



Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4875>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 16-2003

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1972-1996; predominant 1979-1992

Physical Description: 2.7 m

History /

Biographical:

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women (MACSW) was formed by a group of women who had participated in the preparation of a comprehensive brief to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1967. The Manitoba Volunteer Committee, formed in 1967, then went on to hold its first public meeting in 1970, adopt its constitution in 1973, and build up a membership of over 400 women by 1981. Until its demise in 2000, MACSW was the only feminist lobby group in Manitoba. Nothing has since taken its place.

MACSW was run by the membership and a Provincial Coordinating Committee (composed of members and staff), which met at least three times annually in various parts of the province. This made the workings of the Provincial organization more accessible for women throughout the province. Feminist process was used in all meetings and decisions were made by consensus. During the 1980s and 1990s, there were four MACSW branches: one each in Brandon, Winnipeg, Dauphin (Parkland Status of Women) and Thompson (Thompson Action Committee on the Status of Women). There were individual members in all areas of Manitoba, and for a few years in the 1990s, a Rural Coordinator networked with individual members outside of the four branch locations and helped coordinate provincial activities.

From the beginning, funding was short-term. Operations were run on a shoe-string and with the help of dedicated volunteers. The funding allowed for wages was poverty-level, forcing the organization to operate only part-time with part-time staff in order to provide staff with a reasonable salary.

As governments changed their funding objectives and methods, it became harder and harder for MACSW to maintain its presence as the only feminist lobby within Manitoba. When Status of Women Canada stopped funding core operations and only allowed for "project funding," the job became impossible to do. Projects meant research and the publication of a document each year, and the work was to be coordinated among the various branches. Work on the project was necessarily additional to the daily tasks of the coordinators of the various offices. It became impossible to operate four branches, a provincial coordinating function and prepare a publication in conjunction with an annual project—all with a total budget of approximately \$120,000.00 per year. Although an astonishing amount of work was accomplished by dedicated women under these circumstances, MACSW was unable to continue. MACSW closed its doors in Winnipeg in 1998, Brandon in 1999, and then throughout the province.

The primary activities of MACSW were political action (working for legislative change), public education about women's issues, and providing resources, referrals and advocacy services to

women in need of such support. Where possible, joint actions were planned with other groups in the community sharing similar concerns. The Coordinating Committee met quarterly, including representatives of three standing committees (finance, communications and membership) and up to ten members-at-large. Other committees were set up as members showed an interest in particular issues. At various times, there were committees on media monitoring, political action, labour, day care, education and so on. Branches had their own "mini-committees," which worked with the Provincial committees on issues in common. Consultation between the branches, between Quarterly Meetings, was done by phone, mail or e-mail.

MACSW strove to advise women on issues of interest through films, guest speakers, speaking engagements, information tables, and working with other groups to present conferences and seminars, public meetings and so on. They also lobbied all levels of government and researched and wrote position papers and briefs for commissions and hearings.

MACSW members also liaised and networked by sharing their resources and working with other women's groups, such as (in the Brandon area) Women for Equality, The Westman Coalition for Equality Rights, and The Western Manitoba Women's Resource Centre. They organized and responded to government and public requests for input through research, conferences and the actions of their sub-committees. The media sought out MACSW for comment upon issues of the day.

Throughout the approximate 30 years of its existence, MACSW was respected as an informed and highly effective organization working on behalf of women. No other feminist organization has taken the place of MACSW. However, lobbying and education on behalf of women continues on an ad hoc basis through former MACSW members who have been empowered through their experiences in MACSW to speak up for change and improvement in the status of women in Manitoba, Canada and the world.

Custodial History:

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women disbanded during the mid 1990s, due to lack of funding. Acting on behalf of the organization, Paula Mallea donated the records to the McKee Archives in 2003.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains minutes of governing bodies (local and provincial) from 1979-1992, correspondence files of the Brandon MACSW, scrapbooks of the Brandon Action Committee (1972-1992), Action Newsletters (1979-1999), records of AGM (1982-1990), and extensive miscellaneous files dealing with activities, workshops and research concerns of the Brandon local of the Manitoba Action Committee of the Status of Women. These include files dealing with violence against women, rural women, northern women, child abuse, social policy, sexual orientation, feminism, poverty, prostitution, pay equity, and racism, among others.

Notes:	History/Bio prepared by Paula Mallea, July 2003.
Storage Location:	2003 accessions
Storage Range:	2003 accessions



MACSW Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5446>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1

File Number: 509

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1986-1989

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of correspondence, applications

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration

1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career

Box 21



Citizens Lobby for Environmental Action Now Enviro.

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5938>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1

File Number: 992

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1993

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of grants & correspondence

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration

1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career

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