

## **Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Program Guiding Principles**

1. It will be a solemn, respectful and reflective commemoration honouring the victims of the Halifax Explosion, the response, and the legacy.
2. It will acknowledge and tell the diverse personal, national and international story, which had a lasting legacy.
3. It will reflect diversity of all the communities impacted such as relatives of survivors, African NS and Mi'kmaq communities
4. It will educate and connect people, particularly youth, to the history and meaning of the Halifax explosion in different ways
5. It will encourage community members participate through a variety of cultural and creative modes
6. It will capture the local and National imagination and attention
7. It will acknowledge and explore the scope of the compassionate response
8. It will explore institutional responses to the impact of disaster, including within the context of war
9. It will have a perpetual meaning for future generations
10. Its legacy projects will strive to be compelling, meaningful, evocative and an enduring commemoration

*Developed by the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Advisory Committee, and approved by the Committee on January 14, 2015.  
Approved by the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee on February 12, 2015.*

## **Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Program Vision Statement**

The most destructive, human-made explosion of the pre-atomic era occurred in Halifax Nova Scotia on the morning of December 6, 1917. It resulted from a collision and fire on board a munitions-laden freighter attempting to pass through the Narrows into Bedford Basin. Ignition of the vessel's lethal cargo sent a wave of destruction across the city. Worst hit were the northern sections of Halifax and the town of Dartmouth; thousands were killed, maimed, and left homeless.

The disaster became a pivotal moment in this city's history, prompting a massive mobilization of human and material resources to engage in a multi-faceted program of rescue, reconstruction and rehabilitation. Halifax, the nation, and indeed all those across the world who became involved with the explosion, now stand at the threshold of the explosion's centennial.

### **Vision Statement:**

**The Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration will honour the memory of those who died and suffered as a result of the explosion, will educate current and future generations about the significance of the event, and will celebrate the resilience of Halifax in rising from destruction to restore the full potential of the city and its people.**

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