

1943

1943  
**Fourth Annual Report**

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**COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES**  
**EDMONTON**  
**ALBERTA**  
**CANADA**

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EDMONTON 1943

In the office of the Council of Social Agencies, one window looks out over Edmonton's now famous Airport. Members of our 1943 committees will tell you that they sometimes deserted their agenda to watch a flight of planes take off for the Aleutians. Then somebody would tell the latest story from the Alaska Highway. Speculation about the Canol pipeline might follow. But the committee members will also insist that they got through a certain amount of work in 1943. As proof they offer the following reports from their officers:

From the President

The Council of Social Agencies acts as a co-ordinator of agencies doing valuable social service work. Its responsibilities in this direction are described throughout all this year's reports and especially in that of the Social Service Exchange.

The Council also acts in the capacity of initiator of new endeavour. Our interest in having a social worker appointed by the Royal Alexandra Hospital is a case in point. The In-the-City camps provide yet another illustration. Both of these projects are described in the reports to follow.

Like most social services, the Council's work has been greatly affected by the War. Our statistics show some of the more direct efforts. In the course of five months service to the Dependents' Board of Trustees our staff was responsible for almost a thousand interviews with servicemen and their families and wrote over three thousand letters to or on behalf of these families. Quite apart from this direct service, the Council's member agencies have all faced new and heavy responsibilities arising from war conditions and the increasing pressure upon them has been reflected in the work of the Council.

There should be no doubt in anyone's mind about the value of the work that is being done by the Council of Social Agencies or about the importance of the place it will fill in the field of social work in future. In the years that follow the War there will be even greater need than now for the kind of thing the Council is doing so well.

EIJER E. ROPER,  
President.

From the Honorary Secretary

I shall read you some statistics which are dry things at best, but in this case highly significant as they represent the tremendous amount of work done by our Executive Director, Miss Lillian Thomson. Please note that in no case do these statistics refer to the work of the Honorary Secretary.

Total Number of Council Meetings .....	140
General Meetings of Whole Council .....	2
Executive Committee .....	10
Sub-Committees of Executive Committee ..	10
Health Division.....	6
Sub-Committees of Health Division .....	54
Family Division .....	2
Sub-Committees of Family Division .....	2
Child Welfare Division .....	2
Sub-Committees of Child Welfare Division	16
Group Work Division .....	7
Sub-Committees Group Work Division .....	18
Public Relations Committee .....	2
Sub-Committees Public Relations Committee	7
Other Committees .....	2
Meetings Addressed .....	96
Meetings Attended on Behalf of Council .....	44
Office Interviews .....	310
Letters written .....	699
Reports etc. sent out .....	2493

For the Dependents' Board of Trustees

Meetings .....	43
Interviews .....	978
Letters written .....	3294

As to the report of the Honorary Secretary, some twenty letters have been written and received, and the minutes have been kept.

During 1943 it was found necessary to sever our connection with the Dependents' Board of Trustees, because the work of that Board had grown so greatly as to leave no time at all for our own work. That has now been done, and that Board is now functioning in its own offices and with its own staff.

The Council has sent Dr. Mary Hunter as its representative to a Federation of Reconstruction groups which has been formed under the auspices of the Alberta Teachers' Association. This Federation hopes to co-ordinate the work of all groups in the city studying post-war plans.

Mrs. Gaboury was sent as our representative to a meeting at the Parliament Buildings of the Council of Adult Education called by the Honourable Solon E. Low to study Post-War plans, to promote Adult Education and to revive the spirit of democracy.

During this year's Community Chest Campaign Mrs. N. E. Tanner organized our team of canvassers.

The biggest and most interesting piece of work the Executive Committee undertook during the year was the preparation and presentation of a brief on child welfare problems in Alberta which was presented to the Provincial Committee studying those problems. This brief will be sent to any organizations or individuals asking for it, and will well repay study by anyone interested in child welfare.

During this year Mr. Harvey Harrison resigned as First Vice-President because he was moving to Calgary. Mr. Thomas Dickson was appointed to replace him.

Later, Mr. H. A. Craig resigned as President, since which time Mr. Elmer E. Roper has been carrying on as President.

