

Gordon Stephenson's urban renewal plan for Halifax

In Part IV: Section 13 (pp. 54-55) of the 1957 *Redevelopment Study of Halifax*, Stephenson writes that the implementation of this plan must follow various steps, including:

A first step in redevelopment is a revision of the use districts to which the zoning by-law applies. [...]

The second great need in the Study Area is the forthright application of Ordinance 50. Belated and inadequate as it is, Ordinance 50 should ensure some improvement in conditions and prevent further deterioration of domestic life for thousands of families. There are no good reasons why Ordinance 50 should not be applied. Even the worst housing in the Study Area is highly profitable real estate.

The third important requirement is that land should be cleared in an organised way for commercial expansion and non-residential improvements which will benefit the economy of the City.[...] Proposals 7, 8,9, 10, 11 and 12 involve the clearing of land for non-residential use. Each is designed to improve the efficiency and attractiveness of the City. Each would involve a loss of housing accommodation. The implication is that alternative accommodation must be made available on other sites. (p54)

He continues: "The schemes are not conceived simply as slum clearance projects. They embrace a series of planning ideas, including the improvement of the physical and economic efficiency of the City" (54). Moreover, in Part VI: Section 14, he lists Specific Recommendations for the implementation of the Redevelopment Plan (pp. 58-61), the second of which reads: "Ordinance No. 50, and subsequently ordinances demanding higher minimum standards, should be vigorously applied. The Building and Health Inspectorates should be strengthened" (p58).