

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:

Series

No.:

AU023.007S

FORMS PART OF:

AU023 Martha Kostuch fonds

TITLE:

Climate change series

CREATOR:

Kostuch, Martha

DATE RANGE:

1984 – 2006

EXTENT:

2.92 meters of textual records and 5 videotapes.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

By the mid-1980s, scientists were beginning to warn the public about the issue of climate change. When the Alberta government was slow to respond to these warnings, various environmental organizations became concerned.

As an individual, and as a member of several environmental organizations, Martha Kostuch began investigating climate change and global warming. As a member of those organizations, she was involved in evaluating reports and studies from around the world concerning the expected effects of climate change on the environment, food production, weather and economic areas. When it was discovered the effects would have worldwide ramifications, Kostuch began to research what steps could be taken to reduce global warming. Through her organizations, she went public, raising the alarm through media outlets, news releases and newsletters. They questioned political leaders regarding what was being done to combat this problem and demanded answers.

Kostuch lobbied to hold national and international conferences on global warming that would lobby for worldwide government agreements to reduce carbon emissions. One such agreement was the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1993, held in New York, New York and the 1997 conference in Kyoto, Japan where the Kyoto Protocol was signed. Once these agreements were signed, the Canadian government was lobbied to adopt the Kyoto Protocol standards for carbon emissions into Canada's action program on climate change. Environmental groups also

campaigned the public and industry to have the Kyoto Protocols adopted. After many studies and opinions, Canada's Climate Change Strategy was released in 2000.

In 2002, the Alberta government released their own action plan, *Alberta's Climate Change Strategy*, which had goals and timelines for reducing carbon emissions that fell short of Canada's strategy and the reduction protocol as signed in Kyoto. Kostuch and many Alberta environment groups formed a lobby action group called Albertans for Ratifying Kyoto (ARK). They fought Alberta Bill-32, a new carbon reduction law that would bring Alberta's Climate Change Strategy into law.

Kostuch was simultaneously involved in several environmental organizations concerned with climate change including, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Canada-U.S. Acid Rain Partnership. Kostuch was also a member of the Canadian Environmental Network's (CEN) National Steering Committee since 1985 and the CEN Steering Committee, Atmosphere Caucus (SCAC) from 1992 until her death in 2008. She worked with the SCAC to produce new policies and regulations to fall into step with Kyoto Protocol. In 1998, Kostuch became a member of Alberta's Clean Air Strategic Alliance's Climate Change Project Team, a multi-stakeholder group. This diverse group of industry, non-government and government members worked together to change government policy, regulations and legislation to set higher standards for carbon and toxic emissions.

CUSTODIAL HISTORY:

In April 2008, Martha Kostuch signed an agreement with Athabasca University to have her records digitized but she passed away before this work could be started. After her death on April 23, 2008, her records went into the custody of her son Edward and in July 2008, he donated the records to Athabasca University.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of material pertaining to the efforts of the Canadian Environmental Network, the Clean Air Strategic Alliance, the Canadian Climate Action Network and several other environmental groups. Their mission was to investigate, understand and publicize climate change and to achieve lower carbon emissions through government agreements, initiatives and legislation.

Textual records include; national and international newsletters, reports, House of Commons proceedings and evidence of the Standing Committees on Environment, correspondence, news releases, newspaper clippings, reports and proceedings from climate change symposiums and conferences, as well as, pamphlets and brochures on climate change action plans. Much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

The five videotapes show possible effects of climate change and global warming.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

CONSERVATION:

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE:

Series have been based on the major topics identified from the creator's arrangement, though some records may pertain to a number of series.

LANGUAGE NOTE:

The material is in English.

ACCESS CONDITIONS:

None.

USE CONDITIONS:

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

FINDING AIDS:

Box list and file list are available. Some of the material is available in electronic form.

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:

2008.015

Further accruals are not expected.

GENERAL NOTE:

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records and from *The Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald*, and *Red Deer Advocate* newspapers.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Energy conservation

Environmental law

Natural gas - - Conservation

Gasoline - - Law and legislation

Water

Waste products

Pollutants