

Research Guide 301  
Records related to Indigenous Peoples

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Child in Tikinagun, Lansdowne House [Neskantaga First Nation], June 1956, John Macfie  
John Macfie fonds, C 330, I0012626

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## In this Guide

This research guide is intended as an introduction to records held at the Archives of Ontario and elsewhere that may aid in research related to Indigenous individuals, Nations, communities and histories. The guide is not exhaustive. It is meant to highlight major themes and/or direct you to collections of government and private records that contain a significant amount of material related to Indigenous peoples.

This guide also includes links to other research guides. On our website, these and other guides are found on the “Research Guides and Tools” page, under “Access our Collections”.

## A Note about Perspective and Language

We hold records created by the Government of Ontario, as well as private individuals and businesses. The story these records tell of Indigenous peoples in Ontario is overwhelmingly from a settler perspective. These records, as well as many of the legacy finding aids and other descriptive tools that we have created may include language that is considered inaccurate or offensive by contemporary standards.

This guide is a continual work in progress. We welcome feedback from and collaboration with Indigenous individuals, Nations and communities on any aspect of our work, including this guide. Comments, concerns and suggestions may be sent to [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca).

## Where do I Find these Records?

Unless clearly stated otherwise, we have all the records mentioned in this guide. To access most of the records in this guide, you will need to visit us in person. Please contact us in advance to request records. Some of the records in this guide are on microfilm. With some exceptions, you do not need to order microfilm records in advance. Your local library may borrow microfilm reels for you through our Interloan program. [Click here to view our Microfilm Interloan Catalogue](#). On our website, you will find the microfilm Interloan catalogue under “Access our Collections.”

You may hire a freelance researcher to search these records for you. If you have enough information for us to find the records you are looking for, you may also be able to order copies.

Many aspects of Indigenous life in what is now called Ontario have historically fallen under federal jurisdiction and/or operate on the basis of Nation-to-Nation relationships. For this reason, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has a substantial amount of material, particularly in LAC record group RG 10. We have microfilm copies of some of these

records. Please contact Library and Archives Canada for more information. Please [click here](#) for a link to their website.

## Access Restrictions

Many of the records we hold pertaining to Indigenous history, Nations and communities are governed by access restrictions, such as the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). See individual descriptions in the Archives online database for more information about how to access restricted records.

## The Records

### 1. Treaties

#### 1.1 The James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9)

##### The Articles of the James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9) - RG 1-653

We hold one of two original parchment copies of the written agreement of the James Bay Treaty (also known as Treaty No. 9), as well as the paper adhesions to this Treaty. The Treaty is an agreement between Ojibwa, Cree (including the Ojibwegowuk) and other Indigenous Nations (Algonquin) and the Crown (represented by two commissioners appointed by Canada and one commissioner appointed by Ontario). First entered into in 1905 and 1906, and expanded with the adhesions of 1929 to 1930, the Treaty covers the James Bay and Hudson Bay watersheds in Ontario, about two-thirds of the province's total landmass. It embodies the Nation-to-Nation relationship between First Nations and the Crown. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-653.](#)

More information about the James Bay Treaty, as well as a high-resolution digital copy, is available in The James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9) online exhibit, developed in partnership by the Archives of Ontario, Mushkegowuk Council, and Queen's University Archives. [Click here to view the James Bay Treaty \(Treaty No. 9\) exhibit.](#)

*Please note:* Access to the original Treaty is available to individuals and communities from Treaty No. 9 territory. Please email [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca) or call 416-327-1600 for more information. For all other access requests, please consult digitized copies of the Treaty. You may also view a life-sized photographic print of the 1905 to 1906 portion of the Treaty. Order using reference code RG 1-653-0-1 and barcode F009696 [Click here to access digitized copies of the James Bay Treaty.](#)

#### The James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9) at Library and Archives Canada

The James Bay Treaty (Treaty no. 9) involved both the provincial and federal governments. For this reason, there are two original copies of the written agreement. Library and Archives Canada holds the second original copies of the James Bay Treaty

and the Adhesion to Treaty Number Nine. Please contact Library and Archives Canada for more information.

### **Duncan Campbell Scott James Bay Treaty Tour photographs – C 275-2**

Duncan Campbell Scott was a settler civil servant with the federal Department of Indian Affairs. Scott is known for his extreme assimilationist tactics and policies, including his role as a key player in the expansion of the Residential School system. His responsibilities included representing the Federal Government in intergovernmental Treaty negotiations with Indigenous peoples, including the James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9). Documentary evidence and oral testimony from the time show that Scott knowingly misrepresented the intentions of government in these negotiations.<sup>1</sup>

These photographs document the journey taken by Scott and the other Treaty commissioners in 1905 and 1906 to negotiate the terms of the James Bay Treaty (Treaty no. 9) with northern Indigenous Elders and Chiefs. [Click here to access the description for C 275-2](#). See also entry below under *Photographic Collections*.

### **Crown land survey correspondence and reports relating to Indian reserves and land claims - RG 1-273-5**

This group of records contains two registers consisting of "Pay lists for reserves for Treaty Payment, 1905." These lists were maintained by Duncan Campbell Scott, Samuel Stewart, and Daniel G. McMartin, who were commissioners for the James Bay Treaty (Treaty no. 9). The registers document individual payees and are grouped by First Nation. Each entry includes the name of an individual, number of people in their family, and amount paid. Many entries contain additional notes about family relationships and the position of the head of the household in the community. These records also include copies of documentation relating to the Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior Treaties, which appear to have been compiled as background for the Treaty No. 9 negotiations. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-273-5](#). See also entry below under *Indigenous Land Title*.

## **1.2. Records Related to Other Treaties**

### **Aemilius Irving fonds - F 1027**

Aemilius Irving was a settler lawyer and politician who acted as legal counsel for the Government of Ontario during several jurisdictional disputes with the federal government, Manitoba and Quebec. Irving's records document major cases related to the Robinson Huron Treaties (1850), Treaty 3, the Bond Head Treaty (1836), and the Manitoulin Island Treaty (1862). These records include oral testimony from Ojibwa and Métis individuals who participated in these negotiations. Irving also replied to other claims against Ontario

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<sup>1</sup> Robert L. MacDougall, "Duncan Campbell Scott," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, last modified January 18, 2018, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/duncan-campbell-scott>

submitted by the federal government. These included the claim of Temagami First Nation of Northeastern Ontario to a reserve (Bear Island 1) on Lake Temagami. [Click here to access the description for F 1027.](#)

### **Dawson family fonds - F 1008**

Simon James Dawson was appointed Treaty commissioner for the conclusion the Saulteaux Treaty in 1873. [Click here to access the description for F 1008.](#) See entry below under *Surveyors' Private Records* for more information about these records.

## **2. Colonialist Exploration and The Fur Trade**

We hold several collections of private records related to the Fur Trade, a period of intense commercial enterprise and mutual exchange between Indigenous peoples and European settlers that spanned the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and gave rise to the Métis Nation. We also hold records pertaining to European colonialist exploration of what is now Canada from roughly the same time period. Our holdings consist primarily of records of individual European settler fur traders, financiers, government officials, and explorers.

### **David Thompson fonds - F 443**

David Thompson (1770 to 1857) was a British settler fur trader, surveyor, and astronomer known for his explorations and mapping of western Canada, as well as his work surveying the international border between Canada and the United States. Records include Thompson's notebooks and journals, field books, surveys, correspondence, and maps. Thompson's journals and notebooks (see F 443-1), document his travels to the interior of Canada and the United States while working for the Hudson's Bay Company and Northwest Company. Entries combine astronomical observations with descriptions of the landscape, wildlife, climate, members of his traveling parties, as well as the peoples and cultures encountered during his explorations. These records contain a significant amount of material related to Indigenous peoples. They also provide extensive documentation of the daily life of a fur trader and explorer, as well as some of the earliest descriptions of the landscape of western Canada recorded by European settlers. [Click here to access the description for F 443.](#) See also entry below under *Indigenous Languages*.

### **Fur Trade Collection - F 471**

Collection consists of materials collected from various donors related to the Fur Trade. The material is predominantly from the Temiskaming and Algoma districts of what is now Northeastern Ontario, but also includes copies of Northwest Company documents from what is now Western Canada. Communities and peoples referenced include: the Haudenosaunee ('Five Nations') Confederacy, Beausoleil First Nation, Chiefs of the Rice Lake area, the Coast Salish people, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Chippewas of Rama First Nation ('Tow(e) Band of the Snake Island and Rama reserves'), Cree communities in the area of Moose Factory (near Moose Cree First Nation and MoCreebec Eeyoud),

and Ojibwa people of the Albany River region (near Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation). [Click here to access the description for F 471.](#)

### **William Baldwin family fonds - F 17**

Records include material related to the French settler fur trader Quetton St. George, active in the areas of Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching in the late-18th and early-19th centuries, near Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and Chippewas of Rama First Nation. This material consists primarily of correspondence, land patents, deeds, and other land records with scattered references to Indigenous peoples throughout. Records also include a volume of lawyer Robert Baldwin's legal opinions, which contain some references to Indigenous peoples and lands (see MS 88, Reel 2). [Click here to access the description for F 17.](#)

### **Agnus and Aeneas Cameron fonds - F 428**

Agnus and Aeneas Cameron were Scottish settler fur traders in the Temiskaming District of Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec in the early 19th century. In addition to general accounts of the fur trade, records include numerous references to individual members of various Ojibwa and Algonquin First Nations in the region. These include peoples in the areas of Timiskaming ('Temiscaming'), Kebaowek ('Kippewa'), Anicinapek de Kitcisakik ('Grand Lac') and Abitibiwinni ('Abitibi') First Nations in Québec and the Mattagami, Flying Post, Temagami and Nipissing First Nations in Ontario, a region that is also the location of the James Bay and Abitibi/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas (Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community). [Click here to access the description for F 428.](#)

### **Duncan Clark fonds - F 429**

Duncan Clark (1785 to 1862) was a fur trader who worked for the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company in what is now Northern Ontario. Records include general correspondence regarding the fur trade. These include records related to the Pic Post on the north shore of Lake Superior (1788 to 1848) and an account book for the Hudson Bay Company's Long Lake post (1824), near present day Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Ginoogaming First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation and the Lakehead, Nipigon, Michipicoten Harvesting Areas (Northern Lake Superior Métis Community). Both sets of records contain references to local Indigenous communities. [Click here to access the description for F 429.](#)

### **James Laurence Cotter fonds - F 430**

James Cotter was a settler fur trader with the Hudson's Bay Company at Moose Factory on James Bay in the 1870s and 1880s, in the area of Moose Cree First Nation, MoCreebec Eeyoud, and the James Bay and Abitibi/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas (Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community). The blotter-copy letter book (1883 to 1889) and the correspondence from Moose Factory (1878 to 1888) contain scattered references to Indigenous peoples of this area. [Click here to access the description for F 430.](#)

### **Gladman Family fonds - F 432**

George Gladman, George Gladman Jr., and Henry Gladman represent three generations of Hudson's Bay Company employees who traded in the late-18th and early-19th centuries. George Jr., the son of George Sr. and an Ojibwa woman from the Missinaibi Lake area of Northern Ontario, was an employee of the Company for over 30 years. He married the Métis daughter of a fellow Company trader, with whom he had a son, Henry. George Jr. headed the 1857 Red River Exploring Expedition from Fort William to the Red River, which Henry also participated in. See the correspondence and diaries related to this expedition for relevant material. [Click here to access the description for F 432.](#)

