

P004- Finnish National Society of Sudbury

1930-1985

2.33 m of textual records and other document types

Administrative History: Established in 1930, The Finnish National Society of Sudbury, was formed with the intent of not only preserving Finnish culture in Canada, but also helping newly established Finns in the area to adapt to the Canadian way of life. The first president of the Society was Armas Vilksa. In 1931, the Society became linked to the Central organization of Loyal Finns in Canada. On December 8, 1935 was erected the first Sampo Hall Building, on Antwerp Street, which was rebuilt in 1958 after being destroyed by fire. It is at the Sampo Hall that most of the activities of the Finnish National Society of Sudbury were held.

They sponsored various activities such as: dances, theatrical performances, choir singing as well as sporting activities. Although the Society was more active in the 1950 and 1960, it is still active and continues to exist as a non-profit group dedicated to maintaining Finnish-Canadian culture in the Sudbury area.

Scope and Content: The Finnish National Society of Sudbury fonds attests to the role of the Finnish National Society of Sudbury, at the regional and national level in preserving the Finnish culture and also to their role in helping with immigrant adjustment. The records do not only document the social and cultural activities sponsored by the group between 1930 and 1980, but also the administrative part of its existence.

The fonds consists of incorporating documents such as the original charter of the Society, and the 1932 letter Patent for the Loyal Finns of Canada; membership records, minutes, financial records, correspondence, newsletters, plays and photographs. It also contains newspaper clippings and leaflets.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: Donated in 1994 by O. Saarinen, president of the Finnish National Society of Sudbury.

Languages of material: Many of the records are in Finnish.

Reproduction/publication: The Copyright Act regulations apply.

Finding aids: The fonds is not processed. An incomplete inventory is available at the Laurentian University Archives.

Accruals: A second accrual was received in 1996 and a third in 1999.

Related material: P123- Oiva W. Saarinen fonds may contain complementary information.