St. Catharines and District Labour Council fonds

1957-1986

RG 458

Brock University Archives

Creator: St. Catharines and District Labour Council

Extent: 1.95 metres of textual records (8 boxes)
42 black & white photographs, 1 col. photograph

Abstract: Fonds contains material about the operations and activities of the St. Catharines and District Labour Council. This includes projects the Labour Council organized and operated, such as the Education Institute and Community Counseling Service. Most of the material is correspondence, meeting minutes, financial reports, speeches, reports, newsletters, news clippings and case files from the Community Counseling Service.

Materials: Correspondence, meeting minutes, financial reports, case files, newsletters, news clippings, speeches and reports.

Repository: Brock University Archives.

Processed by: Chantal Cameron

Finding aid: Chantal Cameron

Last updated: August 2013

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Administrative History:

The St. Catharines and District Labour Council was founded in May 1957 by unionized workers from St. Catharines, Thorold, Merritton, Port Dalhousie and Grimsby. They sought to improve the social and economic welfare of workers; promote the organization of workers into unions for their mutual benefit, regardless of race, creed, colour, or national origin; encourage the sale of union-made goods and services; promote worker education; provide workers with a voice in politics; and safeguard the democratic nature of the labour movement. The Council, affiliated with both the Canadian Labour Congress and the Ontario Federation of Labour, was instrumental in assisting local workers with their labour disputes, including Canadian Pulp and Paper workers at Abitibi Provincial Paper in Thorold (1975-76), and Gallaher Paper (1999), workers at the St. Catharines Eaton’s store (1985), as well as smaller disputes such as that between the part-time secretarial staff and the Welland County Roman Catholic Separate School Board (1972) and workers of the Skyway Lumber Company (1972).

The Council also assisted the community at large by offering a Community Counseling Service (1971-1976) to help citizens with issues concerning various government agencies, social services and Acts, such as the Vacation Pay Act, Landlord and Tenant Act, Employment Standards Act, unemployment insurance claims and workman’s compensation claims. Other projects that the Council organized included an annual Education Institute (1958-1965) and the annual publication of Labour Review, a summary of the Council’s past year.

The Labour Council continued to operate until 2010, when several local Labour Councils merged to form the Niagara Regional Labour Council.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains material relating to the operations and activities of the St. Catharines and District Labour Council. This includes projects the Labour Council organized and operated, such as the Education Institute and Community Counseling Service. The bulk of the material consists of correspondence, meeting minutes, financial reports, case files from the Community Counseling Service, news clippings, newsletters, speeches and reports. Some day-to-day financial records such as invoices, receipts and canceled cheques were removed and discarded. Financial reports and summaries were retained. Correspondence that was received with
enclosures (such as media releases, news clippings, reports, and resolutions) were filed with the original correspondence. The case files from the Community Counseling Service contain personal identification numbers and this material is restricted. To view these items, permission must be received from the archivist and any other relevant party. Within folders, material is arranged chronologically.

**Organization:**

The records were arranged into five series:

**Series I:** Administrative, 1957-1986  
Sub-series A: Constitution and By-Laws  
Sub-series B: Resolutions  
Sub-series C: Minutes  
Sub-series D: Financial reports  
Sub-series E: Correspondence  
Sub-series F: Membership

**Series II:** Activities, 1957-1979  
Sub-series A: Education Institute  
Sub-series B: Unemployment Lobby  
Sub-series C: Labour Review  
Sub-series D: Community Counseling Service

**Series III:** Promotional material, 1958-1986  
Sub-series A: Brochures & Leaflets  
Sub-series B: Media releases  
Sub-series C: News clippings  
Sub-series D: Photographs  
Sub-series E: Posters

**Series IV:** Publications, 1968-1984  
Sub-series A: Newsletters  
Sub-series B: Magazines

**Series V:** Resources, 1959-1985  
Sub-series A: Articles  
Sub-series B: Legal Resources  
Sub-series C: Lists
Sub-series D: Reports
Sub-series E: Speeches

Inventory:

Series I: Administrative, 1957-1986

Sub-series A: Constitution and By-Laws, 1957-1974


Sub-series B: Resolutions, 1959-1980, undated


Sub-series C: Minutes, 1958-1986


1.32-1.33 Executive Minutes, 1958-1975 (non-inclusive). Contains minutes of Executive meetings and lists of Executive Officers.

1.34 Minutes of the Niagara Peninsula Labour Council Presidents, also known as the Region of Niagara Labour Council, 1969-1972. Also contains lists of Presidents and secretaries of local Labour Councils, a financial report and some correspondence.

1.35 Minutes of the Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Council, 1968, 1975. Also contains administrative reports and financial reports.


1.37 Minutes—Assorted, 1969-1973, undated. Includes meeting minutes of various groups, including the Niagara Labour Union Advisory Committee, the Urban
Renewal Citizens’ Advisory Committee, the United Fund of St. Catharines & District, Inc., the Labour Studies Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee of the City Council [St. Catharines], the Niagara Falls and District Labour Council, and Minutes re: Ontario Federation of Labour and Unemployment Insurance Commission Conference.

