

## G 2

### Government of Canada Records

Original, microfilm, photocopy, 17.5 cm of textual records, 7 reels, 1 folder, 1871-1967.

**Scope and Content:** The Government of Canada records is a collection of manuscripts, censuses, inspector books, employment records, paylists and letter books regarding the Lakehead Harbour Commission, local populations, ships and boats in the Lakehead region, Post office employees, and Indian Affairs.

**Series G 2/1/1-2:** Brochure and manuscript, 4 cm, 1964, 1966-67 (original).

- 1) One centennial brochure containing seven booklets and pamphlets. The main title is Lakehead Harbour Commission, Canada's Mid-Continent Seaport. Pamphlet gives details of Lakehead harbours and about the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- 2) An unpublished manuscript entitled "Grain Elevator Construction and Shipping in the Lakehead Harbour, Since 1883", containing text, specifications and architects drawings of elevators.

**Series G 2/2/1-5:** Censuses, 4 reels and one folder, 1871 to 1891 (microfilm).

Censuses of Canada covering the following periods and area:

- 1) Parts of Algoma District and Essex District as per reverse, 1881.
- 2) The rest of Algoma District including Prince Arthur's Landing, Fort William and Silver Islet, 1881.
- 3) Part of the Algoma District including Neebing (Fort William), 1891.
- 4) The rest of Algoma District including Port Arthur, 1891.
- 5) District #90, West Algoma, sub district f, Kaministiquia, schedules 1-5, and 7-8, 1871 (photocopy).
- 6) Census of 1901 for Algoma, including Fort William and Port Arthur and district.

**Series G 2/3/1-5:** Inspector books, 12 cm, 1884-99 (original).

- 1) Boiler Inspector's log book for 1884 containing the quality and dimensions of hull timber and equipment, general qualities of boilers, stays, engines and fittings. Also lists ships names, operators and dates of construction and rebuilding. Fifty ships are described and each are indexed by their names.
- 2-3) Hull inspector's log books for 1893, and 1899, containing much of the above information but concentrating on a description of the hulls of various ships.
- 4-5) Engine inspector's log book for 1897-98, containing much of the above details but with a concentration on engines.

**Series G 2/4/1:** Employment records, 1.5 cm, 1892-1947 (photocopy).

- 1) Employment records of all Port Arthur post office employees from 1892 to 1947.

**Series G 2/5/1-3:** Paylists and letter books, 3 reels, 1895-1918 (microfilm).

Microfilm copies of the Fort William Indian Agency's records of its activities in the district.

- 1) Reel one contains Paylists of the Treaty Annuities, 1895- 1901. These list for each bond, the names of the heads of each household and the number of persons in each family as well as the amount paid to them. Also includes aggregate statistics for each bond. Reel one also has the Indian Agent's letter books for 1905-07-blotted copies of letters to officials in the Department in Ottawa, discussing administration,

financial matters, problems with the Indians, insurance for Indian homes and the cutting of timber and the quantity of rock by the Indians.

2) Reel two: Letter books, 1905-07 (continued).

Letter books, 1907-10.

Letter books, 1910-11.

3) Reel three: Letter books, 1910-11 (continued).

Letter books, 1915-18.

**Biographical Sketch:** The following is a description of three Canadian Government institutions relating to this collection that have special bearing on Northwest Ontario.

The Lakehead Harbour Commission was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1958 giving commission jurisdiction within harbour limits over harbour front lands, including both non-exempted government and private land. The commission may purchase, expropriate, acquire and hold, lease or sell buildings or land within these limits for the development, improvement, maintenance and protection of the harbour. The commission can also construct and dispose of harbour facilities including railways. The commission controls navigation and can pass by-laws to exercise this control. It is run by five members, three of whom are appointed by the federal government and one each by the Port Arthur and Fort William corporations. See Lakehead Harbour Commissioner's Act, Chapter 34, 1958 and order in council P.C. 1965-900 (?).

The first post office in Port Arthur was established in 1869 on Water Street, with W.D. Blackwood as the first Postmaster. The post office was given its first permanent site in 1892 at the corner of Arthur and Court Streets.

The Department of Indian Affairs, Fort William Agency, later corresponds to the Lakehead District Agency. There were six bands in the agency, the numbers of each receiving from the agency, Treaty payments under the Robinson Treaty. The six bands are Fort William, Red Rock, Nipigon Lake, Pays Platte, Pic, and Long Lake. The local agents of the Department were responsible for keeping these records and submitting them to headquarters in Ottawa. These records constitute an excellent source for understanding the early relationship between the Dominion Government and the local Ojibway bands.

**Additional Information:**

*Custodial History:* Formerly catalogued into the museum collection, 980.1.423, 985.2.1, 978.56.1, 978.133.1. G 2/4/1 was donated by Lloyd Brown of 844 Red River Road, apartment #1103, of Thunder Bay. His telephone number is 767-6218.