



CHAPTER 2

Unemployed Aid Act, 1931

[Assented to, the 26th of November, 1931]

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada has passed "The Preamble. Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931";

Whereas such act authorizes an appropriation payable out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada, to be used upon the terms and conditions fixed by the Governor-General in Council;

Whereas, under such act, the Governor-General in Council has, by an Order dated the 18th of August, 1931, (P. C. 2043), decreed the terms and conditions under which such appropriation is to be used;

Whereas an agreement, reproduced as Schedule A to this act, was entered into between the Federal authorities and the Minister of Public Works and Labour of the Province of Quebec, to carry out the Order of the Governor-General in Council, reproduced as Schedule B to this act;

Whereas it is in the public interest that the Government of this Province coöperate with that of Canada to come to the assistance of the unemployed of this Province;

Whereas, for this object, it is expedient to pass an act to that effect;

Therefore, His Majesty, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, enacts as follows:

1. This act may be cited as *Unemployed Aid Act*, Short title. 1931.

2. The agreement entered into between the Federal Agreement authorities and the Minister of Public Works and Labour ^{ratified.} of the Province of Quebec, dated the 17th of October, 1931, reproduced as Schedule A to this act, is ratified and con-

firmed, and the Government of the Province of Quebec is vested with all the necessary powers to put such agreement into effect as regards the acts and matters within its jurisdiction.

Payment of certain sums authorized.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may authorize the Provincial Treasurer to advance and pay, out of the consolidated revenue fund of the Province, on the certificates of the Minister of Public Works, the sums which the Province of Quebec may be called upon to pay under the agreement mentioned in section 2 of this act.

Loans authorized by bonds, etc.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, if he deem it expedient for the purpose of paying all or part of these sums, also authorize the Provincial Treasurer to contract a loan or loans, by means of bonds or inscribed stock issued on the credit of the Province.

Form and amount of bonds, etc.

5. Such bonds or inscribed stock shall be issued at the rate of interest, for the term, in the form and for the amount which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may determine, and shall be payable, in interest and principal, at the time and places which he may indicate.

Sinking-fund.

6. A sufficient sinking-fund shall be created for the redemption of the loans authorized by section 4. The annual instalments intended for such fund, as well as the annual interest accrued thereon, shall be invested or deposited by the Provincial Treasurer, under the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Powers of municipalities.

7. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary of any general or special act, every municipal corporation, however constituted and whatever the law governing it, is authorized to benefit from the Act of the Parliament of Canada, intituled "The Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931"; to do and order by resolution of its council all things necessary for such purpose, and to contribute out of its funds to the extent of the sums which it may be called upon to pay under the terms and conditions of the Order of the Governor-General in Council (P. C. 2043), dated the 18th of August, 1931, reproduced as Schedule B to this act.

Idem.

8. In order to effect such payments the municipal corporation is vested with all the necessary powers to authorize, by resolution of its council, the use of its general funds for

such purpose or to make by-laws for loans by an issue of bonds or debentures or otherwise, without other preliminary or subsequent formality than the approval of such by-laws by the majority of the members present forming a quorum of its council and by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The loans contracted under this section shall be repaid ^{Repayment of loans.} by the municipal corporation within a period of time not exceeding thirty years or by yearly or half-yearly or other payments including, in addition to interest, a portion of the principal, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Such loans shall be contracted at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent per annum. However, the Minister of Municipal Affairs may authorize a rate of interest higher than six per cent.

The borrowing power granted by this section shall not ^{Borrowing power not affected.} affect the borrowing power possessed by such municipal corporation and shall be construed as authorizing one or more loans exceeding the limit fixed by the acts governing such municipal corporation.

9. Any municipal corporation is allowed to acquire by ^{Acquisition of immovables.} mutual agreement, or by expropriation, the immovables required for the works to be executed in virtue of this act, as well as any rights whatsoever affecting such immovables.

The law governing the municipal corporation applies for ^{Expropriation.} the expropriation provided for in the preceding paragraph.

In order to pay the cost of the acquisition of such ^{Payment therefor.} immovables, the municipal corporation is authorized to use its own general funds, by means of a resolution, or to contract a loan or loans.

The provisions of section 8 apply to loans authorized by ^{Provisions applicable.} this section.

