

GENERAL SYNOD ARCHIVIST'S REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD 2016

General

- General Synod Archivist took three month Sabbatical leave to attend St George's College, Israel
- Secure Archival Storage areas increased to include room 321 and mobile lockable shelving unit in the basement of Church House
- Truth and Reconciliation Exhibit installed in display cases in the lobby of Church House
- ACC Archivist joins UCC and PCC Archivists to present at the 2016 FARMER Conference in Dundee Scotland to emphasize the value of the church records to the truth and reconciliation process

Outreach

- Assistant Archivist Laurel Parson developed Archives web-page to provide online access to the fonds descriptions and record keeping and privacy policies which lead to increased requests for information and researcher visits from within Canada and around the world
- Archives researcher visits increase from 2013 – 33; 2014 – 79 and 2015 – 62
- Average Research inquiries during triennium: Diocese of Keewatin requests- 6 requests per month, Diocese of the Arctic - 6 requests per month, General Synod Archives answered queries – 180 per month, and Info Desk - 3 requests per month
- Participation in the Marriage Canon research, the Japanese Reconciliation process, Truth and Reconciliation final report, Indigenous Clergy and Mission History, Anglican Day School Research, Litigation Research
- Aided in the research and production for the Anglican Indigenous Timeline created by the Anglican Fund for Healing and Reconciliation

Records Management

- Captured snapshot of Electronic Records created by General Synod Staff 1998-2015 for review and preservation on archives server
- Collected backlog of inactive records held in certain departmental record keeping systems for archiving, ie. Anglican Foundation, Indigenous Ministries, Primate's Office, PWRDF, etc.
- Ensured retention of key records from departing and retiring staff, ie. Rev Bruce Myers and Henriette Thompson
- Create official set of MSCC Minutes for permanent retention and access

Residential School Settlement Agreement

- Provided ongoing research support for lawyers during litigation
- During the Common Experience Payment process, we supplied information for verification of student attendance
- Provision of staff employment histories for substantiation of the Independent Assessment Claims required for the 9,500 claims made against the ACC during the period of settlement agreement. 6,000 restricted files were transferred to the archives.
- Assistant archivist coordinated review of all Archival Holdings with assistance from Contract staff to identify and describe relevant residential school records
- The Anglican Church of Canada including General Synod Archives and 30 Dioceses have sent over 340,000 pages of archival and digital documents and over 7,000 photographs to the National centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg
- Provision of translations of the Anglican indigenous language holdings to assist in recovery of language and culture lost while attending the schools ie Revitalizing Inuinnaqtun
- Response to ongoing research requests from survivors, academics and the media has been a large part of our work
- Provided orientation to church leaders and members across Canada
- The archives staff researched and wrote residential school histories for the 35 Anglican schools which were placed on the Anglican.ca website and were accessed by 6,000 visits/month
- Research into our burial records to locate Indigenous burial grounds and cemeteries and to identify the names of those children who died or went missing while in the care of the church
- We have responded to commemoration activities, which includes a 20 million dollar fund for commemoration events including monuments, stained glass, school histories
- Responded to TRC calls to action calls for the creation of a national list of students who died in the schools or did not come home which includes over 4,000 names
- We attended all 7 national events and many community and regional events across Canada with displays and binders of documents and school photographs, personal names were recovered for the many photographs and copies were provided to survivors and survivor communities
- Attended two Sacred Circle events with displays and information about indigenous missions and residential schools

Anglican Diocesan Archivists

- Anglican Diocesan Archivists meeting held in conjunction with the 2014 CCHS Conference, agenda included clarification of Truth and Reconciliation Commission document submission requirements
- Extensive work done by diocesan archivists and volunteers to identify and produce documents relevant to the residential school history with most diocesan archives collections
- Valuable assistance was provided by Diocesan archivists during TRC National and Regional events across Canada

Archival Acquisitions of Note:

- Acquired records from the Diocese of Keewatin to include the Collection of parish and diocesan records, maps, photographs in the General Synod Collection
- Records from the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer fonds
- Archbishop E H Scott accrual of vestments
- Rev John J. McNab fonds 1980-2001
- Rev Edmond J. Peck Journal and sketches, 1897
- Ven Christopher Dunn fonds, beadwork and photographs from Horden Hall
- Rev Bruce Mutch fonds, missionary work in Japan, 1947-1975, 2013
- Edgar Assels fonds, music compositions
- Jack Francis fonds, Biographical Dictionary of Ottawa, 2013
- Bishop Heber Hamilton fonds, 1893-1951
- History of Battleford School for Indians Thesis by W J Wasylow, 1972
- Anglican Editors Association Fonds, 1978-2000
- Richard Bradley fonds, Fellowship of the West Account, 1932-33
- Rev Harry Cartlidge fonds

Canadian Church Historical Society

- Held joint conference with Trinity College in commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto under the Honorary Patronage of the Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson on October 31-November 2, 2014.
- Published semi-annual CCHS Journal in consultation with Journal Editor, Rev Daniel Graves
- Acquired records from former CCHS Journal Editors, Rev Richard Ruggles and Dr Richard Virr

The General Synod Archivist is grateful for the donors, researchers, staff and church leaders who continuously add to the value of the Archives collections. We are especially grateful for the ongoing assistance given by Rev Jim Boyles, former General Secretary and by the diocesan Archivists across Canada. The archives could not exist without the gracious and professional work done by Assistant Archivist Laurel Parson. The time spent with the survivors of the residential schools and other indigenous leaders and church members during the past 10 years has been a gift to me as an Anglican, archivist and Canadian. I am continuously inspired by their grace, faith, resilience and forgiveness.

Nancy J Hurn, General Synod Archivist

March 30, 2016