

Kamloops Museum and Archives

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Order of Railway Telegraphers fonds

1987.002

Compiled by
Jaimie Fedorak, September 2018

KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

1987.002

Order of Railway Telegraphers fonds

Access: Some files restricted.

Textual

1952-1984
0.22 meters

Title: Order of Railway Telegraphers fonds

Dates of Creation: 1952-1984

Physical Description: 22 cm of textual records

Administrative History:

The Order of Railway Telegraphers was a union organization, which was first established on June 9, 1886 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The initial meeting was organized by Ambrose D. Thurston, and was meant to promote the interests of railway telegraphers (as distinct from commercial telegraphers). By the early 1890s the union began to take a more active role in negotiating wages and working conditions with the railroads of their membership, moving away from being a more fraternal organization and changing its name to the Order of Railroad Telegraphers. In 1898 the organization added a Mutual Benefit Department, which acted to provide benefits to ill or unemployed members, and was increasing its international membership into Canada and Mexico. By 1901 the organization had 30 system divisions with 10,000 members. During the early 1920s membership in the union was at a peak of 78,000 members across the USA, Canada, and Mexico, but the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing economic depression decreased membership. In 1965 the organization changed its name to the Transportation Communications Employees Union, and would merge with the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees in 1969. By 2005 the organization was affiliated with the International Association of Machinists, and opted for a full merger of the unions in 2012.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of documents associated with the Order of Railway Telegraphers and the organization's various successor unions and affiliate railroad unions, centred in Kamloops but including other communities throughout British Columbia. Materials include meeting minutes, seniority lists, constitutions, correspondence, and human resources documents such as schedule rulings, discipline and grievance correspondence, and job reevaluations.

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Custodial History:

Accession 1987.002 was donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives on January 14, 1987 by Roger Eberle, on behalf of the Order of Railway Telegraphers.

Notes:

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of fonds.

Arrangement: Order that fonds arrived in was maintained by the archivist.

Access restrictions: Records in files 006, 010, and 011 are restricted on the basis that they contain Personal Information. All other files are open. The archivist reserves the right to restrict access to any fragile material for preservation purposes.

Terms governing use and reproduction: No reproduction permitted without consent of copyright holder. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission for the reproduction of materials for publication or dissemination.

Finding aids: File list is available for this collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

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Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1987.002.001	Constitutions and Benefit Plan – File contains the constitution of the Grand Lodge of the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, the constitution of the Rail Traffic Controllers, and a Benefit Plan for Employees of Canadian Railways.	1975-1980	1/1
1987.002.002	Seniority Lists – File contains three seniority lists for the Order of Railway Telegraphers System Division No. 43 and one seniority list for the Transportation Communication Employees Union System Division No. 43.	1954-1968	1/2
1987.002.003	Union of Rail Canada Traffic Controllers initiation fee receipt – File contains a receipt for an initiation fee for the Union of Rail Canada Traffic Controllers	May 14, 1981	1/3
1987.002.004	Co-op Meetings, Notices, etc. Employees Assistance “AA” Group – File contains a holiday shift schedule, pamphlets related to the Union-Management Services branch, correspondence related to the CN Employee Assistance Committee, a financial statement for the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline Clerks, an annual report from the Employee Assistance Program, magazine clippings, and meeting minutes from the Union Management Co-operative Committee.	1974-1981	1/4
1987.002.005	Guidelines for Conducting Investigations and Obtaining Employee Statements – File contains a booklet issued by CN to chairmen and union officers of the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline Clerks relating to conducting investigations and obtaining employee statements.	1976	1/5
1987.002.006	Schedule Rulings, etc. – File contains correspondence relating to schedule arbitration and meeting minutes of the Transportation Communication Employees Union. – <i>Records are restricted until 2066.</i>	1952-1966	1/6

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1987.002.007	Correspondence re: Certification Vote and Strike Action – File contains correspondence regarding a certification vote and strike action.	1981-1984	1/7
1987.002.008	General Committee – File contains correspondence of the General Committee of the Transportation Communication Employees Union.	1959-1968	1/8
1987.002.009	Correspondence re: Agreements – File contains correspondence regarding the clarification of and negotiation of union agreements.	1960-1967	2/1
1987.002.010	Discipline and Grievances Correspondence, Railway Management, etc. – File contains correspondence related to disciplinary action and grievances of members of the union. – <i>Records are restricted until 2065.</i>	1962-1965	2/2
1987.002.011	Cleaning Station Windows (remove, replace, etc.) – File contains correspondence and instructions relating to cleaning station windows. File also includes a small amount of correspondence relating to disciplinary action and grievances. – <i>Records are restricted until 2065.</i>	1956-1965	2/3
1987.002.012	Agent and Oprs Seniority List. Mountain and Prairie Region as of January 1, 1973 – File contains a seniority list for agents and operators of the Mountain and Prairie Region.	January 1, 1973	2/4
1987.002.013	Minutes of Meetings – File contains a book of meeting minutes for locations throughout British Columbia.	1959-1963	2/5
1987.002.014	Reevaluation – File contains correspondence relating to job level reevaluations.	1976-1979	2/6