

**P026 International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (IUMMSW),  
Local 598 fonds  
1943-1972**

**9.5 linear meters of textual records and graphic material**

**Administrative history:** The International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers originated from within the membership of the early Western Federation of Miners (W.F.M.), formed in British Columbia in 1895. Subsequent to the challenges of the early years of the W.F.M., a charter for Local 598 in Sudbury was granted in 1942 by its governing body, and by the International President, Reid Robinson. In 1943, Robert Carlin was elected as President, and in 1944, this local was certified as the collective bargaining agency for the employees of the International Nickel Co. of Canada Ltd., (INCO), and of Falconbridge Mines in Sudbury. In 1949, the I.U.M.M.S.W. was expelled from the Canadian Labour Congress (C.L.C.), marking the beginning of many years of dissension, both within Local 598 itself, as well as between the I.U.M.M.S.W. and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). In 1967, a merger was negotiated between the two unions, and all locals, with the exception of I.U.M.M.S.W. Local 598 in Falconbridge, joined the USWA. Until 1993, Local 598, representing approximately 2,000 hourly-rated employees of Falconbridge Nickel Mines, was the only remaining local of what was once a large union. In 1993, following two years of discussion, Local 598 merged with the Canadian Auto Workers Union (C.A.W.) and adopted the name "Mine Mill/C.A.W."

Past Presidents of Local 598 are as follows: Mel Withers, 1944-1945; Nels Thibault, 1947-1951; Mike Solski, 1952-1959; Don Gillis, 1959-1962; Tom Taylor, 1962-1964; Nels Thibault, 1964-1966; Robin McArthur 1966-1967; Joe Astgen 1968-1969; Jim Tester, 1969-1974; Emil Prudhomme 1975-1977; Jack Gignac 1977-1979; Emile Prudhomme (2<sup>nd</sup> term), 1980-1982; Ed Leger, 1983; Rick Briggs, 1984-1995; Roly Gauthier, 1995-2001; Rick Grylls, 2001-.

**Scope and content:** The International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter workers fonds consists of minutes, financial records, membership lists, correspondence and documentation regarding collective bargaining and agreements and election material. Also included are grievance reports, printed material in the form of briefs, constitutions, pamphlets, press releases and handbooks, as well as bulletins, newspapers and clippings. Newspapers represented in this fonds include *The 598 News*, *The Mine Mill Herald*, *The Miner's Voice* and the *Sudbury Star*, among others.

The records of this fonds provide information about the structure, services and activities of Local 598 of the I.U.M.M.S.W., from its inception in 1942 until 1972. The struggles of Mine Mill, Local 598 (Sudbury) to survive, amidst accusations of Communist domination, as a result of USWA "raids", and subsequent to the expulsion from the C.L.S., are well documented, as are their activities with respect to other locals of the union in Ontario.

The records are kept in the order given by the archives of U.B.C. The 17 series are: Minute Books; Falconbridge Minutes; Notebooks; Financial records; Negotiations; Certifications; Grievances; Job Posting Notices; General Correspondence; Subject Files; Legal Files; Membership Lists; Printed Material; Press Office; Newspapers; Memorabilia; Ephemera.

**Note: Immediate source of acquisition:** The fonds was transferred to the Laurentian University Archives in May of 1993 from the University of British Columbia, which had originally received the records from Mike Solski.

**Availability of other formats:** Some documents are digitized.

**Restriction on access:** Some documents may be restricted.

**Reproduction/publication:** The Copyright Act regulations apply.

**Finding aids:** A finding aid was provided by the University of British Columbia in 1993 and is available at Laurentian University Archives.

**Accruals:** A first accrual was received in 1993. Two accruals were received in 1998 from Mike Farrell and Mine Mill Local 598.

**Related material:** The following fonds may provide complementary information:

- P009-NOLIA fonds
- P019-Mike Solski fonds
- P035-Nels Thibault fonds
- P037-Roger Leblanc fonds
- P048-Gilbert H. (Gib) Gilchrist fonds
- P059-Jim Tester fonds
- P065-Roy Scranton fonds
- P070-George Prusila fonds
- P073-Mick Lowe fonds
- P102-David Lehto and George Prusila Collection
- P140-Robin and Archibald McArthur fonds
- P144-Mercedes Steedman fonds
- P192-Fonds Jean Gagnon
- P210-INORD fonds

**Associated material:** Complementary information may be found at the Archives of Ontario.

**General note:** The fonds contains content that some may consider offensive, for example, language and representations used to refer to racial, ethnic and cultural groups. Items in the fonds, and more specifically photographs, their content reflect the time period when they were created.

The content of some photographs may be offensive to researchers. Laurentian University Archives condemns all such racist or offensive representations.