Sharon E. Kahn fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2016)

University of British Columbia Archives

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Fonds Description

Sharon E. Kahn fonds. – 1987-2004.
48 cm of textual records.
1 B&W photograph.

Biographical Sketch

Sharon Elaine Kahn was born in Kansas City, Missouri, USA in 1946. She received post-secondary degrees from Washington University, St. Louis (BA English Literature 1968), Boston University (Med Counseling and Guidance 1969), and Arizona State University (PhD Counseling Psychology 1975). In 1975, Kahn accepted a faculty position in the Department of Counselling Psychology at the University of British Columbia, where she earned tenure and was promoted to full professor. Kahn concentrated her research on counseling theory, gender-fair practices, and women's career issues. Her scholarly activities included two edited books, seven book chapters, more than twenty-five refereed articles, as well as numerous conference presentations and research reports.

In 1989, Kahn became UBC's first Director of Employment Equity, and in 1994, she was appointed UBC's first Associate Vice President, Equity, responsible for administering the University's employment and educational equity programs and for its handling complaints of discrimination and harassment. Under her direction, UBC received two Certificates of Merit from the federal government for special achievement in implementing an employment equity work plan and maintaining a representative workforce. In 1997, Human Resources Development Canada awarded the University its Vision Award for the excellence of its employment equity program. In 2006, Kahn became UBC's first Academic Leadership Coach, a position that supports the University's senior leadership. Kahn retired from UBC in 2013.

In 1986, Kahn married Thomas Edgar Blom, a professor of English literature at the University of British Columbia. Professor Blom died in 2003. In 2015, Kahn married Barrie James MacFadden, a retired Vancouver elementary school teacher.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records which primarily document Sharon Kahn's activities as Director of Employment Equity (1989-94) and Associate Vice-President, Equity (1994-2005). The records include correspondence, reports, minutes, clippings, and other published materials. They are arranged in two series: the Equity Office series, which documents in a general sense UBC's Equity Office and Kahn's activities as its head; and the Equity Cases series, which documents two high-profile cases with which Kahn and the Equity Office were involved.

Notes

File list available.

Some restrictions apply – contact the University Archives for further information.

Donated to the University Archives by Sharon Kahn in August 2016.

Series Descriptions

Equity Office series. – 1987-2003.
25 cm of textual records.
1 B&W photograph.

Series documents the responsibilities, programmes, and activities of UBC's Equity Office and of Sharon Kahn as its head, and includes correspondence, reports, minutes, clippings and other published materials, and one photograph. The files are arranged in chronological order.

Photograph is stored separately.

Equity Cases series. – 1992-2004.
23 cm of textual records.

Series documents Sharon Kahn's and the Equity Office's involvement in two high-profile cases: allegations by some graduate students of systemic racism and sexism in the Department of Political Science, and allegations of sexual harassment against a prominent psychology professor by one of his students. The series consists of correspondence, reports, minutes, and clippings. The files are arranged in chronological order.

Access restricted – contact the University Archives for further information.

File List

EQUITY OFFICE SERIES

BOX 1

1-1 [Miscellaneous correspondence] 1987-2001
1-2 "Meeting Good Company" [1988?] [photograph removed]

187.1/1 Sharon Kahn, Stephen Marks, and Robert Tolsma promoting "Meeting Good Company" workshop. – 18 x 12.5 cm B&W glossy print. – [ca. 1988].

1-3 Employment Equity Action Plan 1989
1-4 [Speaking notes] 1989-2002 [2 folders]
1-5 [Employment Equity – publications and brochures] [ca. 1989]
1-6 [Employment Equity and application for AVP Equity position] 1990-94
1-7 [Equity matters – correspondence] 1990-96

BOX 2

2-1 [Equity matters – documents] 1990-97
2-2 [Clippings and press releases] 1991-96
2-3 [Miscellaneous correspondence] 1991-2002
2-4 [Reports, correspondence, and speaking notes] 1993-2003
2-5 Personal [correspondence] 1994-99
2-6 Employment Equity Merit Awards 1995-97
2-7 [Correspondence re. equity issues] 1995-2001
2-8 [Equity matters – documents] 1995-2001
2-9 Equity Office – Annual Reports 1995-98, 2001-03

BOX 3

3-1 [Equity reviews and reports] 1998-2003

EQUITY CASES SERIES *** RESTRICTED***

3-2 [Political Science – correspondence] 1992-95 [2 folders]
3-3 Report in Respect of the Political Science Department of the University of British Columbia ["McEwen Report"] 15 June 1995

3-4 [Political Science aftermath – timeline, clippings, correspondence] 1995
3-5 ["Academic Freedom and the Inclusive University" – conference] 1995-97
3-6 John Grace Advisory Committee on Political Science [reports, minutes, correspondence] 1995-97

BOX 4

4-1 John Grace Advisory Committee on Political Science [reports, minutes, correspondence] [cont.] 1995-97 [3 folders]
4-2 [Correspondence re. equity cases] 1996-99
4-3 [Political Science aftermath – clippings, correspondence] 1998-99
4-4 Dutton Clipping File 1998-2001
4-5 [Dutton case – correspondence] 2001-04