**Sub-series D: Financial Reports, 1958-1986**


**Sub-series E: Correspondence, 1957-1986**


2.3 Special correspondence, 1957-1962.


2.5-3.7 Correspondence--General, 1964-1986.

3.8 Anti-poverty campaign, 1973-74. Also includes a *Brief to the Ontario Government on the Elimination of Poverty* by the Provincial Coalition Committee of the Ontario Anti-Poverty Coalition, a brief to local City Councils, Town Councils and Township Councils re: welfare, an Annual Report Conference of the Ontario Anti-Poverty Coalition Conference, 1974, and news clippings.

3.9 Arbitration, 1965-1972. Includes meeting minutes of the Thorold Division of the Ontario Paper Company Ltd., and the Union, correspondence concerning a
grievance submitted by William Hagar, the arbitration ruling of the case, as well other labour arbitration cases.


3.11 Berry, Brian, 1970-71. Contains correspondence with the Workmen’s Compensation Board regarding the case of Brian Berry.

3.12 California Grape Boycott, 1968-69. Also contains media releases, news clippings and other promotional material.


3.17 Credit Counseling Service, 1970-71. Also contains some meeting minutes of the St. Catharines and District Credit Counseling Service.

3.18 Dry Docks, 1969, undated. Also contains a brochure and article titled The Crisis in Canadian Shipbuilding and Shipping.


3.22 Hagar, William, 1972. Contains correspondence regarding the case of William Hagar. Also contains booklets on the arbitration process.


3.27 P.A.C. [Department of Political Action and Education], Ontario Federation of Labour, 1959-1961. Also contains some reports and newsletters by the P.A.C.

3.28 School for the Deaf—Bus project, 1969-70. Contains correspondence regarding a project to bus local children home from the School for the Deaf in Milton, Ont., on weekends. Also contains some financial statements.


3.30 Social Services, 1968-71. Contains some correspondence, booklets and articles by the John Howard Society, minutes of the Steering Committee meeting for the
Seminar on Hiring the Handicapped, minutes of the Social Planning Council of
St. Catharines, and minutes of the United Fund of St. Catharines & District.

3.31 Tadeusz, Gardian, 1971-72. Contains correspondence regarding the case of
Gardian Tadeusz.

3.32 Union of Unemployed, 1971. Also contains the Constitution and newsletter of the
St. Catharines Union of Unemployed and a news clipping.

3.33 Urban Renewal Plan, 1971. Also contains a questionnaire and a Report to City
Council from the Citizens’ Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal.

4.1-4.2 Wage & Price Controls, 1975-1976. Also includes Bill 20: An Act to provide for
the Review of Rents in respect of Residential Premises, 1975; remarks by Frank
S. Miller, Minister of Health, 1976; House of Commons debates (1976); news
Regional Municipality of Niagara Housing Study, 1976; Legislature of Ontario
debates, 1976; Legislative Proposals to the Government of Ontario submitted by
the Ontario Federation of Labour, 1976; research bulletins; the Submission of the
Ontario Federation of Labour to the Select Committee to consider Bills 20 and 26:
An Act to provide for the Review of Rents in respect of Residential Premises; an
information package on the Anti-Inflation Program.

Sub-series F: Membership, 1957-1970

5.1-5.2 Applications—Labour Council, 1957-1965. Contains completed application
forms from local unions seeking affiliation with the St. Catharines and District
Labour Council. Restricted

5.3 Delegate Credential Forms, 1957-1966. Completed forms designating a member
of local affiliated unions as their delegate to the St. Catharines and District
Labour Council. Restricted

5.4 Delegate Credentials, 1968-70. Contains correspondence regarding delegate
credentials. Also contains a list of delegates’ names and addresses for 1975.
Restricted

5.5 Affiliated Locals—Officers & Delegates, 1958-1964. Lists of affiliated local
Unions, their Officers and delegates. Restricted
5.6 Non-affiliated, Ontario Federation of Labour, 1968-69. Contains lists of local Unions in Ontario not affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Labour. Restricted

5.7-5.8 Lists of Local Unions and Executive members, undated. Restricted

5.9 Membership forms, undated. Contains blank membership forms for the Canadian Labour Congress, the St. Catharines and District Labour Council, official delegate credential forms for the St. Catharines and District Labour Council, as well as completed membership forms for the St. Catharines and District Labour Council. Restricted

Series II: Activities, 1957-1979

Sub-series A: Education Institute, 1958-1965

4.3-4.10 Contains programs, financial statements, lists of participants, news clippings and some correspondence regarding the Council’s Annual Education Institute, 1958-1965.

Sub-series B: Unemployment Lobby, 1957-1961

4.11 Correspondence, 1959-1961. Also contains a statement and recommendations submitted by the Executive Board to the Toronto and District Labour Council re: unemployment; a brief on the current unemployment situation presented by the Council to Municipal & County Councils, and the Provincial & Federal government; and a Brief on Unemployment to the Prime Minister of Ontario by representatives of the unemployed of Peterborough, Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Welland and other Ontario communities, December 1960.

4.12 Minutes, 1961. Contains meeting minutes of the Niagara Peninsula Labour Council Committee on Unemployment and minutes of the St. Catharines Local Employment Committee.


