

West Algoma Council of Women fonds

1894-1973

70 cm of textual records

Administrative history

The West Algoma Council of Women was formed in September of 1894 at the instigation of Mrs F.E. Gibbs of Port Arthur with the intention of improving the state of local society. Both Fort William and Port Arthur women took part right from the beginning despite the enmity between the two towns. The West Algoma Council of Women was an affiliated council of the National Council of Women of Canada. Early concerns and projects undertaken by the group were: abolishing of expectorating on the streets, domestic science in schools, women in elected offices such as school boards, suffrage, promotion of censorship of reading material, the care of sick children, homes for discharged female prisoners, "social purity", moral standards, immigration, the judicial system, peace and war, hospitals, playgrounds, etc. Many local societies and organizations were affiliated with the West Algoma Council of Women and paid dues. The council was not a body designed to do specific work but rather, as the President expressed it in 1920, "a source for the expression of the unified opinion [of women] on such subjects and needs as seems most pressing." The West Algoma Council of Women was disbanded in the 1970s.

Scope and Content

The West Algoma Council of Women fonds is composed of minute books, correspondence, files, and year books regarding the West Algoma Council of Women, the National Council of Women of Canada, projects undertaken, and social issues such as the prohibition of liquor. All are listed chronologically. E 11/5/1 is composed of related publications.

Series E 11/1/1-7. - General minute books. - 15 cm. - 1914-1960

General minute books of the West Algoma Council of Women, that were kept by the secretary. All contain some newspaper clippings as well.

- 1) 3 Oct. 1914 to 30 Sept. 1916; 120 p.
- 2) 28 Oct. 1916 to 23 Nov. 1922; 299 p.
- 3) 24 Nov. 1922 to 13 Aug. 1928; 206 p.
- 4) 28 Sept. 1928 to 23 Oct. 1931; 148 p.
- 5) 8 Jan. 1932 to 23 Feb. 1940; 300 p.
- 6) 29 Mar. 1940 to 17 Feb. 1950; 300 p.
- 7) 23 Feb. 1951 to 26 Feb. 1960; 138 p.

Series E 11/2/1-3. - President's minute books. - 5 cm. - 1939-1945

The Presidents' minute books from the West Algoma Council of Women, all contain some newspaper clippings as well.

- 1) 28 Apr. 1939 to 29 Nov. 1940; 50 pages.
- 2) 31 Jan. 1941 to 27 Feb. 1942; 50 pages.
- 3) 27 Mar. 1942 to 23 Mar. 1945; 150 pages.

Series E 11/3/1-8. - Correspondence books and files. - 13 cm. - 1894-1960s

Letter books and files of the correspondence secretary of the West Algoma Council of Women:

- 1) 4 Oct. 1894 to 24 Mar. 1905 (contains clippings, letters); bound volume, 3 cm.
- 2) 29 Mar. 1935 to 12 Mar. 1948 (contains lists of officers, members and affiliated societies from 1935-1948); bound volume, 200 p.
- 3) File of correspondence, clippings and miscellaneous records, 1920s.
- 4) File of correspondence, clippings and miscellaneous records, 1930s.
- 5) File of correspondence, clippings and miscellaneous records, 1940s.
- 6) File of clippings, 1950s.
- 7) File of correspondence and transcripts of speeches given before the council, 1950s.
- 8) File of correspondence and clippings, 1960s.

Series E 11/4/1-6. - Miscellaneous records. - 8 cm. - 1894-1950

- 1) File containing lists of projects undertaken by the West Algoma Council of Women, 1894-1950; resolutions sent out of district 1916-1946; material on the history of the West Algoma Council of Women; an invitation from 1909; and two books including J.J. Carrick's "Carrick-atures".
- 2) Petition to prohibit peddling of liquor to the foreign population of Fort William (nd. ca. 1910); 5 p.
- 3) Two copies of "History of West Algoma Local Council of Women from 1894-1950" by Mrs. W.S. Pickup; 31 p each.
- 4) Treasurer's book containing receipts and disbursements, from 1939-1948; 200 p.
- 5) Roll Call of the Local Council of Women of West Algoma, 1910-1916; c.60 p.
- 6) Bound volume of correspondence, clippings and memorabilia regarding the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the West Algoma Council of Women.

Series E 11/5/1. - Year books. - 29 cm. - 1935-1973

Year books of the National Council of Women of Canada of which the West Algoma Council of women is an affiliated member. 1935, 1937, 1938, 1940-1942, 1944, 1946-1947, 1949-1956, 1958-1960, 1962-1966, 1968, 1971-1973.

Notes

Formerly catalogued into the museum collection, 979.98.1-9; 979.78.1 G, I-J; 979.98.2,6; 979.98.9 A-U.