### **George Gordon fonds - F 433**

George Gordon was a Scottish francophone settler fur trader employed by the Northwest Company at Nipigon, Fort William, Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinaw, and Drummond Island from 1807 to 1817, in the area of present-day Red Rock Indian Band, Fort William First Nation, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewas Indians, Mackinac Bands of Chippewas and Ottawa Indians, Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, and the Lakehead, Nipigon, Michipicoten, and Sault Ste. Marie Harvesting Areas (Northern Lake Superior and Sault Ste. Marie Métis Communities). Gordon later set up a fur trade venture for himself at Drummond Island and then at Fort William. In 1824, he moved with his wife Agnes Landry - who was Ojibwa Métis - and children to Penetanguishene, Simcoe County, where he became a general merchant and helped establish a Métis settlement. Records include personal correspondence (1809 to 1842), an article of apprenticeship to the Northwest Company (1807), and other records. [Click here to access the description for F 433.](#)

### **Guillaume La Mothe family fonds - F 435**

Guillaume La Mothe (1744 to 1799) was a fur trader at Fort Michilimackinac (present-day Mackinaw City) and St. Joseph Island, in the area of present-day Thessalon First Nation, Garden River First Nation, Mackinac Bands of Chippewas and Ottawa Indians, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewas Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie and Environs Métis Community. Records include correspondence and other material related to La Mothe's personal and professional life and includes numerous references to Indigenous peoples of the area. [Click here to access the description for F 435.](#)

### **John McDonald of Garth Collection - F 437**

John McDonald was a Scottish settler fur trader and partner in the Northwest Company. His first wife was an Indigenous woman, with whom he had had five children. McDonald helped establish trading posts at Rocky Mountain House (1799), New Chesterfield House, Fort Gibraltar, Fort Augustus and other locations. His correspondence and autobiographical notes contain frequent reference to Indigenous peoples. [Click here to access the description for F 437.](#)



### **John Norton fonds - F 440**

See entry below under *Indian Agents and other Federal Government Employees*.

### **George Nelson fonds - F 452**

Settler fur trader George Nelson (1786 to 1859) worked for the Northwest Company and its competitors in what is now Northern Ontario and Manitoba. Nelson's diary from Tête au Brochet (Jackhead) post on Lake Winnipeg - in the area of the former Bas de la Rivière Métis community or present-day Sagkeeng First Nation - mentions the Ojibwa, Cree and Métis peoples with whom he traded in the years 1818 to 1819. [Click here to access the description for F 452.](#)

### **Thomas Richards fonds - F 453**

Fur trader Thomas Richards worked for the Hudson's Bay Company in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century at various posts on James Bay, as well as at Fort William on Lake Superior (now Thunder Bay), near present-day Lakehead, Nipigon, Michipicoten Harvesting Areas (Northern Lake Superior Métis Community) and Fort William First Nation. Both Richards' journal (1875 to 1876) and his fur accounts (1880 to 1882) mention the Indigenous peoples of Fort William. [Click here to access the description for F 453.](#)

### **Donald McTavish Family fonds - F 455**

Donald McTavish was a fur trader who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company in Northern Québec, Northern Manitoba and the Pacific Northwest. McTavish's correspondence from Eastmain on the east coast of James Bay in 1863, as well as his letters from Norway House, Manitoba in 1902 mention members of Cree communities from these regions, in the areas of present-day Norway House Cree Nation and Cree Nation of Eastmain. [Click here to access the description for F 455.](#)

### **John Askin fonds - F 474**

John Askin (1739 to 1815) was a settler fur trader from Albany, New York, who lived in Detroit circa 1780. After the Jay Treaty of 1794 confirmed the international boundary, he moved his operations to Sandwich (now Windsor) on the British side of the Detroit River, near Wyandot of Anderdon Nation. Records were created by John Askin and some other Askin family members. Though Askin was extensively involved in trade with Indigenous communities, the few references to Indigenous peoples are widely scattered in these manuscripts. The bulk of Askin's papers are at the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library. Some of them have been published in *The John Askin Papers*, available in our library. [Click here to access the description for F 474.](#)

## **Jean Baptiste Rousseau family fonds - F 493**

Jean Baptiste Rousseau (1758 to 1812) was a settler merchant and mill owner in Ancaster, York and Kingston, Ontario, who traded along the north shore of Lake Ontario. Rousseau's father was a French fur trader and interpreter with the British Indian Department. A few of the early documents in this collection disclose Rousseau's relations with Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea) and the Six Nations of the Grand River. For example, there is a lease (dated 26 October 1801) for 999 years from Brant to Rousseau and John Westbrook, for a tract six miles deep on either side of the Grand River. [Click here to access the description for F 493.](#)

## **Jacques Duperon Baby family fonds - F 2128**

See entry below under *Indian Agents and other Federal Government Employees*.

## **Carte Particulière du Fleuve Saint-Louis - C-279-0-0-0-16**

Based on Hubert Jaillot's 1685 map of New France, this circa 1719 map, attributed to Henri Chatelain, shows Indigenous peoples and village sites, along with linguistic affiliation and the types of products traded in exchange for furs. The map covers most of what is now called Ontario. To view, order folder F005245.

## **3. The Land**

### **3.1 Colonization through Land Settlement**

The process of European colonization through land settlement in what is now called Ontario is documented in detail in our holdings, primarily through Crown Land records and the records of the Land Registry Offices. For guidance on how to navigate our extensive holdings of land records, please see the following guides:

- [Guide 215 From Grant to Patent: A Guide to Early Land Settlement, circa 1790 to circa 1850](#)
- [Guide 225 Researching Crown Land Records](#)
- [Guide 205 Using the Ontario Land Records Index](#)
- [Guide 231 Finding Land Registration Records](#)

### **3.2 Crown Lands / Ministry of Natural Resources – RG 1**

Beginning in the 1760s and continuing to the present day, the Crown has claimed title to the lands, waters and resources of Ontario once under the stewardship of Indigenous peoples. Record group RG 1 contains records pertaining to the government's administration of Crown Lands and natural resources. It includes a significant amount of material related to Indigenous communities, Nations, lands and rights both before and after the signing of Treaties. This record group contains records created by the current

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and its predecessors, including the Surveyor-General and the Commissioner on Crown Lands. The Surveyor-General was responsible for surveying lands claimed from Indigenous peoples so that they could be opened for European settlement. The Commissioner of Crown Lands and predecessors administered public lands. Various resource offices disposed of timber, mineral and water rights.

RG 1 is an extensive group of government records. The following is a small sampling of records containing material related to Indigenous peoples.

### **Correspondence and memoranda received by the Surveyor General relating to surveys and land administration – RG 1-2**

Records consist of correspondence and memoranda relating to surveys and, more generally, to lands administration, received by the Surveyor General's Office. These records have been divided into groups based on correspondent. A fifth group is arranged chronologically. Many surveyors from the early settlement period (1783 to 1812), such as Patrick McNiff, Augustus Jones and William Chewett provide eyewitness accounts of Indigenous communities and Nations. Volumes 65 (1816 to 1849) and 66 (1850s) in RG 1-2-2 consist almost entirely of documents about Indigenous peoples. RG 1-2-4 also has significant material on Indigenous lands and settlements in what is now called Ontario. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-2.](#)

### **Outgoing correspondence from the Surveyor General's Office – RG 1-3**

The records consists of outgoing correspondence from the Surveyor General's Office relating to the surveying and administration of land in the province. Virtually all 98 volumes have general descriptive and technical survey material relating to Indigenous lands and settlements, most of it consisting of instructions to surveyors. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-3.](#)

### **Crown land administration subject files – RG 1-9**

The records contain material selected from the general correspondence and documents of the Crown Lands Papers, broadly categorized and placed in artificial subject files. Included is correspondence, reports, petitions, directives and other records sent to the Surveyor General, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and land agents. The records contain a significant amount of relevant material, including documents related to major pre-Confederation purchases of land from First Nations. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-9.](#)

### **Crown land survey diaries, field notes and reports – RG 1-59**

These records consists of diaries, field notes and reports documenting the survey of Crown lands, including timber berths, under the direction of the Surveyor General. These records provide occasional information on Indigenous villages, settlements and

campsites. Researchers should check either the Township in which they are interested or look for the general survey of which their area formed a part. There are separate listings for 'Indian Lands' (seen entry below for RG 1-53-13). These records should be used in conjunction with RG 1-524 below. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-59.](#)

### **Crown land survey account records – RG 1-524**

Records consist of financial accounts for surveys of Crown land conducted in what is now called Ontario. Many of the accounts contain general correspondence related to First Nations reserve lands. See, in particular, RG 1-524-2. These records may be useful in conjunction with RG 1-59 above. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-524.](#)

### **Indian land sales – RG 1-53-13**

These records contain descriptions of sales of what were called 'Indian Lands,' mainly in the vicinity of the Six Nations of the Grand River. This category, not to be confused with First Nations reserves, encompassed lands which were sold to provide revenue for First Nations. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-53-13.](#)

### **Indian land sales records – RG 1-88**

These records document sales of 'Indian lands' (see entry for RG 1-53-13 above) created or acquired by the Crown Lands Department. Many of these records deal with the technical and legal aspects of the sale or disposal of lands belonging to the Six Nations of the Grand River. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-88.](#)

### **Records of the Advisory Committee to the Minister of Lands and Forests – RG 1-11**

These records document recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Minister of Lands and Forests concerning the planning and administration of forestry programs in what is now called Ontario. They include committee and subcommittee minutes, annual reports, and reports on field trips, as well as incoming and outgoing correspondence and material received by the Committee during its deliberations. The records also contain reference material relating to forestry and land use which was accumulated by the Committee as part of the ongoing study process. While Indigenous related content is only occasionally listed explicitly, you should check entries for known areas of Indigenous settlement, game and fish policy, Northern parks and wilderness areas, and other similar headings. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-11.](#)

### **Park development files – RG 1-47**

These records document the development of provincial parks and reserve areas, from initial proposals, through acquisition of private land for parks, to the actual establishment of provincial parks and reserves. They include records related to many Ontario provincial

parks – particularly those in more northerly areas, such as Winisk River and Polar Bear Provincial Parks – that are adjacent to Indigenous communities. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-47.](#)

### **Exploration parties of northern Ontario records – RG 1-411**

In 1900, survey parties were sent out by the Department of Crown Lands to report on the mineral, timber and other resources in Northern Ontario. They covered all the country up to the Albany River, which was then the northern boundary of Ontario. The official report was published in 1901. These records contain textual and cartographic materials documenting the activities of the exploration parties. They contain numerous references to the Cree and Ojibwa people of the regions covered, not all of which were printed in the final Reports. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-411.](#)

### **Mining reference files – RG 1-531-1**

These records document the sale of Crown mining lands, primarily in the Lake Superior and north-eastern regions of the province. Because mining activity on Lakes Huron and Superior was so intimately connected with First Nations protests, the early files contain numerous, though scattered, references to relations with local Indigenous peoples and applications for mining permits on First Nations lands. Unfortunately, there is no simple way to use these records, other than to follow leads by searching files for particular geographical areas, or for individual companies. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-531-1.](#)

### **3.3. Indigenous Land Title**

We hold a limited number of records documenting assertions of land title ('land claims') made by Indigenous communities and Nations to the Province.