10. Any municipal corporation which, by by-law, effects ^{Temporary loans.} one or more loans under this act by means of bonds or debentures may, pending the collection of the proceeds of the sale of such bonds or debentures, by resolution of its council, after approval by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, make one or more temporary loans, provided that such temporary loans be repayable out of the proceeds of the ^{Repayment thereof.} sale of the said bonds or debentures and immediately upon the receipt of the said price of sale.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may do every- ^{Powers of Lt.-Gov. in C.} thing necessary to the carrying out of the provisions of this act.

Fair wages,
etc.

12. Every contract made by a municipal corporation under this act, for the execution of works, must provide that the workmen shall receive a fair wage as defined in the agreement, Schedule A, and shall work during the hours mentioned in the said agreement, and that the material employed be, as far as possible, of Canadian origin.

Provisions
applicable.

13. The provisions of the preceding sections of this act shall apply to the Government of this Province, and to the municipal corporations, as the case may be, with respect to any additional sum which may be placed at the disposal of the Government of this Province or of the municipal corporations or of both, for the purpose of assisting the unemployed.

Orders of
Lt.-Gov. in
C., ratified.

14. The orders of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council adopted for the carrying out of the provisions of the Unemployed Aid Act, 1930, since the 1st of July, 1931, the date fixed for the completion of the works carried out under the said act, and those adopted or to be adopted before the coming into force of the present act, to carry out the provisions of the said agreement of the 17th of October, 1931, (Schedule A), are ratified and confirmed.

Temporary
loans.

15. Any municipality may, by the by-law or by-laws effecting one or more loans, adopted under this act, or by a resolution approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, pending the payment of the contributory share of the Federal and Provincial Governments as relief for the unemployed, contract one or more temporary loans for an amount not exceeding such contributory share of the said Governments, provided that such temporary loans be repayable immediately upon the payment of the contributory share of such Governments.

Provisions
applicable.

The provisions of this section shall apply to the by-laws and resolutions effecting like temporary loans, adopted before the date of the sanction of this act, provided that they have been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council before such date or that they be so approved thereafter.

Approval by
Lt.-Gov. in
C.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may approve any by-law adopted, in conformity with the provisions of this act, authorizing a temporary or permanent loan in order to pay the contributory share of the municipality, whether such by-law be adopted by the council before or after the coming into force of this act.

16. The Minister of Public Works shall have charge of Carrying
the carrying out of this act. out of act.

17. This act shall come into force on the day of its Coming into
sanction. force.

SCHEDULE A

INDENTURE OF AGREEMENT entered into this 17th day of
Oct. A. D. 1931.

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA (hereinafter called the "Dominion"), represented herein by the HONOURABLE GIDEON D. ROBERTSON, Minister of Labour.

of the First Part,

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC (hereinafter called the "Province"), represented herein by the HONOURABLE J. N. FRANCOEUR, Minister of Public Works and Labour,

of the Second Part.

Whereas the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931, provides that there may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund such moneys as the Governor in Council in his discretion may deem expedient to expend for relieving distress, providing employment and maintaining, within the competence of Parliament, peace, order and good government throughout Canada;

And whereas under the general regulations established by Order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, dated August 18th, 1931, (P. C. 2043), copy of which is hereto attached marked "A", the Minister of Labour is empowered to enter into an agreement with the government of any Province for the purpose of supporting and supplementing the relief measures of the Province and Municipalities thereof;

And whereas the Province desires to enter into an agreement under the Provisions of the general regulations aforementioned;

Now therefore it is mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:

1. The Dominion shall pay to the Province for remittance to any Municipality within the Provincial territory such proportion of the expenditures of the Municipality for "direct relief", (as hereinafter defined), where suitable work cannot be provided for the unemployed, as may be agreed upon between the Province and the Dominion.

2. The Province shall pay to the Municipality an amount equal to that contributed by the Dominion for "direct relief", or such other proportion of the expenditures of the Municipality as may be agreed upon.

3. The Dominion shall pay to the Province fifty per centum of the expenditures made by the Province for "direct relief" in provincial territory where no Municipalities are established and where suitable work cannot be provided for the unemployed.

4. Contributions by the Dominion towards "direct relief" are to be made only after the submission by the Province of evidence satisfactory to the Minister of Labour that a serious unemployment situation exists in a designated locality and suitable work for the unemployed cannot be provided therein.

