Shirley Carr fonds
1969-2000
RG 680
Brock University Archives

Creator: Shirley Carr
Extent: 15 cm of textual records (1 small box)
Abstract: The fonds consists of material related to Shirley Carr’s work as President of the Canadian Labour Congress from 1986 to 1992. Much of the material concerns the Canadian Constitution.
Materials: Minutes, correspondence, presentations, notes, addresses and reports.
Repository: Brock University Archives
Processed by: Chantal Cameron
Last updated: April 2019

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Acquisition info.: Material was acquired from Larry Savage in February 2019. The material was given to him by Shirley Carr in 2000.

Scope and content:
The fonds consists of material related to Shirley Carr’s work as President of the Canadian Labour Congress from 1986 to 1992. Materials include minutes, correspondence, presentations, notes, addresses, and reports. Much of the material concerns the Canadian Constitution.

Biographical Sketch:

Shirley Carr was a union activist and officer from Niagara Falls, Ontario. She was instrumental in the formation of a local branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) that represented employees of the Regional Municipality of Niagara. She served as their president until 1974, when she became an executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). In 1986 she became president of the CLC. She was the first female president, as well as the first candidate with a public service background to hold that position.

Under Carr’s leadership, the CLC formed relationships with coalition groups and strengthened ties with the New Democrat Party. She was also a member of the governing body of the International Labour Organization. In this capacity, she defended human rights in repressive regimes around the world and opposed apartheid. She stepped down as president of the CLC in 1992. She died in 2010 in Niagara Falls.

Shirley Carr, The Canadian Encyclopedia
Retrieved: 2019/04/05

Organization:

The fonds was organized into four series:

Series I: Meetings, 1988-1991
Series II: Correspondence, 1990-1991
Series IV: Reports, 1985-1992

Inventory:

Series I: Meetings, 1988-1991
Minutes, 1988-1991


1.3 Minutes, 1990. Contains minutes of the Executive Committee/Council, and the International Affairs Committee from February 1990 to December 1900.


**Provincial Federations of Labour meeting, 1991**

1.5- Contains an agenda; Canadian Labour Congress Action Program; a letter to presidents of Federations of Labour and Local Councils; a how-to guide for Union activists, and training material.

1.6

**Series II: Correspondence, 1990-1991**

1.7 Correspondence regarding the Task Force on the Role and Structure of the CLC, 1990-1991.

1.8 General mailing, November 1990. Contains correspondence sent to members of the CLC executive council, ranking officers, representatives and local unions of affiliated organizations, federations of labour, labour councils and directly chartered local unions.

1.9 CLC position on Canadian Constitution issues, 1969-1991. Contains a statement on behalf of Shirley Carr on aboriginal people and the restoration of their sovereign rights; presentations and statements on the 1987 Constitutional Accord and Meech Lake Accord; Tory Constitutional proposals; and critical comments on the economic provisions of the Constitutional proposal.

1.10 Constitutional Proposals Discussion Notes, 1991. Includes Principles for a Reformed Second Chamber; Property rights and the Charter; Canadian Constitution Resolution; background notes on Senate reform; and *Shaping Canada’s Future Together* proposals.
1.11 Canadian Constitution—Quebec, 1989-1991. Includes the Report of the Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee on the Canadian Constitution; several submissions re: Quebec and the Constitution; news clippings; issues of The Network, newsletter of the Network on the Constitution; the position of the CLC on the Meech Lake Accord; a summary of the Allaire report; and a summary of current New Democrat policies on the Constitution.


Series IV: Reports, 1985-1992


1.16 Presentation to the Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada by the Canadian Labour Congress, February 1992. Also includes an opening statement by Shirley Carr.