For information about asserting Indigenous land title in the Province of Ontario, [click here to access the Government of Ontario Guide to Submitting Land Claims.](#)

### **Crown land survey correspondence and reports relating to Indian reserves and land claims - RG 1-273-5**

These records document the allocation of land for First Nations reserves in what is now northern Ontario. Included are copies of documentation relating to specific treaties (the Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior Treaties), which appear to have been compiled as background for the Treaty No. 9 negotiations. They contain a draft memorandum prepared at the direction of the Attorney General by Aemilius Irving concerning Ontario's position in these negotiations, as well as correspondence, memoranda, and reports as well as background material. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-273-5.](#) See also entry above under *Treaties*.

## **Indian land claims reports – RG 1-370**

These records consist of reports created by the Office of Indian Resources Policy, tasked with researching and responding to specific assertions of land title by various First Nations. The reports relate to contemporaneous land disputes. They comprise research used to inform the Ministry of Natural Resources of relevant historical facts concerning various assertions of land title made by First Nations. Generally, the reports are linked to specific geographical locations and/or specific First Nations reserves. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-370.](#)

## **Native bands, reserves and land claims files – RG 1-568**

These records consist of files created by the Office of Indian Resource Policy and its successors while carrying out its responsibility for researching and responding to assertions of land title by First Nations. Included in the files are reports, correspondence, minutes of meetings, relevant historical documents, memoranda of understanding and cabinet submissions. Files are generally arranged in alphabetical order by name of First Nation. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-568.](#)

### **3.4 Aerial Photographs**

We hold thousands of aerial photographs documenting all areas of the province. These photos capture various land features, municipalities and communities, rural areas, and the built environment. They include overhead images of First Nations reserves, Residential Schools, and many other subjects. The two main groups of aerial photographs are *RG 1-429-7 Forest resource inventory aerial photographic prints* and *RG 1-828-1 Ontario base map aerial photograph prints*. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-429-7.](#) For detailed information about how to access these photographs, see [Guide 232 Finding Ministry of Natural Resources Aerial Photography](#).

For more information about Residential Schools captured in aerial photographs, see section below under *Residential Schools*.

### **3.3 Surveyors' Private Records**

In addition to government records related to land surveying found in RG 1, we hold several collections of private records of early government land surveyors. The following records contain references to Indigenous people and communities.

#### **David Thompson fonds - F 443**

See entry above under *Colonialist Exploration and The Fur Trade*.

### **Josiah Jones Bell fonds - F 886**

Josiah Jones Bell was a settler ensign in the Wolseley expedition to the Red River, sent to quell the first Riel Resistance in 1870. From 1875 to 1876, he took part in surveys of lands between the Assiniboine and South Saskatchewan Rivers. Records include four diaries, the first two of which detail Bell's trip to the Red River and back from 1870 to 1871. These contain frequent references to Indigenous peoples around Rainy Lake - Lake of the Woods and in the Red River valley, in the area of: Animakee Wa Zhing #37; Couchiching, Mitaanjigaming, Naicatchewenin, Nigigoonsiminikaaning, Big Grassy River, and Buffalo Point First Nations; and the Rainy Lake/ Rainy River, Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul and Treaty 3 Halfbreed Adhesion Harvesting Areas. There are also occasional references to unidentified Indigenous people in the second two diaries. [Click here to access the description for F 886.](#)

### **Dawson family fonds - F 1008**

Records were created by settler civil engineer, surveyor and politician, Simon James Dawson (1820-1902). Between 1857 and 1860, Dawson surveyed the land between Fort William on Lake Superior - in the area of Fort William First Nation and the Northern Lake Superior Métis Community - and the Red River on behalf of the government of Canada. In 1868, he was again sent west of Lake Superior by the federal government to construct the Dawson route, and in 1870 oversaw the passage of the troops of the Red River Expedition – sent in response to the Red River Resistance - over this route. In 1859, Dawson negotiated the purchase of the Fort William First Nation reserve land, which the government wanted for settlement. Records include frequent references to Indigenous people, particularly in the correspondence related to the Red River Exploring Expedition (1857 to 1860). These include lists of Indigenous words in Cree and Ojibwa dialects, and mention of the Haudenosaunee voyageurs (Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke) who accompanied Dawson. The most detailed records concern the negotiations with the Ojibwa of Fort William First Nation over reserve land. [Click here to access the description for F 1008.](#) See also entries under *Treaties* (above) and *Indigenous Languages* (below).

### **Tyrell Family fonds - F 1047**

James Williams Tyrrell (1863 to 1945) was a settler land surveyor for both Ontario and the Dominion who worked extensively in Northern and Western Canada. The most important material in these records relates to Tyrrell's surveys of the lands around Chesterfield Inlet (1893 to 1894) and between Great Slave Lake and Hudson's Bay (1899 to 1900) in what is now the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (see Box 7). These materials contain references to the DeneSuline ('Chipewyan') and Inuit of the region. Tyrrell also surveyed portions of First Nations Reserves in Southern Manitoba in 1908 (see Box 9, contract #17). [Click here to access the description for F 1047.](#)

### **J.L. Morris professional files - F 1060-1**

J.L. Morris was a settler civil engineer, surveyor and civil servant. Records include work diaries, journals, research notes, correspondence, and other records related to his surveying activities, as well as maps created or accumulated by Morris, primarily concerning treaties with First Nations, Upper Canadian boundary evolution, and timber licence areas in Algonquin Park. Morris was also an amateur historian whose interests included First Nations land title ('land claims') among other subjects. [Click here to access the description for F 1060-1.](#)

### **Hamlet Burritt fonds - F 1061**

Hamlet Burritt worked closely with the Surveyor-General for Upper Canada to survey the government's proposed new colonization road known as the Opeongo Line. This road stretched from the Ottawa River to Lake Opeongo. Records include four handwritten survey journals kept by Hamlet Burritt, documenting Burritt's observations on camp life, the landscape, daily activities, weather, working conditions, his relationships with the crew, and his interactions with the locals. Three of the four journals were hand-made by Burritt. [Click here to access the description for F 1061.](#)

## **3.5 Other Land Records**

### **Report of the Special Commission to Investigate Indian Affairs in Canada- RG 18-9**

An appendix to the 1858 report of the Special Commission to Investigate Indian Affairs in Canada contains a table showing surrenders of Indigenous lands in Upper Canada with statistics relating to communities, dates surrendered, locations, acreage, and the monies paid to Indigenous peoples by the government. [Click here to access the description for RG 18-9.](#) See also entry below under *Provincial Government-Indigenous Relations* for more information about these records.

### **Indian and ordnance land returns - RG 53-6**

The Recording Office was responsible for maintaining registers of official documents, such as patents and letters of incorporation. These records were created and maintained by this office. They contain returns of 'Indian and Ordnance Lands' for which patents had been issued. 'Indian Lands' were lands which were sold to provide revenue for First Nations. The return lists the name of the patentee, lot, concession, acreage and date of the patent. Some volumes also contain a detailed description of the land. [Click here to access the description for RG 53-6.](#)

### **Hiram Walker Historical Museum collection – F 378**

These records were deposited with or collected by the Hiram Walker Historical Museum in Windsor. They document the history of the Windsor-Detroit area, near Wyandot of



Anderdon Nation, from 1749 to 1971. Included are land deeds between Indigenous peoples and the Baby Family, as well as other land transactions between various settlers and the Wyandotte (Wendat), Potawatamie (Potawatomi), Odawa (Ottawa) and other Indigenous peoples of the region. Fonds also includes records of Alexander McKee, an Indian Agent at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania (present-day Pittsburgh). [Click here to access the description for F 378.](#)

### **ENVision – The Hough Group Limited fonds - F 4521**

Records document projects undertaken or proposed by ENVision-The Hough Group in the areas of landscape architecture, design, urban design and renewal, environmental assessments, community planning, ecological design and restoration, and recreation and tourism planning. Records reference numerous projects related to Indigenous land use planning, environmental assessment and other initiatives. These include projects related to the following First Nations reserves: Fort Hope First Nation Reserve No. 64 (Eabametoong First Nation), Alderville First Nation Reserve No. 37, Constance Lake First Nation Reserve No. 92, Curve Lake First Nation Reserve No. 35, Kettle Point First Nation Reserve (Kettle & Stony Point First Nation), Moose Deer Point First Nation Reserve No. 79. Relevant projects also relate to the following locations: Attawapiskat, Moosonee, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Sault Ste. Marie, Temagami, Moosonee, and Frobisher Bay, Nunavut. [Click here to access the description for F 4521.](#)

## **4. Federal Administration and the Reserve System**

### **4.1 Indian Agents and other Federal Government Employees**

Indian Agents and Superintendants were the federal government's representatives on First Nations reserves and within Indigenous communities. These employees were responsible for implementing government policy, enforcing and administering the provisions of the *Indian Act*, managing day-to-day affairs within Indigenous communities and Nations, administering the pass system, and other duties. Agents and other administrators could be assigned to a single First Nations reserve or to a district containing multiple reserves or communities. They worked under the Superintendant General of the federal Department of Indian Affairs. Indian Agents were replaced by Band Councils and other forms of government in the 1960s. We hold private records related to several Interpreters, Indian Agents, Superintendants, and other individuals employed by the federal Department of Indian Affairs.

### **Amos Wright fonds - F 53**

Amos Wright (1809 to 1886) was a settler politician elected to the Upper Canadian Legislature in 1851, and then to Canada's Federal Parliament following Confederation. In 1872, he was appointed as the Crown Land Agent for the Thunder Bay Area, and as the federal Indian Agent for the area. In 1883, following conflict of interest charges, he lost the appointment as federal Indian Agent. Records were created or received

by Amos Wright and are mostly of a personal and political nature. [Click here to access the description for F 53.](#)

### **Hiram Walker Historical Museum collection – F 378**

This collection includes records of Alexander McKee, an Indian Agent at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania (present-day Pittsburgh). [Click here to access the description for F 378.](#) See section above under *Other Land Records* for more information about this collection.

