

P113 – Jennifer Keck Fonds

1976-2002

8.4 m of textual records and other types of document.

Biographical sketch: Jennifer Marguerite Keck (1954-2002) was born in Sudbury on January 12, 1954 to Lyle Keck and Jacqueline Fournier Keck. She died on June 12, 2002 at Sudbury Regional Hospital at the age of 48. Dr. Keck was survived by her father, her sister Leslie Keck, her partner Don Kuyek, her son David, and a special (step) son Devlin and special daughter (niece) Jordan Keck.

She moved to Ottawa to pursue post secondary education at Carleton University and received a BA in Political Science in 1975 and MSW in Social Work in 1981. She received a PhD in Social Work in 1995 from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Keck worked in a legal aid clinic in Toronto in the late 1970s before moving to Northwestern Ontario as a Field Research Coordinator with the Anti-Mercury Ojibwa Group in White Dog and Grassy Narrows in 1978-79. She returned to Sudbury in 1979 and worked as Coordinator of Children's Services at the Native People of Sudbury Development Corporation until 1980. From 1980 to 1982, she worked as an intake social worker at the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Children's Aid Society and as Project Officer for the Job Development and Training Program at the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission in Sudbury. She began working as a lecturer in the School of Social Work at Laurentian University in 1982 and became an associate professor in 1989. She taught specifically in the subjects of community development, AIDS, Child Abuse and social work theory/practice.

Dr. Keck has been described as a writer, academic, activist, organizer and an active researcher. She was President of the Myths and Mirrors Community Arts group, a founding member of Sudbury Women's Centre/Centre des Femmes de Sudbury, a former board member and Northern Ontario representative for the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, a member of advisory committee for Better Beginnings, Better Futures, an executive member of Circle of Strength – The Sudbury Breast Cancer Support Group, and a founding member of Justice with Dignity – The Committee to Remember Kimberley Rogers.

Dr. Keck's research and publications concerned the themes of women, poverty, women in blue collar jobs (chiefly at INCO), call centres, care for children with special needs, community development/organizing, government employment grants and projects, welfare/workfare, and labour in Sudbury. Her memory is preserved through the Dr. Jennifer Keck [Memorial] Lecture Series on Social Justice, sponsored by the School of Social Work, Laurentian University.

Scope and Content: The Jennifer Keck fonds attests to her professional and public involvement in matters related to social justice. Her training and employment in social work and commitment to improving the lives of others is reflected in her scholarly works and records that show her community involvement. The documents illustrate her exploration of topics such as labour, welfare, Aboriginal issues, community development and organizing, as well as poverty, employment, and issues related to women and families. These interests are reflected in the records created through projects that she undertook as an academic, such as the multifaceted Women at INCO project. The fonds indicates that she addressed these same issues in her community activism, through her involvement in Better Beginnings, Better Futures, Sudbury Women's Centre, Myths and Mirrors Community Arts, Circles of Strength: Sudbury Breast Cancer Support Group, and through frequent contributions to local media. Her work as a researcher for the Anti-Mercury Ojibwa Group and for her own publications on government job creation initiatives, labour and community issues is also represented in textual form.

These records, generated during Dr. Keck's professional career, also reveal her personal interests and goals. The speeches, presentations and workshops that are documented in the fonds reflect her struggle with cancer, her commitment to the underprivileged and her strong affiliation with feminist theory and practice.

The fonds comprises course and teaching materials, documentation, professional correspondence, administrative materials, and items that attest to Dr. Keck's scholarly output, such as presentations, publications and workshops. The fonds also contains photographs, physical objects and audio and videocassettes.

The majority of the documents contained in this fonds were created during her time as a professor in the School of Social Work, Laurentian University. The fonds also comprises a comprehensive body of textual, audiovisual and photographic material on the Women at INCO project, documentation of her PhD thesis, taped interviews and transcripts with the working poor, and material related to her employment as a field research coordinator with the Anti-Mercury Ojibwa Group.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: Don Kuyeck donated the records in December 2003

: Restriction on access: Some records are restricted.

: Terms governing use and reproduction/publication: Copyright regulations apply to the records.

:Accruals: A second accrual received from Mercedes Steedman, in June 2006. No more accruals expected

:Finding Aid: A Preliminary listing is available at the L.U. Archives