

JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS OF CANADA
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May 8, 2003

American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
122 West 30th Street
New York, NY. 10001
USA

Attention: Messrs. Benjamin Meed and Roman Kent

Dear Sirs,

Re: Distribution of Funds May 2003 and Subsequent Allocation Meetings

We thank you for your letter of March 19, 2003 regarding distribution of funds from the Claims Conference. As an organization representing the Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada we too feel that we are in the best position to understand and know the real needs of our aging survivor population. We support advocacy efforts aimed at increasing funding for social/medical services and home care for survivors in need. As well, financial assistance programs that provide additional supplementary income to those survivors living at poverty levels are a very high priority for us as well.

We also recognize and support education and research on the Holocaust as we must also turn our eyes to the future and ensure that today's youth and the general public know the truth of the Holocaust and keep its significance alive. Despite this our organization sees direct services to Holocaust survivors as the top priority. We want survivors to live the balance of their years in dignity and with full support of the community.

We have had an extensive discussion with the senior leadership of Canadian Jewish Congress about this issue. Our Executive has recommended that we urge the Allocations Committee of the Claims Conference to take into account the priorities of the direct service needs of Holocaust Survivors who have seldom spoken aloud for themselves and their needs. We recommend to the Claims Conference Board a reduction in the Education/Research grants from 20% to 10% of their allocations'

portfolio referred to in your letter of March 19th 2003. We recommend this reduction for a three year period at which time the priorities can be reassessed against the needs of the survivors.

Should you have any questions, please call Perry Romberg at (416) 636-7655 ext. 240.

Respectfully,



Michael Rosenberg
President, Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada

Cc: Rabbi Israel Singer, President, Claims Conference
Mr. Julius Berman, Chairman, Claims Conference
Mr. Gideon Taylor, Executive Vice President, Claims Conference
Mr. Keith Landy, President, Canadian Jewish Congress
Mr. Jack Silverstone, Executive Vice President & Gen. Counsel, Canadian Jewish Congress