### **John Norton fonds - F 440**

John Norton (Teyoninhokarawen) (died circa 1831) was an Indian Agent and advocate for Indigenous peoples in the area of the Six Nations of the Grand River. Of Cherokee and Scottish descent, Norton came to Canada as a private soldier and worked variously as a schoolmaster with the Bay of Quinte Mohawk, a fur trader south of the Great Lakes, and as a writer and historian of Cherokee and Haudenosaunee history. Norton translated the Gospel into Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) and was given the title of Teyoninhokarawen or Peace Chief by the Grand River Mohawk. He had a close relationship with Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea). Records include a list of Kanien'kehá:ka individuals, as well as correspondence related to: Indigenous lands; his trip to England and interest there in Indigenous peoples; and his interest in improving the lives of Indigenous peoples. [Click here to access the description for F 440.](#)

### **Solomon Y. Chesley fonds - F 451**

Solomon Chesley was a settler Indian Agent, Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) language interpreter and, late in his career, Acting Superintendent General of the federal Indian Department. Chesley lived and worked primarily at Akwesasne (St. Regis) and was active between 1806 and 1845. Chesley was also a soldier with the St. Regis Company of Indian Warriors during the War of 1812. Records include five diaries created by Chesley documenting his work as an Indian Agent. These diaries reference his travels to various First Nations reserves in Ontario, negotiations and mediation with Indigenous leaders, and ceremonies and customs. [Click here to access the description for F 451.](#)

### **William Jones fonds - F 454**

William Jones was an Indian Agent at Baldoon, Upper Canada, near present day Walpole Island First Nation, Bkejwanong Territory. His jurisdiction included Ojibwa communities inhabiting First Nations reserves along the St. Clair River, Southeastern Lake Huron, and Walpole Island. Records include Jones' letter book, written between 1831 and 1839 in his capacity as an Indian Agent. The correspondence is mainly to Colonel Jarvis Givens, Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Upper Canada, and relates to Jones' duties in this role. [Click here to access the description for F 454.](#)

### **James Givens family fonds - F 630**

James Givens (a.k.a. Givins) was a British settler army and militia officer, Ojibwa language interpreter, and Superintendent in the Indian Department, first in the Home District and later for all Upper Canada. Givens worked as an interpreter for John Graves Simcoe in the 1790s during Simcoe's interactions with Indigenous peoples. Givens clashed openly with Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea) over land sales and the creation of an organization that would include the Mississaugas of the Credit. Records include correspondence and memoranda related to professional and military matters. [Click here to access the description for F 630.](#)

### **Duncan Fraser MacDonald fonds- F 1023**

Duncan Fraser MacDonald (1842 to 1923) was a settler public servant with the provincial Crown Lands department and an Indian Agent in the District of Parry Sound. Among the letters, scrapbooks, and other materials in this collection, Macdonald's diaries from the 1880s and 1890s contain numerous references to individual Indigenous people as far north as the Whitefish River on Lake Huron, near present-day Whitefish River, Aundek Omni Kaning, Sheguiandah, M'Chigeeng, Sheshegwaning, Zhiibaahaasing First Nations and Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. [Click here to access the description for F 1023.](#)

### **Matthew Elliott fonds - F 2068**

Matthew Elliott was a settler Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the District of Detroit in the late-18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition to this role, Elliott was a farmer, trader, slaveowner, politician, and Militia officer in the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. He acted as an emissary for the Shawnee Tribe in Pennsylvania and was a Member of the House of Assembly. He held the position of Justice of the Peace for the District of Hesse in Amherstberg, where he held extensive property, as well as many enslaved persons. Records include correspondence, land deeds, and the wills of Matthew Elliott and Sarah Elliott. [Click here to access the description for F 2068.](#)

### **Jacques Duperon Baby family fonds - F 2128**

Jacques "James" Duperon Baby (1731 to 1789) was a Montreal-born settler Indian Agent, Interpreter and Captain in the Department of Indian Affairs. He worked at Chinigué (Logstown, now Ambridge, Pennsylvania) and Detroit and was active circa 1753 to the 1780s. In addition to these roles, Baby was a fur trader and military officer. Records related to Jacques "James" Duperon Baby include correspondence, some of which relates to Indigenous peoples. [Click here to access the description for F 2128.](#)

## **4.2 Indian Agency and Reserve Microfilm Copies**

In addition to the records of individual Indian Agents, we hold several collections related to specific Indian Agencies and First Nations reserves. These collections all consist of microfilm copies of records whose originals are located elsewhere (these microfilm copies are often referred to as "diffusion material"). See descriptions in our online database for more information about original records:

- **Cape Croker Reserve diffusion material – D 62** (Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Saugeen First Nation) [click here](#)
- **Parry Island Reserve diffusion material - D 45** (Wasauksing First Nation) [click here](#)
- **Sault Ste. Marie Indian Agency diffusion material - D 46** (Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, Thessalon First Nation, Michipicoten First Nation) [click here](#)
- **Fort Frances Indian Agency diffusion material - D 47** (Rainy Lake and Rainy River Bands of Saulteaux (Anishinabe) [click here](#)
- **Fort William Indian Agency diffusion material - D 48** (Fort William First Nation) [click here](#)
- **Rat Portage Indian Inspectorate diffusion material - D 50** (Wauzhushk Onigum Nation and Obashkaandagaang First Nation) [click here](#)
- **St. Regis Indian Agency diffusion materials - D 51** (Mohawks of Akwesasne) [click here](#)
- **Tyendinaga Indian Agency diffusion materials - D 52** (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) [click here](#)

## **5. Provincial Government-Indigenous Relations**

### **5.1 Ministry of Indigenous Affairs - RG 85**

Groups of government records with reference codes beginning with RG 85 (for example, *RG 85-5 Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat economic and resource development files*) contain records created or accumulated by the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and its predecessors. The Ministry was established in 1987 as the Ontario Native Affairs Directorate with a mandate to support the then-Minister Responsible for Native Affairs. Its goals were to consolidate government offices and branches working with Indigenous communities and Nations, coordinate projects across ministries, negotiate Indigenous constitutional matters, self-determination agreements, and land title in conjunction with the federal government, and monitor the development and delivery of programs affecting Indigenous peoples. Presently, the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs is mandated to lead the Ontario government on policy related to Indigenous peoples, offer management support and relationship expertise to other government offices, and negotiate land title ('land claims') with Indigenous communities and Nations.

### **5.2 Branches within Provincial Ministries**

Some Ministries other than the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs have or had internal branches, offices or departments specifically mandated to work with Indigenous peoples. Offices whose records we currently hold are included in this section.

#### **Native Community Branch (Ministry of Culture/Citizenship)**

The Native Community Branch assisted Indigenous communities and Nations in Ontario in achieving self-determination, including economic self-reliance, social and cultural integrity, and Indigenous-controlled services. The branch administered a grant program, a consultant service on community development, and several capital programs. It also offered employment services. The Branch operated from 1978 to 1995 under the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and then the Ministry of Citizenship. The records of this branch, as well as those of its predecessors and successor – the Indian Development Branch, the Indian Community Branch, the Indian Community Secretariat, and the Aboriginal Development Unit – can be found in record group RG 74. [Click here for a description of the Native Community Branch.](#)

### **Office of Indian Resource Policy (Office of Indian Land Claims) (Ministry of Natural Resources)**

The Office of Indian Resource Policy researched and responded to specific assertions of Indigenous land title and other related natural resource issues in Ontario. The Office was established within the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 1976. It was disbanded in 1988 when its staff were transferred to the Office of the Minister Responsible for Native Affairs. The two groups of records attributed to this Office are *RG 1-370 Indian Land Claims Reports* and *RG 1-568 Native Bands, Reserves and Land Claims files*. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-370.](#) [Click here to access the description for RG 1-568.](#)

### **Aboriginal Education Council (Native Education Council) (Ministry of Education)**

The Aboriginal Education Council identified and assessed postsecondary educational issues within Indigenous communities and Nations in order to recommend policy proposals. It also examined policy proposals referred to it by the Minister of Education to evaluate their impact on Indigenous education. The council was responsible for advising the Minister on the planning and development of Indigenous services and programs at the university and college levels. The Council operated within the Ministry of Education from 1991 to 1996. Its records are available in *RG 2-405 Aboriginal Education Council files*. [Click here to access the description for RG 2-405.](#)

### **Aboriginal Health Strategy Unit (Ministry of Health and Long-term Care)**

The Aboriginal Health Strategy Unit (currently the Indigenous Health Policy Unit) is responsible for advocacy within the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care pertaining to the development and implementation of cross-Ministry policies and programs to meet the health care needs of Indigenous individuals, Nations, and communities. The unit also liaises between health care providers and Indigenous communities and Nations in order to determine health care needs and priorities. The unit was established in the Ministry of Health in 1992. Records attributed to this unit can be found in *RG 10-402 Aboriginal health programs policy and operational records*. [Click here to access the description for RG 10-402.](#)

## **Aboriginal Relations Branch (Ministry of Transportation)**

The Aboriginal Relations Branch (currently the Indigenous Relations Branch) of the Ministry of Transportation undertakes a variety of policy, legislative, regulatory and operational functions that directly impact Indigenous peoples in Ontario. The branch is responsible for a cross-section of transportation policy and operational initiatives. These include the development of ministry policy on Indigenous engagement, management of inter-ministerial policies and programs related to Indigenous communities and Nations, and assisting with projects to support the ministry's strategic business plan. The Branch was established in 2011. Its records are available in *RG 14-224 Aboriginal issues policy advisor's files*. [Click here to access the description for RG 14-224](#).

## **Office of Aboriginal Affairs (Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation)**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs promoted Indigenous awareness of and accessibility to the programs of the Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation. The Office also developed and supported initiatives from other ministries, federal government, Indigenous governments, and potential private sector partners with the goal of advancing Indigenous sovereignty. Its records are available in *RG 9-226 Records of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs of the Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation*. [Click here to access the description for RG 9-226](#).

## **5.3 Other Provincial Government Records**

### **Special Commission to Investigate Indian Affairs in Canada**

This Royal Commission, established on September 5, 1856, was responsible for inquiring into and reporting upon the "best means of securing the progress and civilization of the Indian Tribes in Canada, and on the best mode of so managing the Indian property as to secure its full benefit to the Indians, without impeding the Settlement of the Country." Questionnaires were sent to local superintendents, missionaries, and resident agents of various Indigenous communities requesting information on Indigenous education, modes of employment, religion, social structures, and other topics. The report includes responses to these questionnaires, as well as statistical reports. It is available in *RG 18-9 Report of the Special Commission to Investigate Indian Affairs in Canada*. [Click here to access the description for RG 18-9](#). See also entries under *Other Land Records* (above) and *Census Records* (below).

## **6. Residential Schools**

The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line (1-866-925-4419) provides emotional and crisis services to Residential School Survivors. The Crisis Line is also a place to receive information on other health supports provided by the Health Canada Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program. [Click here to access more information about this program](#). The Hope for Wellness Helpline (1-855-242-3310) offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention to all Indigenous peoples across Canada.

The Indian Residential School (IRS) system was a state-sponsored network of religious boarding schools designed to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian society. The system involved the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families, communities, cultures and ways of life. Many children were subjected to emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Many children died while attending Residential School. The system operated in Ontario from 1831 (when the Mohawk Institute in Brantford began admitting boarding students) to 1991 (when Stirling Lake High School closed).

In 2017, as part of our response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada, we conducted a search of our holdings to identify all records related to Residential Schools. This search resulted in the discovery of 2356 individual documents, consisting primarily of textual records (616 items) and photographs (1736 items). These include records related to every Ontario Residential School identified by the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement. [Click here for more information about this agreement](#). The records were digitized. Digital copies are in the process of being transferred to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Manitoba. [Click here for more information about the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#).

The following government and private records contain significant amounts of material related to Residential Schools. A complete listing of the results of the TRC search is available upon request. Please consult a Reference Archivist.

### **6.1 School Inspections:**

While the federal government was responsible for the education of Indigenous children, provincial school inspectors were at times employed to inspect the schools. A small number of these inspections have been preserved in our holdings.

