

26. The Commission recommends that Canadian businesses avail themselves of the archival advisory services offered by the Business Records Committee of the Public Archives of Canada.
27. The Commission recommends to the Federal Government that a parliamentary committee or other appropriate committee of inquiry be asked to study problems relating to the disposition of the business records and papers of international corporations operating in Canada, and to propose appropriate legislative controls upon the export of such documents. The committee might also wish to consider the application of such controls to other international organizations operating in Canada, including labour unions, charitable and cultural associations, and the like.
28. The Commission recommends the formation of a Committee on the Development of Native Archival Resources with representatives from the archival, academic and native communities, as well as from appropriate Government agencies and private bodies. The task of the committee should be to survey the present state of Canadian archival resources for native studies, to assess future needs, and to develop proposals and procedures for the future development of native archives. Such a committee could perhaps be formed under the aegis of the new Society of Canadian Archivists, in full co-operation with the groups named above.
29. The Commission recommends to the Federal Government, to the Canada Council, and to the Social Science Research Council that they explore the possibility of providing adequate funds to support the preparation of a comprehensive index for at least one leading English-language daily newspaper in each region of Canada, and that similar funds should be made available to support the existing French-language index.
30. The Commission recommends to the Federal Government, and to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in particular, that in the current revision of copyright legislation special consideration be given to the status of archival material and that the new act permit the most liberal use of unpublished documents, for non-commercial purposes.
31. As noted in its chapter on Canadian studies abroad, the Commission strongly supports the microfilm and retrieval programmes now being conducted abroad by the Public Archives of Canada of documentary and other archival materials that bear upon the history and affairs of this country. It recommends that substantially increased financial resources be made available to the Public Archives to enable it to broaden and accelerate its excellent work in this field.

Marcel Caya
Public Archives of Canada

Three Centuries of Documents

In September 1974 historical resources in Canada were enriched by more than 5,000 linear feet of Hudson's Bay Company Archives. In an agreement signed 31 July 1973, between the Company and the Manitoba Government, the records were deposited in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

With mixed feelings about the daunting assignment, the Hudson's Bay Company Archivist arrived at Beaver House, the Company's London headquarters, in the Fall of 1973 to oversee the transfer of the records to

Canada. The majority of the records had been compiled in North America, but there were also large leather-bound ledgers, officers' and servants' account books, and extensive correspondence, which for the first time in three centuries were to be moved outside the famous square mile. In more philosophical moments, the archivist knew that it was a judicious decision to transfer the Archives to Canada where the records would be more widely used and better-housed in the new Manitoba Archives Building.

The winter of 1974 was not a propitious one for the task in London. The energy crisis cut the work week to three days but Beaver House, having its own generator, maintained the five-day work week. Heat was supplied for two hours daily starting at 9:00 a.m. while the uncomplaining staff wore layers of woollen clothing, reminiscent of 19th century fur traders.

In March 1974 the contract to transfer the Archives was awarded to Pitt & Scott, a London shipping firm internationally known for its careful handling of rare paintings. The preliminary work and decisions for the transfer now began. The energy crisis had produced a shortage of all paper products, including boxes necessary to pack the records. To give Pitt & Scott some idea of how many containers would be required, rough estimates of shelf footage, including the height and depth of the documents, were provided. This information was also required by John Bovey, Provincial Archivist of Manitoba, who was to be responsible for the over-all administration of the HBC Archives after the transfer. Shelves were read, labels checked and replaced if necessary. Maps were unrolled and inspected; those in a state of deterioration were sent out for repair. One map required fifty-five hours of restoration work. The unclassified material was unwrapped, contents checked, rewrapped, and tied with pink legal tape—an HBC Archives tradition. Master inventories of documents, maps, paintings, and miscellaneous objects were compiled and typed. While this preliminary work was being completed, mail and telephone inquiries continued to be answered and researchers accommodated by the five staff members.

On 15 July 1974, three men from Pitt & Scott arrived to start the packing of documents. One Archives staff member prepared the packing slips and checked-off the documents. The records were packed in double-strength cardboard boxes and tied with nylon cord. Two additional men packed the paintings and maps in wooden boxes.

Gwendolyn Kemp, the Assistant Archivist, and Shirlee Smith estimated that it would take four people two months to pack the Archives. It was a fairly accurate guess as the work was completed by the first week in September, except for certain specified records which were to be sent by air freight.

Each Archives staff member knew that nothing was to interfere with the "trade" and we were reminded about this by the fur sales executives at

Beaver House. It was not possible to use the elevators between Monday and Friday to move the boxes to the loading platform because sales were being held in September. The eight containers with approximately 120 tons of Archives were loaded on four consecutive Saturdays and Sundays and sent two to a ship, one week apart. The first container was unloaded in Winnipeg on 30 September 1974, and by 1 November the complete collection was under the roof and in the care of the Manitoba Archives. The only casualty was a damaged cover on a book of post plans.

The Manitoba Archives Building officially opened on 17 April 1975. Six months later, researchers from Rhode Island to San Francisco, from Québec City to Vancouver Island, had consulted the HBC records.

Shirlee A. Smith
Hudson's Bay Company Archivist
Provincial Archives of Manitoba

The Department of the Interior Project

In 1936 the federal government abolished the Department of the Interior. Formed in 1873, it had been a major instrument for promoting national development both in administering the natural resources of the prairie provinces and, from 1893 until 1917, in supervising the movement of immigrants to Canada. In 1930, after the signing of the resource transfer agreements, Interior was greatly demoted in prestige and many of its best employees were offered jobs by the prairie governments. Nevertheless, the Department did retain a number of important functions for which it was less well known. Indeed, it remained a major federal agency for promoting scientific research, undertaking national resource planning and conservation, encouraging tourism, administering northern Canada, and mapping and surveying the nation. The Department of the Interior was replaced in 1936 by a revamped organization within a new Department of Mines and Resources which amplified these remaining functions into major national programs. The present Departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Energy, Mines and Resources, and Environment can trace most of their duties and responsibilities back to modest origins within the old Department of the Interior.

Since Interior played such a large and multi-faceted role in national development during a formative period in Canadian history, the Public Records Division of the Public Archives of Canada has started a three-year program to locate, inventory, list and publicize the existence of the Department's extant records. The project is being carried out by four members of PRD's Resource Section: Bryan Corbett, Peter Gillis, Bill