Respectfully submitted,  
MRS. JOHN GILLESPIE  
Honorary Secretary.

From the Health Division

The Health Division programme for the past year has been based in large part on the activities of its four sub-committees. My report therefore is mainly a review of the work of these committees.

NUTRITION The Nutrition Committee has co-operated throughout the year with the Edmonton Nutrition Council in its programme. It assisted in the preparation of the brief submitted by the Council of Social Agencies to the Alberta Government Commission on Child Welfare, by preparing a section on Health and Nutrition. At the request of the Dependents' Board of Trustees it prepared a series of budgets adapted to Northern Alberta for the use of the local Dependents' Advisory Committee and the Chief Reviewer in Ottawa. It also submitted suggestions for Christmas hampers to the Family Welfare Division and planned the programme for the January meeting of the Health Division.

The direction of the work of the Nutrition Committee since it was set up three years ago has been in the capable hands of Mrs. Margaret Vant. We greatly regret that owing to the pressure of other duties Mrs. Vant has had to resign the Chairmanship. Mrs. Vant has played a leading part in stimulating interest in nutrition among the member agencies of the Council and in the community in general. She has given generously of her time and energy. I should like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of this Division in particular for the splendid work she has done. Mrs. Vant's place will be taken by Mrs. W. F. Parfoot, who, we are sure will prove an able successor.

PRE-NATAL CLASSES The Pre-natal Classes which were initiated three years ago by the Health Division have been supervised this year by Miss Viola Leadlay and Mrs. Ruth Sellhorn, Supervisors of the Victorian Order of Nurses. Mrs. Sellhorn reports that during 1943, 46 classes for expectant mothers were held, with a total attendance of 658 as against 500 for 1942. The classes were held every Friday afternoon at the Y.W.C.A. followed by refreshments served by the Club Victorian, a service which has been much appreciated. The increasing attendance at these classes is proof that they are meeting a community need and we congratulate the Victorian Order of Nurses on the fine work they are doing in this field.

HOSPITAL SOCIAL WORK After many and lengthy discussions in the Health Division concerning the apparent need for hospital social service in this city, it was decided last summer to bring the matter to the attention of the Edmonton Hospital Board. In July a committee of the Board met a committee of this Division for a full discussion. On request an outline of the

purpose and organization of a Hospital Social Service Department was prepared by Miss Thomson and myself and submitted to the Executive Committee of the Hospital Board in September. As a result of this Miss Thomson was invited to address the Hospital Board at its October meeting. After some further discussion the Superintendent of the Royal Alexandra Hospital was empowered by the Board to establish a Social Service Department. I am pleased to be able to report further that a fully trained and well experienced social service worker, Mrs. Eric Richardson, has been appointed and will take up her duties in the Hospital in February. We wish her all success in her work. The Royal Alexandra Hospital will be the first hospital in the Province to have a trained social worker on its staff.

SOCIAL The Committee of the Division functions as a study group, the members  
INSURANCE of which are interested in informing themselves of the various proposals which have been put forward in Canada, Britain and the United States, to provide social security for all, and particularly those measures relating to health. At present the group is studying the question of family allowances and hopes to present its findings on the subject to a meeting of the Health Division in the near future.

A new project has been undertaken by the Division this winter, namely the health care of children in institutions. A report is to be prepared outlining minimum standards for children's institutions in relation to physical care, food and mental health.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. M. HUNTER, M.D.  
Chairman, Health Division.

From the Child Welfare Division

DAY The Committee on the Day Care of Children is a sub-committee of the  
CARE Child Welfare Division. It was organized in April 1943 because early in that year the Executive of the Council of Social Agencies became aware that large numbers of women with children were working. A need was being felt for adequate facilities to care for children whose parents were not able to make satisfactory arrangements.

The Committee, consisting of ten members was asked to:

1. Investigate the extent of the need in Edmonton for care of children of working mothers.
2. Study the methods being used in other parts of Canada to fill such needs.

The Committee has held eleven regular and four special meetings. Members have had fifty-one personal interviews with government officials and business executives. Speakers have been sent to nine organizations. Two clubs have been provided with written information. Material has been furnished the Citizens' Volunteer Bureau for radio.