#### **Private School Inspectors' field notes - RG 2-111**

Records include field notes made by inspectors during inspections of private schools. The field notes contain the inspectors' observations on school conditions, qualifications and work of teachers, and work of students. These records contain two handwritten reports on Spanish Indian Residential School for the years 1950 and 1951. The reports comment on staff, curriculum, instruction, accommodations, equipment and supplies, and student academic achievement. [Click here to access the description for RG 2-111](#).

#### **Ministry of Education private school files - RG 2-219**

These records consist of administrative and operational documents related to the regulation of private schools and the evaluation of student achievement in those schools. They contain 24 files related to residential schools from the years 1982 to 1985. They also include inspection reports, notices of intent to operate a private school, correspondence, minutes, and notes pertaining to the following schools: Cristal Lake,

Bishop Horden Hall, Poplar Hill, Pelican Lake (Sioux Lookout), St. Joseph's (Fort William), and Stirland Lake (Wahbon Bay Academy). [Click here to access the description for RG 2-219.](#)

### **Algoma Public School Inspectorate records - RG 2-98**

These records were created or obtained by the public school inspectors for Algoma District while exercising their duties. They include several groups of records related to residential schools, the most significant being *RG 2-98-8 Correspondence of L.A. Green, Algoma Public School Inspector*. RG 2-98 includes correspondence, draft inspection reports, notes, applications for teaching posts, and receipts for inspections. The records range from 1878 to 1926 and primarily deal with Shingwauk IRS. Other schools mentioned include St. Joseph's (Fort William), Wawanosh Home, Spanish, Mohawk Institute, and Mount Elgin. This group of records also contains numerous mentions of Garden River Day School. [Click here to access the description for RG 2-98.](#)

### **6.2 School Properties:**

Several groups of records in our holdings relate to Residential School buildings themselves. These include correspondence with the federal government concerning maintenance and the disposition of the land and buildings after the schools were closed.

### **Forest resource inventory aerial photographic prints - RG 1-429-7**

These records consist of aerial photographic prints created for forest resource inventory by the Ministry of Natural Resources between 1946 and 1999. They contain aerial photographs of the following schools: Bishop Horden Hall, Cecilia Jeffrey, Chapleau (St. John's), Fort Frances, St. Joseph's (Fort William), McIntosh, Mohawk Institute, Mount Elgin, Pelican Lake (Sioux Lookout), Poplar Hill, St. Mary's (Kenora), Shingwauk, Spanish, Stirland Lake, and Wikwemikong. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-429-7.](#)

For more information about these records, see above section on aerial photographs in *The Land*.

### **Division of Sanitary Engineering program files - RG 84-22**

These records document the activities of the Ontario Water Resources Commission's Sanitary Engineering Division in the areas of water supply, pollution control, and the regulation of plumbing. They contain correspondence from the year 1965 between the province and the federal government dealing with elevated e-coli levels in Round Lake due to the seepage of laundry waste from Cecilia Jeffrey IRS. [Click here to access the description for RG 84-22.](#)

### **Records of the construction of training schools - RG 20-18**

These records were created and maintained by the Ministry of Correctional Services and its predecessors and pertain to the planning and construction of training schools in



Ontario. They include correspondence, memos, and photographs dating between 1965 and 1968, which pertain to the future use of McIntosh IRS after its closure. [Click here to access the description for RG 20-18.](#)

### **Native bands, reserves and land claims files - RG 1-568**

These records include correspondence, reports, and memos related to the disposition of the following school properties: St. Anne's (Fort Albany), Bishop Horden Hall, Poplar Hill, and Shingwauk. [Click here to access the description for RG 1-568.](#)

See entry above under *The Land* for more information about these records.

### **6.3 Photographs of Residential Schools:**

A large number of photographs of residential schools in our holdings derive from private records and were taken by amateur photographers. Many photographs of students exist within the collections. However, most are unidentified. If you are able to help identify any individuals shown in these photographs, please contact us at [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca).

### **Alexander Dewdney fonds - C 304**

Alexander Dewdney (1863 to 1945) was a settler Anglican Bishop and amateur photographer. As Bishop of Keewatin, Dewdney was responsible for successfully putting forward the proposal to the federal government to build a residential school (Pelican Lake (Sioux Lookout) IRS) in the Lac Seul District. Dewdney traveled extensively in northern Ontario and photographed Indigenous individuals, Nations and communities along with other subjects, such as missions, churches, mills, mines, and hydro-electric power installations. Records include photographs of Pelican Lake (Sioux Lookout) IRS, as well as Hole River Day School, and Split Lake Mission School. [Click here to access the description for C 304.](#)

### **Douglas H.C. Mason fonds - F 728**

Douglas Mason (active circa 1907) was a chemical engineer who graduated from University of Toronto in 1907 and took a trip with classmate, Whitney Lailey, to James Bay in Northern Ontario. Mason kept a detailed diary and took photographs to document the journey, which included visits to both St. Anne's (Fort Albany) IRS, and Bishop Horden Hall. This material was acquired by copy loan and the location of the originals is currently unknown. It is available on microfilm and in the aperture card collection. [Click here to access the description for F 728.](#)

### **6.4 Government Response:**

Records related to the provincial government's response to the issue of Residential Schools are scant at this time. However, some early files do exist, and it is expected that more will become available as records currently held by government ministries are accessioned into our holdings.

## Policy Development Division Counsel correspondence files - RG 4-40

These records consists of correspondence between the legal counsel reporting to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General and other administrative staff of the Ministry of the Attorney General, the federal and other provincial governments and legal firms. They contain several files from the early- to mid-1990s pertaining to abuse at St. Anne's (Fort Albany) IRS, compensation for survivors of residential schools, and discussion on how the government should respond to requests by Indigenous people to become involved in the issue of residential schools. [Click here to access the description for RG 4-40.](#)

## 7. Indigenous Genealogy

Researching the lives of Indigenous ancestors through our collections will follow many of the same pathways as research for non-Indigenous ones. [Guide 299 Sources of Family History](#) may serve as a starting point. However, researchers must note that research into Indigenous ancestry carries many challenges that are not present to the same degree for researchers of European ancestry. Most standard genealogical sources, such as those listed in this section, were created by and within a settler colonial system and reflect that system's structures and biases. Inconsistent recordkeeping practices, as well as record creators' misunderstandings, insensitivities and/or blatantly racist attitudes toward Indigenous peoples, resulted in omissions and inaccuracies that have left many gaps in the historical record. As a result of these inequities, genealogical records often do not capture Indigenous identities and familial relationships accurately, to a high degree of detail, or according to Indigenous worldviews.<sup>2</sup>

### 7.1 Vital Statistics (Birth, Marriage and Death Records)

#### Pre-1869 Vital Statistics

Pre-1869 vital statistics consist primarily of marriage records collected by local clergy on an inconsistent basis. These are gathered together into 5 groups under *RG 80-27 Marriage Records Collection* ([Click here to access the description for RG 80-27](#)):

- [RG 80-27-1 to 80-27-4](#): These records contain occasional references to marriages performed outside Indigenous communities between Indigenous women and non-Indigenous men. For counties with significant concentrations of Indigenous people, you will also find records of marriages performed within Indigenous communities. For example, the register for Lambton County (RG 80-27-2, Vol. 24) contains marriages from Aamjiwnaang (Chippewas of Sarnia).
- [RG 80-27-5](#): These records contains a marriage register for the Wesleyan (Methodist) Mission to Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (see RG 80-27-5, Volume 2, MS 248 Reel 23).

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<sup>2</sup> See Stacey Devlin and Emily Cuggy, "Settler Records, Indigenous Histories: Challenges in Indigenous Genealogical Research," *Active History*, December 7, 2017, <https://activehistory.ca/2017/12/settler-records-indigenous-histories-challenges-in-indigenous-genealogical-research/>

Missionaries (mainly Anglican, Methodist or Roman Catholic) who worked in Indigenous communities generally kept separate registers for vital statistics. In some instances, these records are still maintained at the missions on First Nations reserves. In most cases, however, they have been transferred to the various Church Archives.

For additional pre-1869 vital statistics, see below under *Other Sources of Vital Statistics*.

## **Post-1869 Vital Statistics**

In 1869, the Office of the Registrar General (ORG) was created to record all births, marriages and deaths in Ontario. See [Guide 202 Vital Statistics Records](#) for more information.

Within these records, most Indigenous marriages that took place on First Nations reserves were recorded by the churches. However, most births and deaths that took place on First Nations reserves will be missing for the early years. By the First World War, vital statistics for Indigenous people as recorded in these records were fairly complete except for in the far north of the province.

We have one group of records containing separate death registrations for Indigenous people for a limited number of years (1944 to 1948). [Click here to access the description for RG 80-29 Registrations of Aboriginal Deaths](#).

## **Other Sources of Vital Statistics**

### **Church Records Collection - F 978**

This collection contains original manuscripts, photocopies and microfilm copies of Ontario church records including birth records, baptismal records, marriage records, burial records, and other records. The collection spans multiple Christian denominations, but also includes a small number of records related to the Holy Blossom Temple (Jewish Faith) and to Clerks of the Peace. The following records in this collection document Indigenous communities. [Click here to access the description for F 978](#).

Albany-Temagami (Temiscamingue) Oblates of St. Marc de Figuerly Records, 1843 to 1915 (Box MU 3567, MS 881, Reels 6 and 7)

- Includes: Registers of baptism, marriage and (occasionally) death for Indigenous people at: Temagami, Matachewan, Mattagami, Fort Albany and Moose Factory (near Moose Cree First Nation, MoCreebec Eeyoud) in Ontario and Abitibi, Timiskaming ('Temiscamingue'), Kebaowek ('Kippewa'), Grand Lac, Long Point First Nation Anishinabe Aki ('Winneway') and Lac Barrière in Québec, in the area of the James Bay and Abitibi/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas (Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community). Note that entries are in French.

Anglican Diocese of Keewatin Church Records, 1846 to 1956 (MS 217, Reels 1 and 2)

- Includes: Predominantly Indigenous (including Cree and Ojibwa) vital statistics from missions in the Anglican Diocese of Keewatin. Locations include: Fort Churchill, Sagkeeng First Nation ('Fort Alexander'), and York Factory in Manitoba; and Fort Severn, Islington Lake, Lac Seul, and Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation ('Osnaburgh') in Ontario, in the area of Rainy Lake/ Rainy River, Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul and Treaty 3 Halfbreed Adhesion Harvesting Areas.

Anglican Diocese of Moosonee Records, 1811, 1951 (MS 311, Reels 1 and 2)

- Includes: Correspondence (1906 to 1951) relating to the Anglican Diocese of Moosonee, which included missions at James Bay and environs, near Moose Cree First Nation, MoCreebec Eeyoud, and the James Bay and Abitibi/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas (Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community). The second reel contains miscellaneous documents (1909 to 1925) as well as a "Register for Moose Factory and its Dependencies" containing baptisms (1815 to 1850), marriages (1829 to 1852), and deaths (1811 to 1894).

