

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds

**No.:**

AU018

**TITLE:**

Women's Research Centre Committee fonds

**CREATOR:**

Women's Research Centre Committee

**DATE RANGE:**

1901-1993; predominant 1982-1993

**EXTENT:**

2.48 m of textual records and other material

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:**

In the late 1970s, there were two main non-governmental national organizations, both based in Ottawa, Ontario, to research, address and promote women's rights and educational issues. One was the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women (CLOW), founded in 1971 as an advisory committee of women adult educators. The other was the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW), founded in 1976. Most of the women on the Women's Research Centre committee were members of one or both organizations.

In response to a growing demand from women, women's groups, and academics for additional feminist academic programming, the Woman's Program was established at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta in 1981 to further women's studies, and a full time coordinator was hired in July of that year. The program quickly surpassed its original mandate and became a center for women's resources in Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

In 1984 the Secretary of State for Canada proposed the establishment of five Chairs in Women's Studies for Canada, and a joint proposal to establish a Chair from the prairie provinces was submitted by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University in Athabasca, Alberta. With the dual goals of having a Chair created and promoting women's studies at a post-secondary level, an Advisory Committee on Women's Studies was launched in the fall of 1984 at the University of Alberta. The committee was composed mainly of women academics from the University of Alberta but included Rebecca Coulter, the Coordinator of Women's Studies at Athabasca University. In February 1987, the name of the committee was changed to the Coordinating Committee on Women's Studies, a committee sponsored by the Vice President (Academic) of the University of Alberta.

In May, 1985, the committee was still known as the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies and it was then that the idea of forming a Women's Research Centre was broached. Marilyn Assheton-Smith, then Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee, and several other committee members began the task of clarifying the committee's vision for the Research Centre. Their proposal to establish a jointly sponsored Women's Research Centre was endorsed by Ross H. Paul, Vice President Academic of Athabasca University on June 23, 1988 and by the Academic Development Committee and the General Faculties Council of the University of Alberta on September 26, 1988.

Their main research objectives were to provide a base for interdisciplinary feminist research; to contribute to the building of an interdisciplinary knowledge base in women's studies; to provide a home for visitors engaged in women's studies research; to provide a locale for academics and women's groups in the community to be mutually supportive in relation to women's research; and to provide a structure for receiving funds for women's research. The Women's Research Centre, also known as the Misener-Margetts Women's Research Centre, was active until 1993.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The fonds consist of textual records which include committee meeting minutes and agendas for The Advisory Committee on Women's Studies, the Coordinating Committee on Women's Studies and The Women's Research Centre Committee. Included are mailing lists, newsletters, reports, publications and like material related to women's issues. Also included are publications prepared for the Canadian Research Institute of the Advancement of Women and material related to hosting the 1991 Annual Conference of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. There are audio tapes of lectures and conferences, computer disks of Research Centre records and a photograph of a guest lecturer. Also included is a wall calendar with images of black women of note and reference prints of information taken from a whiteboard.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds also contains 27 audio tapes. – 10 computer disks. – 1 photograph. – 1 artifact.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

The material is in English with some records in French.

**SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:**

The records were deposited by Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Co-Chair of the Women's Research Centre Committee to the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections in 2011.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

**FINDING AIDS:**

File list and digitized material is available.

**INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2012.002

Further accruals are not expected.

**ASSOCIATED MATERIAL:**

**RELATED RECORDS:**

Records that pertain to the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women can be found at National Archives of Canada.

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the administrative history was taken from the records.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Women—Education  
Women college teachers--Alberta  
Women—Legal status, laws, etc  
Women—suffrage  
Education, Higher  
Research--Edmonton  
Women's rights  
Work environment