From these activities it soon became apparent that there was a definite need for day nursery facilities and for supervision and noon lunches for school children and that this need was greater than could be provided for by facilities already in existence.

It was found that in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec where similar need due to wartime conditions had arisen, it was being met by Day Nursery and School Unit Services established under Dominion-Provincial Agreements. Under the arrangement each government pays fifty percent of the net costs. It was found further that the Dominion Government has offered to assist the Province of Alberta in a similar way.

The Committee on Day Care prepared a brief for the Provincial Government which made clear the need in Edmonton and asked that it be met by facilities provided under the Dominion-Provincial Agreement. The Provincial Government signed the Agreement in July. At the same time it was stated that in Alberta those municipalities wishing the services would be asked to pay twenty-five percent of the costs.

The Committee, therefore, prepared a brief for the municipal Government. Delegations appeared before City Council and the Finance Committee of the City Council. A further delegation was sent to the Public School Board to ask that a survey be conducted in the Elementary Schools to ascertain the extent of the need for care of school children. This request was granted. The results show:

Number of forms returned - 3614  
SURVEY Number of mothers of school children working 674, i.e. 18.6%  
Number of children whose mothers were working away from home - 1014  
Number of children needing a noon lunch - 330

In addition many mothers felt the need of supervision for their children before and after school.

As yet no definite steps have been taken to provide the children of Edmonton with these needed services. The committee feels it is a community responsibility but that only a small part of the community has realized its importance. It is essential that our children be provided with an environment which promotes healthy growth both physically and mentally if they are to develop into mature adults capable of coping with the terrific problems that will be facing them.

The Chairman of this Committee is Mrs. M. W. Cormack and Mrs. Andrew Stewart is its Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,  
A.M. TRENDLELL,  
Vice-Chairman, Child Welfare Division.

From the Family Division

The Family Division has held but two meetings during 1943.

A sub-committee appointed to study the rates of payments made under the Mothers' Allowance Act has held one meeting but made no report.

Another sub-committee appointed to see if some arrangements could be made for the delivery of coal in small lots, to people who must buy it in that way held a meeting and wrote to the Fuel Controller on that subject, but has not ever received an acknowledgement of that letter.

This Division asked the Nutrition Committee to make some suggestions about contents for Christmas hampers, considering the food shortages. We are most grateful to the Nutrition Committee which went to a good deal of trouble to prepare a most helpful list.

Respectfully submitted,  
MRS. JOHN GILLESPIE  
Vice-Chairman, Family Division.

From the Group Work Division

The Group Work Division of the Council has met regularly to discuss policies and techniques of Group Work, to study the implications of various surveys made and to promote certain enterprises mutually agreed as better done co-operatively than by any single agency.

SURVEY Arising from two surveys made last year, one by the Group Work Division and one by Mr. Ted Britton, in co-operation with the Group Work Division and the School Board and also from studies made by each agency in respect of its major problems, a Leadership Training Committee was set up for the purpose of studying the problem of leadership from the point of view of the agencies, the possibilities of recruitment from various neighborhoods and the desirability of organizing co-operatively a Leadership Training Institute. The report of this Committee suggested the desirability of setting up a program of 'In-the-City Camps' by means of which contact with the various neighborhoods could be made and the interest of parents and potential leaders aroused.

IN-THE CITY CAMPS A central In-the-City Camp Committee was organized and a number of Camps were set up in areas where the need was deemed greatest. These included: North Edmonton and three Camps in the area between 109 Street and 92 Street from the River north to 111 Avenue.

These Camps were sponsored by the Girl Guides, C.G.I.T., Tuxis Movement and the Y.W.C.A. The Y.M.C.A. also conducted its regular In-the-City Camp for two periods, each of two weeks,

More than 350 children attended these Camps, which were declared particularly successful as an experiment from the point of view.

- (a) of agency co-operation; and
- (b) of assisting children to make good use of their time during the long vacation period.

A considerable amount of work however needs to be done in relating the parents and potential leaders in the communities served to the Camps themselves and to the possibility of follow-up work arising out of the Camps in the fall and winter months.

