

Research Guide 224
Patient and Health Practitioner Records

Last Updated: February 2023



Doctor attending to girls, West Toronto YWCA, [195-?]
F 974-6-0-39, I0009476
Young Women's Christian Association of Metropolitan Toronto fonds

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In this Guide

This research guide will help you find, and access patient records and records related to health practitioners in the Archives of Ontario collection.

*Note: All record descriptions mentioned in this guide are available in our online Archives and Information Management System (AIMS), unless noted otherwise. You will find the database in the “Access Our Collections” section of our website. Consult the “How do I get to the online descriptions” section at the end of the guide for more information.

The Records

Most of the patient records in the Archives of Ontario collection are from Psychiatric Hospitals, Tuberculosis hospitals, or Centres for Developmentally and Emotionally Disabled Individuals.

The Archives of Ontario also holds a variety of records from Physicians, Nurses, and other Healthcare practitioners. We have many historical collections of records created by physicians from the 1700s to the 1900s. We also hold lists and directories of physicians and healthcare providers, and records from some Ontario nursing schools.

Accessing Patient Records – Record Restrictions

Access to most patient files is restricted by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Check the Restrictions on Access and How to order these records sections of a record group description for information on which restrictions apply.

In order to access restricted files, you must make a Freedom of Information request. You can find more information about the access request process in [our guide to](#)

[Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy](#), and you can find [the access request form on this page](#).

You can generally access unrestricted patient records in the Archives of Ontario Reading Room by using our self-service microfilm or by contacting a reference archivist and requesting the relevant containers before your visit.

Patient Records

General Hospitals

The Archives has the records of Cornwall General Hospital. They include patient records. [Click here to access the online description for the records of the Cornwall General Hospital \(F 1396, 1897 to 1980\)](#).

NOTE: Patient records from other Ontario hospitals usually remain in the custody of the hospital.

- Contact the hospital in question for information on accessing patient records. When hospitals close, they generally transfer their records to the succeeding institution. Please note that most older patient records have been destroyed.

The Archives also has operational records from the Wellesley Central Hospital. [Click here to access the online description for the records of the Wellesley Central Hospital \(F 4475, 1942 to 1999, predominant 1983 to 1998\)](#).

Private Hospitals

The Archives holds records from various privately owned hospitals that have been closed:

[Click here to access the online description for patients' medical records from closed private hospitals \(RG 10-232, 1949 to 2002\)](#).

[Click here to access the online description for regional offices hospital and related programs operational records, which includes patient files \(RG 10-386, 1965 to 2000\)](#).

Psychiatric Hospitals

Patient records from psychiatric hospitals may include case files, casebooks, admission registers and discharge registers.

Click on the name of a psychiatric hospital in the table below to access its record creator description. You can find a list of all record series created by the hospital at the bottom of the description page.

You can also access the record creator descriptions by searching our Archives and Information Management System (AIMS), “Archives Repository”, Advance Search for patient records and other types of records, or an Organization Search for the name of the hospital. The Archives and Information Management System (AIMS), “Archives Repository” can be found in the “Accessing Our Collections” section of our website.

Psychiatric Hospital	Date range of patient records
Brockville Psychiatric Hospital	1894 to 1982
Goderich Psychiatric Hospital	1962 to 1976
Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital	1833 to 2013
Kingston Psychiatric Hospital	1855 to 1997
London Psychiatric Hospital	1867 to 1996
Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital	1890 to 1964
North Bay Psychiatric Hospital	1921 to 2003
Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre	1902 to 2008
Queen Street Mental Health Centre	1841 to 1986
St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital	1939 to 1975
Whitby Psychiatric Hospital	1920 to 2003

The Psychiatric In-Patients Master Index Cards (RG 10-320) were created by the Office of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities and its successors. These master index cards were created and maintained for every patient admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Ontario from ca 1870-1975, and were used as a way to track the movement of psychiatric patients within the psychiatric hospital system. [Click here to access the archival description for RG 10-320.](#)

The records of the Inspector of Asylums, Prisons and Public Charities, 1868 to 1935 (RG 63) contain admission records, admission and death notices, commitment and discharge registers, patient estate records and other records for asylums throughout the province. Click here to access the record creator description page for the [Inspector of Asylums, Prisons and Public Charities.](#)

Tuberculosis Hospitals

Patient records from Ontario tuberculosis hospitals are generally limited to case files. Click on the record series titles in the table below to access the online archival description pages.