5. In this agreement, "direct relief" means necessary food, clothing, fuel and shelter, or the equivalent thereof.

6. The Dominion shall pay to the Province for remittance to any municipality such proportion of the cost of construction of municipal works and undertakings carried out to provide work for the unemployed, as may be agreed upon between the Province and the Dominion; but the proportion of the cost of any such municipal works and undertakings to be borne by the Dominion shall not exceed twenty-five per centum thereof, unless, by reason of the financial conditions of the municipality, the assumption by the Dominion of a greater proportion of the cost of such works and undertakings is specifically authorized by the Governor in Council; and the balance of such cost shall be borne by the Province and the municipality in such proportions as may be agreed upon.

7. Such contributions by the Dominion and Province, respectively, towards the cost of municipal works and undertakings are to be made only after the submission by the municipality concerned of evidence satisfactory to the Province and the Minister of Labour that a serious unemployment situation exists in such municipality.

8. The Dominion shall pay to the Province fifty per centum of the cost of such public works and undertakings as may be carried on by the Province to provide suitable work for the unemployed.

9. The Dominion shall pay to the Province forty per centum of any amount expended by the Province on provincial highways.

10. The Dominion shall pay to the Province fifty per centum of the amount hereafter expended by the Province on such highways, now existing or to be constructed, as may become part of the Trans-Canada Highway.

The expression "Trans-Canada Highway" means, in relation to the Province, such provincial highways affording a continuous route connecting the Province with any other or others of the provinces, as may be designated by the Province and approved by the Dominion.

11. Contributions by the Dominion towards the cost of public works, undertakings and highways referred to in sections 8, 9 and 10 hereof, are to be made only after submission by the Province of evidence satisfactory to the Minister of Labour that a serious unemployment situation exists.

12. The Province agrees to submit to the Dominion for approval by the Minister of Labour, from time to time, a schedule or schedules setting forth a list of the public works and undertakings proposed to be carried on by the Province and Municipalities under the provisions of clauses 6, 8, 9 and 10 hereof and also setting forth the proportions of the expenditures in respect of such public works and undertakings to be borne by the Dominion and the Province respectively; and such schedules, when approved, shall become part of this agreement as if originally incorporated therein.

13. All public works and undertakings to which contributions may be made under the provisions of clauses 6, 8, 9 and 10 of this agreement, are to be carried on from the date of their commencement to the date of their completion, which latter date shall not be later than the 1st day of May, 1932.

14. A maximum work day of eight hours shall prevail on works and undertakings carried on under this agreement, unless a modification of this requirement is previously agreed to by the Minister of Labour: fair and reasonable rates of wages shall be paid by the Province and Municipalities but such rates shall not be in excess of the rates required to be paid by the Federal Government for the character or class of work in the district; only goods and materials of Canadian manufacture or production, if available, shall be used; contracts shall be let only to *bona fide* Canadian construction firms established and operating in Canada prior to January 1st, 1931; and of the amounts expended pursuant to the provisions of Clauses 6, 8, 9 and 10 hereof not less than forty per centum thereof shall be expended for labour unless a modification of this requirement is previously agreed to by the Minister of Labour.

15. All persons employed on the works or undertakings referred to herein shall be residents of Canada and, so far

as practicable, of the locality in which the work is being performed, and in no case shall discrimination be made or permitted in the employment of any persons by reason of their political affiliation, race or religious views.

16. Statements of accounts for expenditures made by the Province and Municipalities, for direct relief or for public works and undertakings, pursuant to the provisions of this agreement, shall be submitted by the Province to the Minister of Labour, accompanied by a certificate of the appropriate Provincial authority that expenditures have been duly made in accordance with such statements; and such statements and certificates shall be in the form prescribed by the Minister of Labour.

17. The Province and Municipalities shall each bear their own expenses of administration in connection with any measures for the relief of unemployment undertaken pursuant to this agreement, and no portion of such expenses of administration shall be included in any statement of account rendered pursuant to this agreement or paid by the Dominion.

18. The Minister of Labour may at any time call upon the Province to furnish such information as he may require in relation to statements of accounts rendered by the Province or Municipalities.