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The Camp Committee was under the Chairmanship of Mr. Allan Porter. The Leadership Training Committee was under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ralph Young.

The finances for the Camps were provided jointly by the Tegler Trust through a special grant and through the Community Chest, also through special allocation.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY WORK The Group Work Division as a result of the Camp experience further gave consideration to the setting up of Neighborhood Committees which would assist the agencies in surveying the neighborhood, the group work being undertaken in that area and the various facilities available, with a view to securing a stimulation of the activity and the recruitment and training of leaders.

As a result of several conferences with various persons in the area, the Norwood District was selected for testing purposes. One well-attended meeting has been held and a Committee out of that meeting has been appointed to further study the implications of suggestions made.

STUDY PROGRAM The Division has heard several speakers on potent topics, notably on Juvenile Delinquency, the Big Brother Movement and similar corrective and preventive organization. It has assisted in the development of a brief presented by the Council to the Government on welfare services and has also indicated its desire to participate in the program of the Canadian Youth Commission, which is undertaking a survey of youth activities for those aged 15 to 24 years.

One of the happiest out-comes of the activities of the Group Work Division has been the steady progress which has been made in the development of a feeling of co-operation amongst the representatives of the agencies. In every instance there has been the heartiest good will and the thinking of the Group has been continually tied to the ways in which the needs of boys and girls can be met without regard to the interest of the agencies concerned.

The Division expresses its appreciation of the services of Miss Marion Foster, Secretary of the Division, since appointed to a position in Victoria, and to Miss Lillian Thomson, Executive Director of the Council, who has been a continuous source of inspiration and assistance.

The Chairman, who retires this year, desires to record his appreciation of the splendid co-operation which has been extended from representatives of all the agencies.

Respectfully submitted,  
REG. T. ROSE,  
Chairman, Group Work Division.

From the Social Service Exchange

During the year ending December 31st, 1943, 1,036 names were registered in the Social Service Exchange, 226 of which were known to more than one organization. This is a decrease of 334 in registration from the previous year.

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Last month the Christmas Exchange co-ordinated the Christmas work of 16 organizations. 441 families were registered with 22 duplications prevented.

Only 10 organizations used the Exchange in 1943, a decrease of 7 from the year before. The 10 organizations using the Exchange were:-



Auxiliary Services, R.C.A.F.  
Canadian Red Cross Society  
Canadian National Institute for the Blind  
Civic Relief & Children's Aid Department  
Department of Pensions & National Health  
Dependents' Regional Advisory Committee  
Family Welfare Bureau  
Guidance Clinic  
Victorian Order of Nurses  
Young Women's Christian Association

We estimate some 23 Edmonton organizations should be using the Exchange instead of 10 only. It is therefore obvious that full advantage is not being taken of the service the Exchange offers, resulting possibly in considerable overlapping of work and irritation or even harm to the families being served. Any such overlapping is bound to reduce the efficiency of the welfare work in the city, not to mention the unnecessary addition to the cost of such service to the organizations themselves.

When with even only 10 organizations using the Exchange, the duplication amounted to over 20% of the registrations, as was the case in 1943, one realizes how much effort and time could be saved by the systematic use of the Exchange by all member agencies of the Council.

The service offered by the Exchange costs nothing - all that is required is a telephone call to register the name of the family in which the agency is interested. The Exchange can give immediate information as to whether or not any other agency is interested in that family. The two or more agencies as the case may be, can then, if they so desire get together and decide if the services of both are required etc.

From every standpoint the value of the Exchange must be obvious to any welfare worker and it is regrettable more organizations do not, as a matter of routine, take full advantage of this service.

Your Committee would urge once again that all agencies give more consideration to this matter and impress on their staffs that they should use the Exchange before opening up new cases.

Respectfully submitted,  
MRS. MARJORIE PARDEE,  
Chairman, Social Service Exchange.

From the Public Relations Committee

This year your Committee made much greater use of radio; this was done for ~~two reasons: the increased radio consciousness of the public and the restrictions~~ on newsprint.