Record Series Title	Reference Code	Date Range
Belleville Chest Clinic patient files	RG 10-265	1958 to 1961
Brant Sanatorium (Brantford) Patient Case Files	RG 10-157	1913 to 1958
Fort William Sanatorium (Thunder Bay) patient case files	RG 10-96	1935 to 1941
Homewood Sanitarium fonds	F 1398	1883 to 1944
North Bay Chest Clinic patient files	RG 10-168	1943 to 1958
St. Lawrence Sanatorium (Cornwall) patient case files	RG 10-94	1937 to 1961

The series in the table below are not described online. Please speak with a reference staff about finding and using these records.

Record Series Title	Reference Code	Date Range
Freeport Sanatorium (Kitchener) Patient Case Files	RG 10-146	1922 to 1954
Hamilton Chest Clinic Patient Case Files	RG 10-205	1940 to 1958
Royal Ottawa Sanatorium Patient Case Files	RG 10-93	1908 to 1958
St. Mary's on the Lake Sanatorium (Haileybury) Patient Files	RG 10-95	1933 to 1940, 1943 to 1957

Centres for Developmentally and Emotionally Disabled Individuals

Patient records from centres for developmentally and emotionally disabled individuals are generally limited to case files.

Click on the name of an institution in the table below to access its record creator description. You can find a list of all record series created by the hospital at the bottom of the description page.

You can also access the record creator descriptions by searching our Archives and Information Management System (AIMS), "Archives Repository", Advance Search for patient records and other types of records, or an Organization Search for the name of the institution by searching our [Archives and Information Management System \(AIMS\)](#), "[Archives Repository](#)". The Archives holdings can be found in the "Accessing Our Collections" section of our website.

Name of Institution	Date Range of Patient Records
D'Arcy Place, Cobourg	1920 to 1967, 1992 to 1999
Huron Regional Centre, Orillia	1863 to 1997
Muskoka Regional Centre, Gravenhurst	1910 to 1992
Oxford Regional Centre, Woodstock	1913 to 1995
Southwestern Regional Centre	1896 to 1993, predominantly 1961 to 1973
Surrey Place Centre, Toronto*	1966 to 1978

* There is no record creator authority for this institution. You can find the patient records in record group RG 29-94 – Surrey Place residents' files.

The record series for other institutions in the table below are not described online. Please speak with a reference staff about finding and using these records.

Record Series Title	Reference Code	Date Range
Aldergrove Children's Centre (Etobicoke) Case Files	RG 29-158	1977
Durham House Child and Family Centre (Whitby) Client Case Files	RG 29-160	1975 to 1992
Northwest Regional Centre Residents/Clients Files	RG 29-146	1935 to 1977
Regional Children's Centre (Thunder Bay) Regional Children's Centre Case Files	RG 29-76	1970 to 1977
St. Lawrence Regional Centre (Brockville) Resident's/Client's Medical, Individual Assessment and Program files	RG 29-148	1975 to 1977
St. Thomas Adult Rehabilitation and Training Centre	RG 29-128	1975 to 1985

Records of Physicians, Nurses and Other Healthcare Practitioners

Physicians' Records

The Archives has the records of over 50 prominent Ontario physicians, ranging from the late 1700s to the late 1970s.

Our collections of physician records consist of physical records that can be accessed in the Archives of Ontario Reading Room. You should request the records a few business days in advance of your visit to the Archives, as they may be held in offsite storage.

If you are not able to visit the Archives of Ontario, you can use any available online listings to identify specific files that you are interested in receiving copies of. You can speak with a Reference Archivist to order copies of these files. For further information, [click here to access our customer service guide 105 for information about our reproduction services and fees.](#)

The table below lists the some of the physicians' records we hold. Click on the name of a collection to access the online archival description. This is not an exhaustive list. To search for other physicians' records in the Archives of Ontario collection, [click here to access the Archives and Information Management System \(AIMS\), "Archives Repository"](#), then search for the physician's name.