Anglican Parish of Fort Albany Records, 1859 to 1966 (MS 200)

- Includes: Baptismal Records (1859 to 1888), marriages (1859 to 1945), and burials (1889 to 1966) from the Anglican parish of Fort Albany on James Bay, near Fort Albany and Kashechewan First Nations. Most individuals listed are Cree from the James Bay coast and inland.

Fort Hope Anglican Church Records, 1895 to 1899 (MS 201, Reel 7)

- Includes: Baptismal and burial records (1895 to 1899), and marriage records (1895 to 1896) for the Fort Hope Anglican Mission in the Patricia District of the Northwest Territories (now Ontario), near Eabametoong First Nation. Contains individual records for Ojibwa people from various communities in the Albany River region.

Moose Factory Church Records, 1780 to 1906 (MS 161, MS 192 and MS 311)

- Includes: Vital statistics from Moose Factory on James Bay, near Moose Cree First Nation, MoCreebec Eeyoud, and the James Bay and Abitibi/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas (Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community). Early baptisms, marriages and deaths (1780 to 1840) are mainly of Europeans and Indigenous people of mixed descent who were employees of the Hudson's Bay Company at its various James Bay and inland posts. Later records include Methodist baptisms and marriages (1840 to 1847) and Anglican baptism, marriage and death registers (1852 to 1896) which include Cree and Ojibwa people from James Bay and environs, both in Ontario and Québec.

Moraviantown Church Records, 1800 to 1912 (Box MU 537, MS 881, Reel 2)

- Includes: Baptismal register of the Moraviantown (Delaware Nation) Church (1800 to 1912).

### **Ontario Genealogical Society's Cemetery Recordings collection - F 977**

This collection consists of transcriptions from Ontario cemetery records or tombstones, compiled by members of the Ontario Genealogical Society, organized by county and then city or township. It includes several Indigenous cemeteries or burial sites throughout the province, including those at or near the following locations or communities:

- Algoma District: Shingwauk Residential School; Garden River First Nation
- Brant County: Brantford (Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) burial site and chapel cemetery); Onondaga Township (Jamieson burial site, Tuscarora Mission St. John's; Onondaga cemetery, Lot 50); Tuscarora Township (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation ('New Credit Reserve cemetery'))
- Cochrane District: Moose Factory (near Moose Cree First Nation, McCreebec Eeyond and the Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community); Parliament Township (New Post Hudson's Bay Post cemetery, near Taykwa Tagamou Nation and the Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community)
- Dundas County: Matilda Township (Haudenosaunee ('Iroquois') cemetery)
- Essex County: South Gosfield Township (Ojibwa ('Chippawa') burial site near Caldwell First Nation)
- Grey County: Sarawak Township ('Indian Princess' burial site near Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation)
- Kenora District: Goodall Township; Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School; Kenora Town ('Presbyterian Indian cemetery'); Lac Seul ('St. Mary's Indian Cemetery')
- Lambton County: Kettle & Stony Point First Nation ('Kettlepoint Reserve'); Walpole Island First Nation, Bkejwanong Territory
- Lennox & Addington County: Sheffield Township (burial site near Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)
- Lincoln County: Lincoln Town (communal burial site near Six Nations of the Grand River); North Grimsby (Neutral burial site)
- Manitoulin District: Aundek Omni Kaning First Nation ('Sucker Creek'); Sheguiandah First Nation

- Middlesex County: Caradoc Township ('Half-Moon Indian cemetery,' 'Chippewa Indian Band cemetery,' 'St. Andrew's Indian cemetery,' 'Colbourne Indian cemetery,' 'Middlemiss Indian cemetery'); Delaware Township (Oneida burial site)
- Nipissing District: Nipissing First Nation; Springer Township (abandoned burial site); Temagami First Nation (Bear Island)
- Ontario County: Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Parry Sound District: Conger Township (Wahta Mohawks, 'Gibson Reserve' cemeteries)
- Renfrew County: Algonquins of Pikwakanagan ('Golden Lake,' Our Lady of Nativity Roman Catholic cemetery)
- Temikaming District: Argyle Township (single grave for Tom Fox near Matachewan First Nation); Baden Township (Matachewan First Nation)
- Thunder Bay District: Beardmore Township (burial site at Poplar Point, Lake Nipigon, near Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek); Fowler/Ware Township (Dog Lake); MacDiarmid Township (abandoned cemetery, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek); Nipigon Township ('Lake Huron Indian Mission, St. Sylvester Roman Catholic cemetery' near Red Rock Indian Band); Fort William First Nation
- Waterloo County: Kitchener ('N.A. Indian bones, Schweitzer Street, Bridgeport/Kitchener'); Stamford Township (ossuary near Six Nations of the Grand River)
- York County: Chippewas of Georgina Island; Vaughan ('Keffer Iroquoian [Haudenosaunee] cemetery')

Additional communities and locations may be included. Please see full description for a more detailed listing. [Click here to access the description for F 977.](#)

## 7.2 Census Records

For a general guide to Census Records, see [Guide 220 Census Records](#). Federal census returns (the originals of which are held at Library and Archives Canada) typically include a category for race, which may help you identify Indigenous individuals.

Beginning in 1871, federal Indian Agents began producing nominal censuses for Indigenous communities in their jurisdiction. These were then sent to the federal government and aggregated into statistical information on community membership for inclusion in the federal Department of Indian Affairs annual reports held at LAC. [Click here for a link to the LAC website.](#) To search for the nominal listings submitted by Indian Agents, you may try viewing records of Indian Agents or other employees of the federal

Department of Indian Affairs in the region you are interested in. See above under *Indian Agents and other Federal Government Employees*.

Early census records for a small number of Indigenous communities are available in the following municipal records in our holdings. Note that early census records were typically statistical summaries or included heads of household only.

### **District of Gore Fonds- F 1679**

These are the official records of Gore District, 1816 to 1856. They include census records for 'Big Creek Township (Indian Lands), 1842,' and 'Grand River Tract Indian Lands, 1832,' in the area of Six Nations of the Grand River. Both censuses are on microfilm MS 700, Reel 1. [Click here to access the description for F 1679.](#)

### **District of Newcastle fonds - F 1800**

These are the official records of the District of Newcastle, 1803 to 1850. They include census records for 'Alnwick Township (Indians), 1850,' near present-day Alderville First Nation. See microfilm MS 16, Reel 1. [Click here to access the description for F 1800.](#)

## **Report of the Special Commission to Investigate Indian Affairs in Canada – RG 18-9**

The 1858 report produced by this Commission contained statistical information on several Indigenous communities, including some census returns for 1857. These returns include agricultural figures relating to crops, animals, and dwellings. [Click here to access the description for RG 18-9.](#) See also entry above under *Provincial Government-Indigenous Relations* for more information about these records.

### **7.3 Estate Records**

Under the *Indian Act*, the federal government is responsible for the administration of estates for Status First Nations people whose primary residence was on a First Nations reserve or Crown land or, in some cases, for individuals who lived off-reserve but whose estate includes reserve land interests. For information about these records, please contact Library and Archives Canada.

For Indigenous people who did not reside on First Nations reserves, estates are administered by the provincial or territorial court system in which the person's assets were located. To find Ontario estate files under this category in the our court records, please see [Guide 206 How to Find a Will in Court Records.](#)

### **7.4 Guardianship and Adoption Records**

Adoption and guardianship of Indigenous children have variously fallen under federal or provincial jurisdiction, depending on the timing and community involved.

### Adoption Records:

Please note that we do not have adoption case files.

- Pre-1951: Unless enfranchised, Indigenous children were considered wards of the Crown and fell under federal jurisdiction, including for adoption purposes. Library and Archives Canada holds pre-1951 foster care and adoption records for Status First Nations children.
- 1951 – present: A 1951 amendment to the *Indian Act* gave provinces and territories jurisdiction over the welfare of Status First Nations children living on reserve, authority that was delegated to child welfare agencies. This legislative shift led to a surge in adoptions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children into non-Indigenous families, known as the Sixties Scoop. Today, adoptions of Indigenous children in Ontario fall under the jurisdiction of the Children's Aid Society, as well as private Indigenous child welfare agencies. Post-1951 adoption records will be primarily with these agencies. Because the federal government maintained some involvement in child welfare of Status First Nations children following this legislative amendment, foster care and adoption records related to post-1951 cases may also be held at Library and Archives Canada.

### Guardianship Records

Guardianship records may either be with us or at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). LAC has guardianship case files pertaining to Status First Nations children as late as the 1970s. For guardianship records held at the Archives of Ontario, see [Guide 223 Guardianship and Adoption Records](#).

## **7.5 Health Patient Case Files**

We hold case files for several provincially run psychiatric institutions and centres for persons with developmental disabilities, such as, for example, the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, the North Bay Psychiatric Hospital, and the Mental Health Centre, Penetanguishene (formerly the Asylum for the Insane).

We also hold the records of several tuberculosis hospitals and clinics, including, for example, the Fort William Sanatorium and the North Bay Chest Clinic. Many of these institutions operated under the administration of the provincial Division of Preventable Diseases or, later, the Division of Tuberculosis Prevention. Among other responsibilities, this division oversaw surveys of the province's Indigenous populations – which had, and continue to have, comparatively high levels of tuberculosis – and reported findings to the federal government. [Click here to access the description for the Division of Tuberculosis Prevention and related records](#).



For information about these and other health records in our holdings, see [Guide 224 Patient and Health Practitioner records](#).

## 7.6 Directories and Voters' Lists

For general information about how to access Directories, Telephone Books and Voters' Lists, see [Guide 221 Directories, Telephone Books and Voters' Lists](#).

### Directories

City and county directories are available in our library. These can be searched by location or region (for example, "Fort William directory"). In addition to these geographic directories, a few directories relate specifically to Indigenous individuals or organizations. For example:

- Provincial and regional Native organizations in Ontario, 1979 to 1981
- Directory of Native communities and organizations in Ontario, 1980 to 1983
- Directory of Native people in Toronto, 1984
- Ontario Aboriginal directory, 1994

### Voters' Lists

These records list people eligible to vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections. The history of Indigenous suffrage in Canada and Ontario is complex. However, you should note the following important dates when conducting research using voters' lists:

#### First Nations:

- 1954: Status First Nations people gained the right to vote in Ontario provincial elections
- 1960: Status First Nations women and men gained the right to vote in federal elections. Prior to this date, First Nations veterans were eligible to vote, and Status First Nations men could vote if they were willing to relinquish their status (a process known as enfranchisement).
- There were no provincial or federal voting restrictions placed on Non-Status First Nations people other than those applied to all persons at various times (for example, age, sex, British citizenship, property ownership)

#### Inuit:

- 1950: Inuit gained the right to vote in federal elections. However, the government's failure to administer the electoral system in Inuit communities effectively pushed this date to 1962.
- 1950s: Inuit gained the right to vote in provincial elections

#### Métis:

- There were no federal or provincial voting restrictions placed on Métis people, other than those applied to all persons at various times (for example, age, sex, British citizenship, property ownership).

