

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:

Fonds

No.:

AU025

TITLE:

Alberta Women's Memory Project fonds

CREATOR:

Langford, Nanci

DATE RANGE:

1939-2014, predominant 2000-2013

EXTENT:

0.45 m of textual records. – ca. 231 photographs. – 14 copied photograph

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

The Alberta Women's Memory Project (AWMP) was started in 2000 by Cathy Cavanaugh and Nanci Langford, a professor and tutor respectively, in the Women's Studies program at Athabasca University. Together Cavanaugh and Langford decided to create a partnership between the community and the University to produce a women's archive project. The original goal of the project was to collect and share Alberta women's historical materials, and enhance resources to both women's history students at Athabasca University and the general public. Cavanaugh and Langford invited academics, community researchers, archivists and writers to join a committee that would guide the project. Members joined from Athabasca University, the University of Alberta and the Archives Society of Alberta. The AWMP approached the Alberta Women's Archives Association (AWAA) to create a partnership. The merge between the two groups did not occur, but members of the AWAA did join the AWMP committee. Founding members of AWMP included Michael Gourlie, Pat Prestwich, Joan Margel, Jean Crozier, Michael Payne and Betty Swainson.

The committee came together to converse over the need for a women's archive initiative that would serve researchers, history students, archivists and the public. After considering several approaches to addressing the issues, the AWMP's focus shifted to the development of a website that would educate people on women's archives in Alberta, the importance of donating records to these archives, and to provide easy access to these archives. The site was to provide information about, and digital access to, existing collections and donations of archival materials to the public as well as historians and writers who would answer questions about women's history. The website would also have publications and archival collections. The website was first launched in 2003.

Starting in 2004, the AWMP further developed the website with the help of a grant from Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF). Moving forward with the project, between 2004 and 2006 a researcher was hired by the AWMP to complete an inventory of women's archival

collections currently being held in archival repositories, and to find any collection gap areas. Several large grants from Athabasca University were used to pay for researcher's wages and other expenses.

The AWMP then moved on to a second goal of publishing manuscripts, photo collections and memoirs on the website. A grant proposal was developed around this idea, however, the AWMP was unsuccessful in receiving funds for that project at that time.

The AWMP was inactive between fall of 2007 and summer of 2008 due to Cavanaugh's retirement, but starting in fall of 2008 the project began to once again move forward. The AWMP began to scan and digitize collections and publish memoirs on their website. Throughout the years membership changes took place. Beverly Lemire, Kathryn Ivany, Lan Chan, Donica Belisle and Sarah Cater joined the project, while Michael Payne and Michael Gourlie left. While working for the AWMP on special grants Allan Rowe and Krista Li became members for a few years. The AWMP has been featured in several publications including *Legacy Magazine* and the *Edmonton Journal*; as well, members have presented at conferences, presented training workshops, given courses and consulted for groups and individuals, while further developing the project.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Fonds consists primarily of textual records related to the operation of the Alberta Women's Memory Project. The textual records include correspondence, hand-written notes, agendas, minutes, financial records, author agreements, written works, articles, reports, grant applications, programs, schedules, project outlines, presentations, archival and research procedures, summaries, drafts, planning documents, directories, consent forms, pamphlets and booklets and strategic plans for the AWMP.

Also included are photographs pertaining to an Alberta Women's Memory Project fundraiser held in 2011 and copied photographs that were used in Riet Scott's memoir, *Life in the Netherlands During the Second World War*.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The records are in good physical condition.

CONSERVATION:

Conservation copies were made of sticky notes and newspaper clippings..

ARRANGEMENT NOTE:

The fonds has been arranged following the creator's arrangement, with the exception of records that were received in a disorganized manner which were arranged according to topic.

LANGUAGE NOTE:

Materials are in English.

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:

Donated by Nanci Langford, Chair of the Alberta Women's Memory Project, to the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections at Athabasca University in 2016.

ACCESS CONDITIONS:

None.

USE CONDITIONS:

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

FINDING AIDS:

A file list is available.

Photographs 078-201 are available in electronic form.

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:

2016.002

ASSOCIATED MATERIAL:

None.

RELATED RECORDS:

None.

GENERAL NOTE:

Information for the administrative history was taken from the records and the Alberta Women's Memory Project website (<http://awmp.athabascau.ca/>), and from information provided by Nanci Langford, Chair of the Alberta Women's Memory Project.

The fonds description and file list were created by Marissa Fraser in 2016.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Women—History

Preservation—Conservation and restoration

Alberta—Archives

Biography

Grants, Government