RADIO A series of radio plays called "These Are Your Neighbors" (eight in all) were given over C.J.C.A. and C.F.R.N. presenting social problems and the relating them to the social agencies organized to help just such problems. The most outstanding one was written by Elsie Park Gowan on the work of the C.N.I.B.

Interviews with member agencies were arranged for over the Red Cross broadcasting time and the Citizens' Volunteer Bureau time.

Two full committee meetings were held and seven sub-committee meetings.

I should like to thank the members of this committee for the willingness to give time and advice and the radio stations who have given time, good-will and encouragement to our programs.

I should like to mention a most generous invitation from the Citizens' Volunteer Bureau to devote two fifteen minute programs a month to the work of this council and the social agencies that comprise its membership.

Respectfully submitted,  
MURIEL DICK  
Chairman, Public Relations Committee

From the Executive Director

(a) War Work

This, then, has been a year in which the Council tried to carry wartime responsibilities and at the same time continue the work for which it was inaugurated.

Its most direct wartime responsibility was undertaken in 1942 when the Dependents' Board of Trustees which is part of the Department of National Defence borrowed the Council office and the services of its staff. They did so in order to organize in Northern Alberta the administration of the Dependents' Supplementary Grants Fund. This large federal fund is designed to assist the dependents of servicemen whenever an emergency arises out of illness or other family misfortune. As a government responsibility the scheme is unprecedented in this and other countries. It holds great possibilities not only for the prevention of distress in the home of servicemen but as preparation for the comprehensive social security programs of the future.

Our statistics give some indication of the extent to which the dependents of servicemen turned for needed support to the Dependents' Board of Trustees. In the year in which we participated in this work (April 1942 to May 1943) our staff had 2085 interviews with applicants, wrote 5180 letters and gave secretarial service to 87 meetings of the Committee in charge.

As a matter of fact this work developed beyond anything foreseen. The time came when our Executive Committee decided that the interests of servicemen's families would be better served, as would the interests of this Council, by a separation of the two tasks. Having inaugurated this service for Northern Alberta and contributed to it a year of particularly strenuous organizational work, we advocated that its further development be separate from ours. Our wishes were respected by the Board of Trustees and the Council now notes with satisfaction the progress of this work conducted in an office of its own under the able direction of the Dependents' Regional Advisory Committee headed by Mr. T. Dickson.

(b) Educational Work

Under the rather alarming heading "meetings addressed" our annual statistics record 96 such meetings. Please note that 19 of the addresses were given by our committee members rather than by the staff. This means that every two or three weeks one of our members took the time to prepare and deliver a talk on some subject connected with our work, which is no slight effort for a volunteer who has many other responsibilities in this and other organizations.

Of the groups addressed by the Executive Director, 62 were gatherings of young people in our University, in hospitals and in youth organizations. This is a most encouraging evidence of the growing interest of Alberta youth in the social service field.

As in previous years weekly lectures on social work were given throughout the University year to the senior students of the School of Nursing. Further lectures were given at the Summer School for Graduate Nurses conducted by the School of Nursing and under the auspices of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses. The Royal Alexandra Hospital and the University Hospital again asked for talks on social work for their senior students. There has been continuous opportunity therefore to discuss with graduate and student nurses the convictions that have shaped modern social service and how these convictions affect the nurse and social worker in everyday association with people in distress. The results of this effort are not easy to assess, but whatever the future may hold for the profession of social work in Alberta it will owe a considerable debt to its older sister profession of nursing.

In the Women's War Services of the University of Alberta, four lectures were given to thirty students who were interested in social work as a vocation. Miss Mabel Patrick, Director of the Services, arranged for the lectures. Mrs. E. P. Wellwood and Miss K. M. Jackson participated in the work.

The Executive Director has also had the pleasure of leading various discussion groups in the youth organizations.

(c) Links with other Agencies.