## **7.7 Genealogies and Family Trees**

### **Genealogies Collection - F 277**

This collection contains several unpublished genealogical studies and family trees pertaining to Indigenous families. These are contained in eight volumes, all reproduced on microfilm MS 871, Reel 11. [Click here to access the description for F 277.](#)

## **8. Resistance and Activism**

We hold a limited number of records related to resistance, political organization and activism in the face of colonial power. However, these are predominantly from the perspective of government and settler society. Groups of records with significant holdings are listed below. Researchers may also find records related to various movements, organizations, individuals, activist groups, and actions by searching these by name (for example, Red Power, National Indian Brotherhood) in the Archives online database.

### **Records of the Ipperwash Inquiry - RG 18-214**

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario in 2003 with a mandate to inquire into and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George and make recommendations that would avoid similar violence in future. On September 6, 1995, Ontario Provincial Police shot and killed George, who was one of a group of activists that occupied Ipperwash Provincial Park to attempt to persuade the Canadian government to return land appropriated by the federal government in 1942. Records include transcripts and videotapes of the public hearings, exhibits, files of the Commission's Lead Counsel and other staff, submissions, research reports, and operational records of the Commissioner's office. [Click here to access the description for RG 18-214.](#)

### **John T. Symons fonds – F 902**

John T. Symons was a Lieutenant in the 12th York Rangers, sent to quell the Northwest Resistance in Western Canada in 1885. Records include Symons' personal diary, written April to July 1885, which contains descriptions of the events, the expedition from Toronto, and members of the regiment. [Click here to access the description for F 902.](#)

### **Featherstone Osler family fonds – F 1032**

These records were created and accumulated by the family of Featherstone Osler over four generations. They include the records of Britton Bath Osler, a lawyer who was a

member of the prosecuting counsel for Louis Riel's treason trial in Regina following Riel's role in the Northwest Resistance of 1885. Records related to the trial include correspondence and other documents. [Click here to access the description for F 1032.](#)

### **Harry James photograph collection – F 2180**

Collection consists of 10 photographs taken prior to and during the Northwest Resistance of 1885. Many of the photographs depict the Governor-General's horse guards both in Toronto and present-day Saskatchewan. Also included are photographs of Cree Chief Piapot (a.k.a. Payipwat, Kisikawasan) and other unidentified First Nations people in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. [Click here to access the description for F 2180.](#)

### **A.E. Williams – United Indian Bands of the Chippewas and the Mississaugas collection - F 4337**

Collection consists of material collected between the 1950s and mid-1970s by A.E. Williams relating to the United Indian Bands of the Chippewas and the Mississaugas. The United Indian Bands of the Chippewas and the Mississaugas was a grass roots movement of Ontario First Nations. The group formed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to assert land title and claim monies owed under the 1850 Robinson Treaties, as well as hunting and fishing rights. [Click here to access the description for F 4337.](#)

### **Globe and Mail fonds - F 4695**

This large group of records contains a significant number of photographs of individual activists, organizations, protests and other actions. See below under *Photographic Collections* for more information.

## **9. Policing, The Justice System, and Incarceration**

As a result of the systemic discrimination and ongoing inequity caused by colonization, Indigenous people are overrepresented in the Ontario justice system as both victims/survivors and accused/convicted persons. The following sections include records that may aid in research related to the presence of Indigenous people within this system. For a general guide to Criminal Justice records, see [Guide 233 Criminal Justice Records at the Archives of Ontario.](#)

### **9.1 Policing**

Records of the Ontario Provincial Police can be found in groups of records beginning with RG 23 (for example, *RG 23-29 Ontario Provincial Police major criminal investigation solved case files*). Please note there are large gaps in this material. Because policing of unorganized territories and First Nations reserves was not originally a provincial responsibility, if you are interested in these topics, you should also check the records of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Library and Archives Canada. RG 23 contains records pertaining to criminal investigations, inspections, training, crime prevention, and

other topics. The following groups of records relate specifically to Indigenous peoples, Nations and communities.

### **Complaint case files against the Ontario Provincial Police - RG 23-15**

These records consist of case files documenting complaints against the conduct of individual officers within the Ontario Provincial Police and against First Nations reserve officers. They originate both from members of the public and from other officers. In addition, the records contain information regarding complaints from the public, federal, provincial and other agencies pertaining to OPP policing services and enforcement in areas of OPP responsibility. [Click here to access the description for RG 23-15.](#)

### **Ontario Provincial Police policing of Indian reservations, military camps, and parks files - RG 23-44**

These records consist of subject files containing general correspondence relating to the policing of First Nations reserves, Military Camps and Parks. [Click here to access the description for RG 23-44.](#)

### **Ontario Provincial Police Indian policing files - RG 23-47**

After assuming responsibility for policing Indigenous peoples from the RCMP, the OPP created the Indian Policing Program to support increased Indigenous autonomy in policing. These records document this program from 1966 to 1979. The records are arranged in two groups: Policing Jurisdictions and 'Indian Reservations' (First Nations reserves). [Click here to access the description for RG 23-47.](#)

### **Ontario Provincial Police Indian Reserves policing files - RG 23-48**

These records document the Indian Policing Program (see above entry for RG 23-47) from 1982 to 1991. They include reports to management, information on policies and procedures, legal opinions, rulings and precedents, inquiries from politicians and the general public, information on the relationship between the OPP and First Nations, and other materials. [Click here to access the description for RG 23-48.](#)

### **Records of the Ipperwash Inquiry - RG 18-214**

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario in 2003 with a mandate to inquire into and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, an activist who was shot and killed by Ontario Provincial Police in 1995. [Click here to access the description for RG 18-214.](#) See also entry above under *Resistance and Activism* for more information about these records.

## 9.2. Justice and the Courts

### Court Records - RG 22

Records of the Ontario court system comprise a significant portion of our government holdings. These court records are housed in records groups beginning with RG 22 (for example, *RG 22-2511 Kenora District Judge's Criminal Court criminal files*). They are grouped first by location, then by type of court or proceeding. For information about how to access these records, please see [Guide 233 Criminal Justice Records](#) and/or contact a reference archivist.

### Osgoode Society fonds - C 81

The Osgoode Society is an organization that studies, researches and promotes public interest in the history of the law, the legal profession, and the judiciary in Ontario and Canada. This group of records includes interviews conducted in 1990 as part of the Osgoode Society Oral History Programme. It contains several interviews with Indigenous lawyers, Justices of the Peace and police officers, including: Lonny Bomberry, Tom Logan, Thomas Vincent, Glenn Lickers, Tim Whetung, Charlie Fisher, Donald Auger, David Nahwegahbow, Bob Crawford and Richard LeSarge. [Click here to access the description for C 81.](#)

### 9.3 Incarceration

The Government of Ontario is responsible for incarcerating those awaiting trial, those sentenced to a prison term of less than two years, and most young offenders. The Archives holds records from many provincially managed correctional facilities, dating from 1832 (with gaps). Records include case files, punishment registers, medical records and others. These records are housed in record groups beginning with RG 20 (for example, *RG 20-68 Administrative records of the Fort Frances Jail*). For more information about how to access records related to jails and correctional facilities, see [Guide 233 Criminal Justice Records](#) above.

## 10. Indigenous languages

Our Indigenous language holdings are predominantly textual. We hold very few sound and moving image recordings in Indigenous languages. The following groups of government and private records contain materials in or about Indigenous languages. Note that Indigenous language material may also be found in our library. See entry for *Archives of Ontario Library* below.

### Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch Native education files – RG 2-408

These records were created and received by the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education and its predecessors for the purposes of assessment

and development of educational policy in matters relating to Indigenous education. They include numerous files related to Indigenous language policy and curriculum development. [Click here to access the description for RG 2-408.](#)

### **Ministry of Northern Development and Mines film and video productions - RG 68-11**

These records include the film *Tidewater Ontario* (1978), about the history, geography and culture of the Moosonee area, recorded in simultaneous English and Cree. They also include a recording titled “Jr. School Choir: Ojibwe songs with Dan Pine for (Ontario Place),” in Ojibwa. [Click here to access the description for RG 68-11.](#) See also entry below under *Sound and Moving Image Records* for more information about these records.

### **Montaigne audio productions – C 239-8**

These records include recordings of nine hymns sung in Ojibwa by the Ojibwa Indian Choir at Curve Lake First Nation, as well as a voice recording of Chief North Star speaking to his council. [Click here to access the description for C 239-8.](#) See also entry below under *Sound and Moving Image Records* for more information about these records.

### **Thomas Ridout Family fonds - F 43**

Thomas Ridout (1754 to 1829) was a settler politician and public servant in Upper Canada during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. From 1787 to 1788, Ridout journeyed from Maryland toward Kentucky and was captured by Shawnee Tribe members and held for three months. Records include Ridout’s Shawnee-English dictionary, compiled during his captivity, as well as a letter to his son, dated 12 January 1790, describing his experience. See also *F 67-5 Thomas Ridout family records* in the Archives online database. [Click here to access the description for F 43.](#)

### **John Norton fonds – F 440**

John Norton (Teyoninhokarawen) (died circa 1831) was an Indian Agent and advocate for Indigenous peoples in the area of the Six Nations of the Grand River. Norton was of Scottish and Cherokee descent and was fluent in Kanien’kéha (Mohawk). Records include a letter written by David David to Norton (dated 7 November 1816) in an unidentified Indigenous language, likely Kanien’kéha. [Click here to access the description for F 440.](#) See entry above under *Indian Agents and Other Federal Government Employees* for more information about these records.

### **David Thompson fonds - F 443**

David Thompson (1770 to 1857) was a British settler fur trader, surveyor, and astronomer known for his explorations and mapping of western Canada. Records contain Thompson’s notes on Indigenous languages, including:

- 'Mandane Indian Vocabulary,' Journal and Notebook no. 23, pp. 59-46
- 'Saleesh and Kullyspele Vocabulary, 1810' Journal and Notebook no. 23, p. 63
- 'Indian language dictionary,' Unnumbered Journal and Notebook B, p. 1
- 'Language of the Indians,' Journal and Notebook no. 63

[Click here to access the description for F 443.](#) See also entry above under *Surveyors' Private Records* for more information about these records. A 1980 conference paper on David Thompson's Salish vocabulary is also available in *F 471-3 Aboriginal History Files*.

### **Church Records Collection - F 978**

Collection contains original manuscripts, photocopies and microfilm copies of Ontario church records. The collection spans multiple Christian denominations, but also includes a small number of records related to the Holy Blossom Temple (Jewish Faith) and to Clerks of the Peace. Records for the Anglican Diocese of Keewatin Church include unidentified Indigenous language content. [Click here to access the description for F 978.](#) See also entry above under *Indigenous Genealogy* for more information about this collection.

### **Dawson Family fonds - F 1008**

Simon James Dawson (1820-1902) was a settler civil engineer, surveyor and politician. Records include Dawson's lists of words in Cree and Ojibwa dialects. [Click here to access the description for F 1008.](#) See also entry above under *Surveyors' Private Records* for more information about these records.