Collection Title	Reference Code	Date Range
A.L.W. Webb fonds	F 1368	1862 to 1914
Angus Cattanach family fonds	F 512	1821 to 1918
Anson Buck collection	F 295	1900 to 1940
Ardagh family fonds	F 784	1835 to 1965
Cairncross & Lawrence Limited fonds	F 1385	1893 to 1939
Charteris family fonds	F 710	1825 to 1932
Clifford Hugh Smylie fonds	F 677	1957
Crites and Thompson family fonds	F 859	1855 to 1890
G. Stacy fonds	F 1365	1897 to 1903
George Gwynne Bird fonds	F 1380	1800 to 1956

Collection Title	Reference Code	Date Range
H. Townley Douglas collection	F 336	1816 to 1965
J.B. Coleridge fonds	F 1367	1909 to 1913
James C. Goodwin collection	F 1376	1813 to 1953
James Richardson family fonds	F 329	1783 to 1920
John Rolph fonds	F 91	1808 to 1940
L. Bruce Robertson fonds	F 1374	ca. 1850 to 1930
McLaren Pharmacy fonds	F 1386	1865 to 1960
Solomon Jones fonds	F 521	1787-1843, 1926
Thomas Walton family fonds	F 706	1816-1948
W.R. Bowns fonds	F 1366	1856-1872
William Philp family fonds	F 986	1850-1931

Speak to a reference archivist about accessing and using the Joshua Brown Family fonds, 1841 to 1990 (F 1176).

Lists and Directories of Physicians

The A.D. Campbell fonds (F 1382) includes biographical sketches of physicians in Waterloo County from 1824 to 1924 and Campbell's index cards listing physicians in Upper Canada to 1867. [Click here to access the online description for F 1382](#)

The annual publication *Ontario Medical Registers, 1867 to 1954* (there are some gaps) has directories of physicians and surgeons who practiced in Ontario. They are available on self-service microfilm reels MS 7155 and MS 7156 in the Archives Reading Room. [Click here to access the online description for the Ontario Medical Registers, 1867 to 1954.](#)

Healthcare Practitioners

The Archives holds the Ontario Health Insurance Plan Practitioners Registry Catalogue, 1977 to 1991 (RG 30-20). The catalogue lists all practitioners who are participants in the OHIP plan. Speak with a reference staff about accessing and using these records. The Archives also holds administrative records from the Ontario College of Pharmacists. [Click here to access the online description for the records of the Ontario College of Pharmacists \(F 4616, 1845 to 2005\).](#)

Nurses

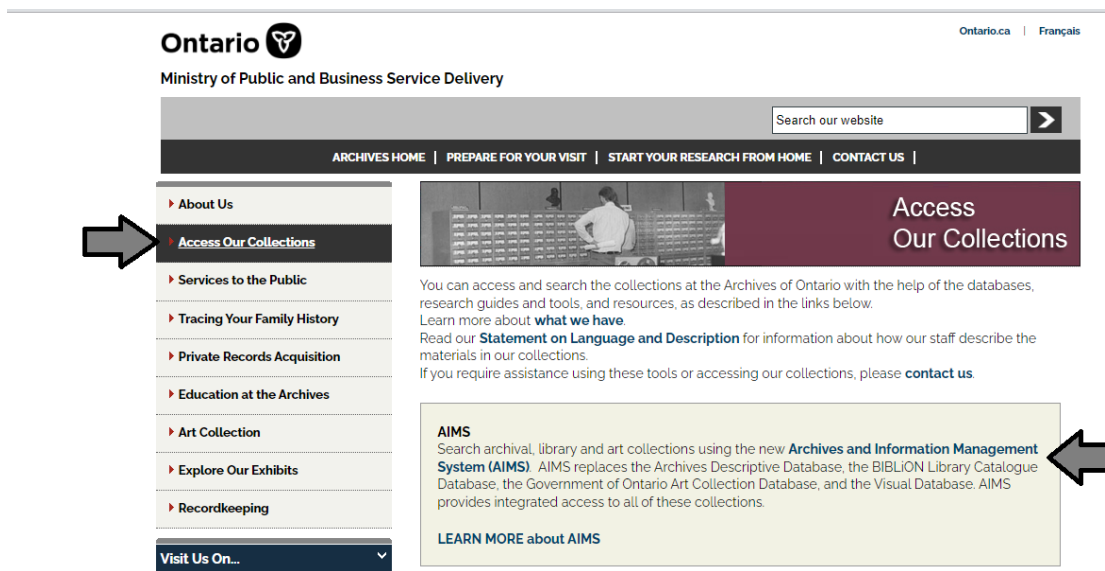
The Archives has records for the following nursing schools. Click the name of a record group to access the online archival description:

- [College of Nurses of Ontario administrative records \(F 4687-1\)](#)
- [Cornwall General Hospital, 1898 to 1969 \(F 1396\)](#)
- [Public health nursing staff files, 1927 to 1935 \(RG 10-30\)](#)

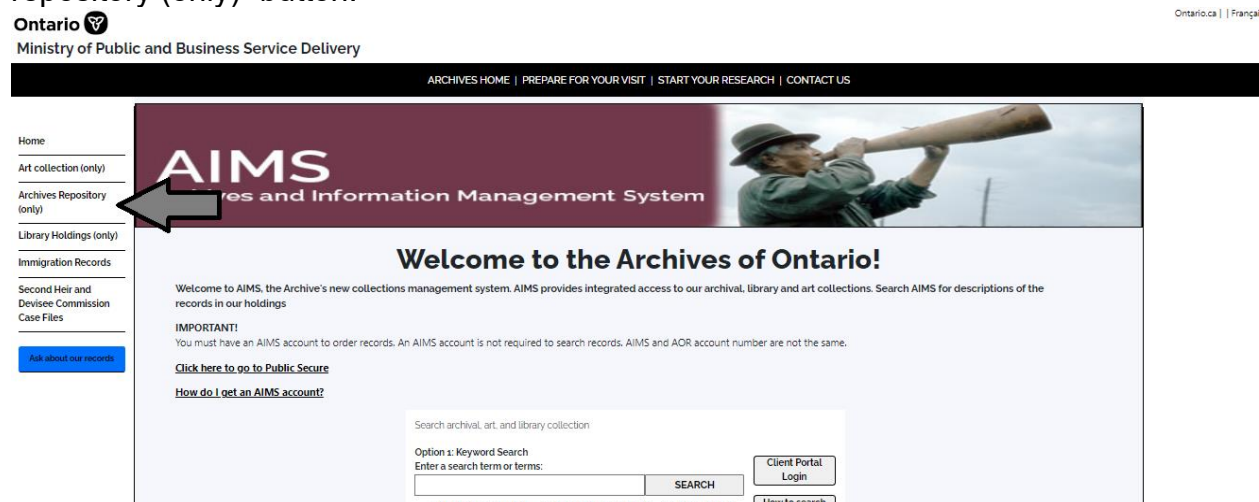
The Archives also holds records from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. [Click here to access the online description for the records of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario \(F 2168, 1899 to 1996\).](#)

How do I get to the online descriptions?

1. On our website's main page, click on "Access Our Collections", and click on "Archives and Information Management System", as shown in the image below:



2. In the Archives and Information Management System (AIMS), click on "Archives repository (only)" button:



3. On the "Welcome to the Archival Collection" search page, click "Advanced Search":



AIMS
Archives and Information Management System

Welcome to the Archival Collection!
Search the Archival Collection of the Archives of Ontario

This part of AIMS allows you to search the archival holdings of the Archives of Ontario using keywords. You can also refine your search with specific criteria using the Advanced Search button or use the More Search Options Browse Record Creators button to access descriptions of Government of Ontario agencies and private sector organizations, people and families that have created archival records.

Keyword Search
Enter a search term or terms:

All of the keywords Any of these Keywords Exact Phrase

4. On the “Archives Advanced Search” page enter the reference code (that’s the number starting with C, F or RG) in the Reference Code field and click “Search” (at the bottom of the page).

Archives Advanced Search

Refine your search using one or many of the specific search fields below.

Contact us

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

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

Email: [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#). The e-mail address is 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 our services, our online exhibits and education programs, and links to our social media accounts. [Click here to visit our website](#). The website is www.ontario.ca/archives.

Customer Service and Research Guides

Our guides contain information about our services, freelance researchers available to do research for you, and some of our most popular records. [Click here to view our guides](#). To find the “Research Guides and Tools” on our website, click on “Access our Collections”.

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