Meetings were attended on behalf of the Council to the number of 44. The Executive Director has represented our organizations on the Nutrition Council of Edmonton and on the Citizens' Volunteer Bureau. The latter name did not appear in previous Annual Reports as it was newly formed in 1943. The development of women's volunteer services has been guided by the Women's Division, Department of National War Services and stimulated by the distinguished record of volunteers in the United Kingdom. Edmonton's Citizens' Volunteer Bureau mobilizes volunteers who will contribute their time and talents to the work of local war and civilian services. It gives training where requested ~~and assigns volunteers to those organizations who could use their services.~~ The relationship of a Council of Social Agencies to this setup is self-evident. The Director served on the Planning Board and the Education Committee, and gave a series of lectures to volunteers on the conduct of meetings.

(d) Among our Member Agencies

It was typical of Edmonton in 1943 that the one addition to our membership was the local branch of the American Red Cross Society. This office is the clearing centre for six major Field Directors' offices along the Alaska Military Highway.

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The war services already described naturally diverted some of our staff's attention from the interests of member agencies. Nevertheless there has been a noticeable increase in the use of the Council office for consultation. Frequently organizations and private citizens have asked for direction to the appropriate agency to meet a specific problem. Some groups have conferred about their own services especially when their work related closely to that of other agencies.

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The Social Service Directory was re-issued during the year, listing seventy-three local agencies.

The office library was set up so that books and pamphlets could be loaned - and perchance returned. Miss Mary Donaldson of the staff of the Public Library provided the necessary advice. The library now contains some six hundred books and pamphlets.

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Various kindnesses were shown to our member agencies through the Council and it is a pleasure to record them here:

The Phalanx Club, Y.M.C.A. carried out an autumn project whereby five institutions received approximately 4,000 pounds of vegetables gathered and distributed by the club members.

Obviously well schooled in their native cities regarding community agencies, several Americans donated their garden produce to our institutions when they themselves had to move north before harvest time.

The Division Corps of Engineers of the United States Government supplied fuel from its salvage yard to four children's institutions in a plan organized by the Council.

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The year began with all our minds centred on a global war for our streets were crowded with men and equipment from many of the United Nations. The year ends with a growing concern about the post-war period. Reconstruction and rehabilitation are familiar words. So it happens that at the Annual Meeting the Executive Director of the Canadian Welfare Council is speaking on the subject "Are we ready for Social Security?" ~~The question is one that will be faced by~~ all our member agencies in 1944.

Respectfully submitted,  
LILLIAN THOMPSON  
Executive Director

MEMBER AGENCIES

1943

Alberta Protestant Home for Children  
All People's Mission of United Church  
of Canada  
American Red Cross Society  
Beulah Home  
Boy Scouts Association  
Bulletin Not-Forgotten Fund  
Bureau of Public Welfare  
Canadian Legion  
Canadian National Institute for the  
Blind  
Canadian Red Cross Society  
Catholic Women's League  
C.G.I.T. Board  
Chamber of Commerce (Junior)  
Chamber of Commerce (Senior)  
Child Welfare Branch  
Church of England Diocesan Council  
for Social Service  
Civic Board of Health  
Civic Relief and Children's Aid  
Departments  
Council of Jewish Women  
Division of Social Hygiene  
Edmonton Creche Society  
Edmonton and District Boys' Work  
Board  
Edmonton Hospital Board  
Elks Lodge  
Family Welfare Bureau  
Federation of Community Leagues  
Franciscan Sisters of Atonement  
General Hospital  
Girl Guides Association  
Guidance Clinic  
Gyro Club  
Good Shepherd Home  
Hope Mission  
Junior Hospital League  
Kinsmen Club  
Kiwanis Club  
Lions Club of Edmonton  
Local Council of Women  
Ministerial Association  
Misericordia Creche  
Misericordia Hospital  
Municipal Chapter, I.O.D.E.  
Navy League of Canada  
O'Connell Institute  
Optimists Club  
Out-Patients' Department  
University of Alberta Hospital  
Registered Nurses' Association  
Rosary Hall  
Rotary Club  
Salvation Army  
St. John Ambulance Association  
St. John's House  
St. Mary's Home  
School Board  
Separate School Board  
Sisters of Services Residential  
Club  
Victorian Order of Nurses  
Women's Auxiliary, University of  
Alberta Hospital  
Young Men's Christian  
Association  
Young Women's Christian  
Association

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