### **Royal Canadian Institute fonds – F 1052**

These records consist of administrative documents, correspondence, published material and research works created by and for The Royal Canadian Institute. They include a detailed philological study on Déné phonetics prepared by Father A.G. Morice in the early 1890s. [Click here to access the description for F 1052.](#)

### **William Kirby fonds - F 1076**

William Kirby was a settler politician and local historian from the Niagara region. Records include material Kirby and his son collected related to the Indian Agents Daniel and William Claus. Records also include Kirby's correspondence with several Indigenous people, particularly members of the Six Nations of the Grand River, who helped Kirby translate the Indigenous language material (likely Kanien'kéha (Mohawk)) found in this group of records. See also [D 36 Claus Family diffusion material.](#) [Click here to access the description for F 1076.](#)

### **Percy Robinson fonds - F 1080**

Percy James Robinson (1873 to 1953), was a settler teacher, historian, and scholar of Indigenous languages in Ontario. Record grouping V ('Indian Languages') includes Robinson's translations of various religious texts into Wyandat (Wendat or Huron), as well as his discussions of early dictionaries of Indigenous languages. [Click here to access the description for F 1080.](#)

### **Walter Hope fonds – F 1238**

Walter Hope (d. 1887) was a farmer in Sydenham Township, Grey County, Ontario. Hope's diary includes a phonetic translation of the Lord's Prayer in a language Hope refers to as 'Warmsoonoag' (possibly Wampanoag/Wôpanâak). [Click here to access the description for F 1238.](#)

### **Cleeve Horne fonds – F 2154**

Cleeve Horne (1912 to 1998) was an Ontario-based settler painter and sculptor, specializing in portraiture, especially of persons prominent in Ontario government, business, education and the arts. Some records in *F 2154-2 Cleeve Horne professional files* are in Inuktitut. [Click here to access the description for F 2154.](#)

### **J. Kelvin “Kel” Crossley fonds – F 4618**

Kel Crossley was a settler educator, educational administrator, consultant and software designer in Ontario in the 20th and early 21st centuries. Records include the book *?ehtsee Gah*, written in Athabaskan. [Click here to access the description for F 4618.](#)

## **11. Photographic Collections**

### **John Boyd fonds - C 7**

John Boyd (1865 to 1941) was a settler amateur photographer and railway employee in Toronto and Sarnia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Fonds consists of photographs taken or acquired by Boyd. Records include a wide variety of images of Parry Sound, Haliburton, Algoma District, Lake Huron, Georgia Bay, Muskoka, Niagara Falls, Thunder Bay, Montreal, Quebec City, and the Gaspé Region, including many photographs of Indigenous individuals and communities. [Click here to access the description for C 7.](#)

### **Duncan Campbell Scott fonds - C 275**

Duncan Campbell Scott was a settler civil servant with the federal Department of Indian Affairs. He is known for his assimilationist tactics and policies, including his role as a key player in the expansion of the Residential School system. Records include photographs



created by Duncan Campbell Scott. These are arranged into three groups: 'Aboriginal peoples photographs,' 'James Bay Treaty Tour photographs,' and 'Northern Ontario photographs.' [Click here for a description of C 275.](#) See also entry above under *Treaties* for more information about these records.

### **Alexander Dewdney fonds – C 308**

See entry above under *Residential Schools*.

### **John Macfie fonds - C 330**

John Macfie was a settler author, amateur photographer and civil servant in northern Ontario with the provincial Department of Lands and Forests. Records include photographic negatives taken by Macfie depicting various Cree, Haudenosaunee, and Ojibwa communities and activities in the Patricia District. These include images taken in the area of Fort Severn First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation ('Lansdowne House'), Lac Seul First Nation (Sioux Lookout), Weenusk First Nation, Moose Cree First Nation and MoCreebec Eeyoud (Moose Factory), and Mattagami First Nation, in the area of the James Bay and Abitibi/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas (Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community). Records also include photographs of Pelican Lake Indian Residential School. [Click here to access the description for C 330.](#)

### **First Nations Canadians photographs - F 1405-32**

This group of records is part of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario fonds. It consists of photographs documenting the lives of First Nations peoples in Ontario, predominantly from Walpole Island First Nation. Photographs depict various activities on Walpole Island, including fairs, education, sports and employment. This group also includes records relating to fishing expedition guides at Burleigh Falls, as well as photographs of children at two schools, a day school on Walpole Island and a residential school, the Mohawk Institute, in Brantford. [Click here to access the description for F 1405-32.](#)

### **Globe and Mail fonds - F 4695**

These records consist primarily of the photography libraries maintained by *The Globe and Mail* to support the daily needs of the newspaper. The libraries include a negative library; print libraries organized by Subject; and smaller groupings of photography, such as those of specific photographers, freelance photographs, and photography for special sections of the newspaper. The group of records contains circa 2.5 million photographs on many subjects, including Indigenous peoples and communities. Subjects listed in F 4695-1, for example, include: 'Native Canadian Centre,' 'Native Women's Resource Centre,' 'Aboriginal Rights,' and many others. A heading titled 'Native People – Canada,' is subdivided into several communities and Nations (for example, Haida, Cree, and others). [Click here to access the description of F 4695.](#)

## **Photographs of the Audio-Visual Education Branch - RG 2-71**

These records consist of photographs used by the Audio-Visual Education Branch of the Ontario Department of Education as visual aids in schools. The photographs cover a wide range of subjects. Images of Indigenous peoples are listed under the subject heading 'Native People' and are divided geographically into the following locations: Big Trout Lake (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug), English River post (Constance Lake First Nation) and vicinity, Fort Hope (Eabametoong First Nation), Kent County, James Bay, Moose Factory (Moose Cree First Nation, MoCreebec Eyoud, and the James Bay and Abitibi/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas (Historic Abitibi Inland Métis Community), Osnaburgh House (Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation), Sioux Lookout (near Lac Seul First Nation), and possibly Ottawa. Records include a small number of photographs of Bishop Horden Indian Residential School. [Click here to access the description for RG 2-71.](#)

## **12. Sound and Moving Image Records**

### **Ontario Government tourism films – RG 5-2**

These records consist of films produced by the Department of Travel and Publicity and successors to promote tourism in Ontario. Films emphasize Ontario's natural environment, historic sites, fishing and recreation opportunities and promote holiday and tourist destinations such as Muskoka and Haliburton, Eastern Ontario, the Trent-Severn waterway, the Niagara region, and Upper Canada Village, as well as cities like Toronto and Ottawa. Records includes footage of Walpole Island First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation ('Cape Croker'), Indigenous wilderness guides, and an Indigenous chief in ceremonial regalia. [Click here to access the description for RG 5-2.](#)

### **Archives of Ontario oral history interviews - RG 17-3**

These records consist of audio-recorded interviews with Archives of Ontario employees, prominent Ontarians, and others holding knowledge of a person, subject or event. Includes interviews with Norman McLeod and Mrs. Peter Nadjiwon, both members of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation ('Cape Croker'), as well as Fred Pine, an Ojibwa healer from Garden River First Nation. Also includes interviewees with ties to or knowledge of the Fur Trade, such as Eddy Thomas, William Anderson, and JJ. Wood. [Click here to access the description of RG 17-3.](#)

### **TV Ontario school radio broadcasts - RG 47-19**

The records consists of school radio broadcasts jointly produced by TV Ontario and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) under the Audio-Visual Education Branch of the Ontario Department of Education. The broadcasts were aimed at providing

educational programming to children in grades one to eight. They include the following recordings:

- Indian Legends "Where Did We Come From?"
- Indian Legends and Music
- Johnny Yesno: Indian Tribes in Ontario
- Kaleidoscope #16 - Indian Legend - Alanis Obomsawin
- Johnny Yesno: An Indian Reservation
- Johnny Yesno: Trapping Is My Life

[Click here to access the description for RG 47-19.](#)

### **Ministry of Northern Development and Mines film and video productions - RG 68-11**

These records consist of motion picture films, videocassettes, and audiotapes produced by and for the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Footage includes activities and events relevant to these ministries' mandate in representing northern issues to the Government of Ontario. Records include reference to Ojibwa, Cree, and Dene peoples. Communities, organizations and individuals referenced include Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Weenusk First Nation ('Winisk'), Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Norval Morriseau, and others. Records contain footage in Ojibwa and Cree. [Click here to access the description for RG 68-11.](#) See also entry about under *Indigenous Languages*.

### **CFPL newsreel aircuts - F 4396-1-1**

The CFPL-TV fonds consists of daily news and other news programming of CFPL-TV in London, Ontario. F 4396-1-1 consists of the edited air-cuts, i.e. the news film prepared as the visual component of news stories for the CFPL-TV daily news broadcasts. Coverage related to Indigenous peoples includes that of community and sporting events, education and school activities, Pow Wows, conferences, village sites, Friendship Centres, and protests and blockades, as well as broader subjects like arts and culture, military service and cadets, economic status, labour, food and housing, independence and self-determination, land title and development, and others. Nations referenced include: Munsee-Delaware Nation ('Muncey'); Chippewa of the Thames First Nation; Walpole Island First Nation, Bkejwanong Territory; Oneida Nation of the Thames; Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation ('Cape Croker'); Aamjiwnaang ('Sarnia'); Six Nations of the Grand River; Kettle & Stony Point First Nation ('Kettle Point'); and Caldwell First Nation. [Click here to access the description of F 4396-1-1.](#)

### **Osgoode Society fonds - C 81**

These records include interviews conducted as part of the Osgoode Society Oral History Programme. See entry above under *Policing, The Justice System and Incarceration* for more information.

## **Multilingual Television (Toronto) Limited fonds - C 257**

Records include video cassette tapes of programming produced by Multilingual Television Limited during the period 1979 to 1989. They include tapes of inserts and raw footage from two Indigenous programs: *Pow Wow* and *Native Express*. The content of these tapes consists of interviews, musical presentations and documentary footage. Records also include footage related to Indigenous peoples produced by other production companies, including *Paradox of Norval Morisseau* and *Beauty of My People* by the National Film Board. [Click here to access the description of C 257.](#)

## **Montaigne audio productions – C 239-8**

Bill Montaigne was a settler photographer, cinematographer, sound recorder and television journalist based in Pembroke, Ontario. Records include a recording of nine hymns sung by the Ojibwa Indian Choir at Curve Lake First Nation near Peterborough, Ontario, as well as a voice recording of Chief North Star speaking to his council and Mr. John Fisher - a historian known as "Mr. Canada" - narrating between the hymns. [Click here to access the description for C 239-8.](#)

## **13. Government of Ontario Art Collection**

The Government of Ontario Art Collection (GOAC), maintained and administered by the Archives of Ontario, contains artworks by numerous Indigenous artists, including Christi Belcourt, Robert Houle, Carl Beam, Dayna Rainville, Norval Morrisseau, Benjamin Chee Chee, and many others. The GOAC can be searched online from our website. [Click here to access the Government of Ontario Art Collection database.](#) Inquiries may also be sent to the GOAC curator at [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca).

## **14. Archives of Ontario Library**

Our Library holds many publications relating to Indigenous peoples, history and languages. These include works of popular and academic history, pamphlets, newspapers, biographies, government reports and many others. The library collection can be searched online from our website.

## **Contact us**

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. Telephone or write to them by mail or email or visit us at the Archives of Ontario.

**Telephone:** 416-327-1600 **Toll free (Ontario):** 1-800-668-9933

**Fax:** 416-327 to 1999

**Email:** [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca)

**Address:** Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

**Website:** Visit our website for information about our collections and services, our online exhibits and education programs, and links to our social media accounts. The website is [www.ontario.ca/archives](http://www.ontario.ca/archives).