaust victims in the Montreal area also administers funds for the following organizations:)
 - Atlantic Jewish Council, Halifax
 - Jewish Child and Family Service, Winnipeg
 - Jewish Family Service Calgary
 - Windsor Jewish Federation
 - Jewish Social Services of Hamilton
 - Jewish Family Services Vancouver Island, Victoria, British Columbia

In 2015, total Claims Conference allocations to social service organizations around the world will total USD \$365 million, a 21 percent increase over the 2014 amount, and will aid Holocaust victims in 47 countries. The allocations derive from German government funding, proceeds from recovering Jewish properties in the former East Germany, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Austrian government and the Swiss Banks Settlement. With this substantial increase in allocations, the Claims Conference will be able to provide more help for the urgent, essential and special needs of Holocaust victims.

These allocations are entirely separate from the individual compensation payments also distributed by the Claims Conference to Holocaust victims.

It is important to understand that while the number of Jewish victims of Nazism dwindles every year, the day-to-day needs of the aging and ever frailer victims continue to increase. In 2013, the Claims Conference brought this message to its annual negotiations with the German government. The resulting agreement yielded a landmark USD \$1 billion sum to be allocated by the Claims Conference through 2017.

“This agreement was finalized in 2013, a time of budget austerity in Germany, making it all the more significant,” said Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, Claims Conference Special Negotiator. “We thank Germany for recognizing and continuing to address its historic obligation to Holocaust victims.”

Homecare funded by Claims Conference allocations encompasses a wide variety of services, intrinsic to enabling survivors to remain living in their own homes, in familiar surroundings, affording them a sense of safety, security, comfort and community. Some survivors need assistance such as light housekeeping

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and cooking, while others who are more infirm require help with the basic activities of daily living, such as dressing and hygiene. The additional funding for 2015 will be used for all of these purposes.

This remarkable increase in funding will enable Jewish social service agencies to continue to support those survivors already receiving homecare assistance, as well as survivors who find themselves in need, for the first time, of homecare help. Funding for 2015, to social service organizations working with survivors, is based on the projected unmet needs that such organizations have reported to the Claims Conference.

About the Claims Conference

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) represents world Jewry in negotiating for compensation and restitution for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs. The Claims Conference administers compensation funds, recovers unclaimed Jewish property, and allocates funds to institutions that provide social welfare services to Holocaust victims and preserve the memory and lessons of the Holocaust. For more information: www.claimscon.org.