19. The Minister of Labour may at any time direct an inspection in connection with any measures for the relief of unemployment carried out pursuant to this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Honourable Gideon D. Robertson, Minister of Labour, has hereunto set his hand on behalf of the Dominion of Canada, and the Honourable J. N. Francœur, of Quebec, has hereunto set his hand on behalf of the Province of Quebec.

SIGNED on behalf of the Government of Canada by the Honourable Gideon D. Robertson, Minister of Labour,

In the presence of Harry Hereford.

SIGNED on behalf of the Province of Quebec by the Honourable J. N. FRANCŒUR.

G. D. ROBERTSON.
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In the presence of Michael L. Guimont.

J. N. FRANCŒUR.
.....

SCHEDULE B

P.C. 2043

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA

TUESDAY, the 18th day of August, 1931.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

WHEREAS unemployment, which is primarily a municipal and provincial responsibility, has become so general throughout Canada as to constitute a matter of national concern;

AND WHEREAS Parliament has enacted legislation which may be cited as "The Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931," in respect to unemployment, farm relief and maintenance of peace, order and good government;

AND WHEREAS the necessary powers having been granted to the Governor in Council it is deemed expedient to make regulations to govern the administration of the said Act;

THEREFORE His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Labour, is pleased to make the annexed regulations to govern the administration of the said Act, and they are hereby made and established accordingly.

G. G. KEZAR,
Asst. Clerk of the Privy Council.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Except where the context otherwise requires, in these regulations the expression,—

(a) "Act" means the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931.

(b) "Minister" means the Minister of Labour.

2. There may be paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund such moneys as the Governor in Council may deem expedient to relieve distress, provide employment and maintain peace, order and good government.

3. The Minister may enter into an agreement with the Government of any Province for the payment through the

Province to the Municipality of such proportion of the expenditures of any Municipality within the said Province for direct relief as may be agreed upon between the Municipality and the Province and approved by the Minister.

4. The Minister may enter into an agreement with the Government of any Province for the payment to such Province of such proportion of the expenditures of the said Province for direct relief where no Municipal Government exists as may be agreed upon between the said Province and the Minister.

5. The expression "direct relief" in sections 3 and 4 hereof means food, clothing, fuel and shelter or payment in lieu thereof as may be determined by the Municipal Authorities and approved by the Province concerned, or approved by the Province where no Municipal Government exists.

6. The Minister may enter into an agreement with the Government of any Province in which any Municipality is situated for the payment through the Province to such Municipality of a proportion of the cost of such municipal works and undertakings as may be carried out, pursuant to the agreement to provide work for the unemployed.

7. The Minister may enter into an agreement with the Government of any Province for the carrying on by such provincial government of public works, improvements and other undertakings that will assist in providing suitable work for the unemployed, the cost of such public works and improvements to be borne by the Provincial and Dominion Governments in such proportion as may be agreed upon.

8. As the success of the relief measures under these regulations will largely depend upon the fair and equitable distribution of opportunities for employment and payment of reasonable rates of wages, the Federal Government will require that a maximum work day of eight hours shall prevail on works and undertakings carried on under the provisions of the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931, unless a modification of this requirement is previously agreed to by the Minister; the Provincial or Municipal Authorities may fix rates of wages to be paid provided that such rates be fair and reasonable and not in excess of the rates required to be paid by the Federal Government for the character or class of work in the district; and, if available, only goods and materials of Canadian manufacture or production shall be used, and contracts shall be let only to *bona fide* Canadian construction firms established and operating in Canada prior to January 1st, 1931.

9. All agreements with provincial and municipal authorities shall contain a provision to the effect that all persons employed on the works or undertakings referred to herein shall be residents of Canada, and so far as practicable of the locality in which the work is being performed, and in no case shall discrimination be made or permitted in the employment of, or in the granting of direct relief to any British subjects by reason of their political affiliation, race or religious views.

10. The Minister may at any time call upon the Province or Municipality to furnish such information as he may require in relation to statements of account rendered by the Province or Municipality.

11. The Minister shall have power to direct an inspection in connection with any measures for the relief of unemployment carried out pursuant to agreements under the provisions of these regulations.

12. The administration of the Act and regulations thereunder shall be vested in the Minister of Labour, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

13. The expenses of administration of the Federal Government under these regulations, including the salaries of temporary employees, shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the provincial and municipal Governments shall each bear their own expenses of administration in connection with any measures for the relief of unemployment pursuant to agreements under the provisions of these regulations.