Sub-series C: Labour Review, 1967-1979

4.15-4.17 Contains correspondence, contracts, articles and other material used in the Council’s annual Labour Review publication, 1967-79 (non-inclusive).

Sub-series D: Community Counseling Service, 1974-76

6.1-6.28 Contains case files from the Community Counseling Service provided by the St. Catharines and District Labour Council, 1974-76. Most cases are related to unemployment insurance claims. Restricted

Series III: Promotional material, 1958-1986

Sub-series A: Brochures & Leaflets, 1961-1984, undated


7.3 Leaflets & Flyers—Conferences, Seminars & Courses, 1976-1984, undated. Contains promotional material for educational events provided by the St. Catharines and District Chamber of Commerce, Niagara College, and the Canadian Labour Congress.

Sub-series B: Media releases, 1965-1980


Sub-series C: News clippings, 1958-1986

7.6-7.8 General, 1958-1986, undated.

7.9 CAA-SOS [Community Action Against Sunday Opening of Supermarkets], 1969, undated.


**Sub-series D: Photographs, 1971-1975, undated**


**Sub-series E: Posters, 1979, undated**


**Series IV: Publications, 1968-1984**

**Sub-series A: Newsletters, 1968-1984**


7.17 Newsletters--assorted, 1972-84. Titles include Accident Prevention; Canadian/Argentina Bulletin; Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians Bulletin; Canadian Civil Liberties Association Notes; News Bulletin (Canadians Concerned about Southern Africa); The Challenge of the Young Labour Workers (St. Catharines District Labour Council); Current Account Panorama: a monthly review from co-operative press associates; ILO Information (International Labour Office), News Break (Ontario Habitat Foundation); Latin American and Caribbean Labour Report; Ottawa Report (NDP); Women’s Bureau Newsletter (Ontario Ministry of Labour).
Sub-series B: Magazines, 1971-1979


Series V: Resources, 1959-1985

Sub-series A: Articles, 1968-1985, undated

7.19 Articles, 1968-1985. Some of the titles include *A summary of the Employment Standards Act, 1968, and regulations; The Public Ownership of Rental Housing; Memorandum from Dairy Farmers of Canada regarding the Kraft boycott program; Policy on the Hiring of Foreign Workers* (Employment and Immigration Canada); and *Maintaining the Profile of the Eaton’s Boycott and Fairness Campaign during a Provincial Election*.

7.20 Articles, undated. Some of the titles include *Workers are Scapegoats in a Millionaire’s Program to beat inflation; History of Canadian Labour* (Canadian Labour Congress); *the Proposals of the Canadian Labour Congress for amendments to the Canada/Quebec Pension plans; Why trade unionists support political asylum for Hector Marroquin*; and several articles by the NDP on issues such as mining, medicare, shipping and shipbuilding workers, textile workers, forest products workers, public employees, construction workers, pulp and paper workers, food industry workers and housing.

Sub-series B: Legal Resources, 1966-1980

7.21 Legal resources, 1966-80. Includes regulations under the Employment Standards Act, Bill 70—An Act respecting the Occupational Health and Safety of Workers; The Labour Relations Act; some legal cases, and a garbage contract for the City of St. Catharines, 1966.

Sub-series C: Lists, 1964-1984, undated

5.10 Lists, 1964-1984, undated. Includes a list of Officer’s names and addresses of the United Steelworkers of America, St. Catharines, 1964-67; a list of union secretaries; members of Hamilton City Council, the Corporation of Port Colborne, the Cities of Brantford, Burlington, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls; a list of
members of the House of Commons (fourth session, 30th Parliament, undated); and a list of secretary treasurers of local unions. Restricted

Sub-series D: Reports, 1964-1982


8.1 CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation], undated. Includes reports of the CLC-CCF Joint National Committee, the Provincial CCF and Federations of Labour, the Sub-Committee on New Party Constitution, Seminars, Schools and Forums on the New Party, and the Sub-Committee on New Party Platform.
8.2 House of Commons debates, 1978-1979. Includes excerpts from House of Commons debates, including Actions and Questions by NDP members in the 31st Parliament on the Status of Women, October-December 1979, and a list of the members of the House of Commons (undated).


8.4 Opportunities for Youth, 1973-1974. Contains interim and final reports of various projects that were part of the Opportunities for Youth program, a summer employment program for students financed by the federal government.

its appropriate role and design, and a municipal elections report by the St. Catharines New Democratic Party.

**Sub-series E: Speeches, 1959-1980.**

8.6 Speeches, 1959-1980. Speeches include an address to the New Party Seminar by David Lewis, CCF National President, 1959; a speech by T.C. Douglas titled *Can we have jobs without inflation?*, 1971; an address to the Ontario Medical Association titled *Health Care Delivery of the Future* by John R. Evans; speeches by Edward Broadbent in the House of Commons, 1974; and an address to the Premier and Ontario Cabinet by Clifford Pilkey, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, 1978.

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**Related Materials:**


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**Removed Materials:**

Sayles, Fern A. *Welland workers make history.* [Welland, Ont.: For sale by W. Sayles, 1963].
