

Ronald Shearer fonds

Compiled by Christopher Hives (1986)

Revised by Stacy Paull (2016, 2017) and Grace Phippard (2024)



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 - Academic Advisory Committee on Constitutional Changes
 - Banking Legislation
 - Senate ad hoc Committee on University Organization
 - Economics Research and Writing
 - Consultation Files
 - Teaching Files
 - British Columbia History Research and Writing
 - Photographs

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- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

Ronald Shearer fonds. – 1946-2023.

182 cm of textual records.

8 photographs.

Biographical Sketch

Ronald Shearer was born in Trail, B.C. on June 15, 1932. Around 1937, Shearer's family moved to Rossland B.C. and in 1950 Shearer graduated from Rossland High School. After completing his B.A. at UBC (1954), he studied economics at Ohio State University, receiving his M.A. (1955) and Ph.D. (1959) there. Shearer taught at the University of Michigan before joining the Department of Economics at UBC in 1964. He served as head of the Department from 1972 to 1976. In his time at UBC he served on several committees that had great effect on the university and economic and constitutional issues in the province and Canada. These are a few: in 1971, Shearer, along with colleague Anthony Scott, prepared a submission for the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. In 1977, Shearer wrote and distributed a brief to the Canadian Minister of Finance on purposed changes to banking legislation. In 1979 and 1980, Shearer served on the Academic Advisory Committee on Constitutional Changes. Shearer also led the Senate ad hoc Committee on University Organization at UBC, in this position he led the process or reorganizing the university and its departments. In 1997, Shearer retired from UBC but continued researching Economics in Canada, as well as the history of Rossland, his hometown.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of notes, correspondence, reports, and drafts produced by Shearer and others related to his participation in the Standing Committee on National Finance, The Academic Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform, written briefs on the revision of banking legislation in Canada in 1977 and the Senate ad hoc Committee on University Organization.

The fonds also includes research, drafts, and publications relating to Shearer's research in Economics, as well as British Columbian history. A small amount of material relates to Shearer's teaching in Economics at the University of British Columbia.

Notes

File list available.

For access to the Consultation Files series, please consult the University Archives.

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

File titles supplied by archivists are indicated with square brackets [].

Series Descriptions

Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. – 1971.

13 cm of textual materials.

Series contains briefs, correspondence, clippings and proceedings related to participation in Standing Senate Committee on National Finance.

Academic Advisory Committee on Constitutional Changes. – 1967-1992.

26 cm of textual materials.

Series contains reports, debates and essays related to purposed constitutional reform and the materials used by the Academic Advisory committee to produce reports on the proposed constitutional changes.

Banking Legislation. – 1962-1977.

20 cm of textual materials.

Series includes reports, correspondence and notes related to revising the Banking Act of 1977.

Senate ad hoc Committee on University Organization. – 1946-1995.

13 cm of textual materials.

Series includes reports, drafts, correspondence and notes from the Senate ad hoc Committee on University Organization, also includes reports on organization of other universities.

Economics Research and Writing. — 1955-2009.

66 cm of textual materials.

Series includes drafts, correspondence between co-authors, comments from publishers, research notes, charts, graphics, and final published articles.

Consultation Files. — 1995-2008.

5 cm of textual materials.

Series includes correspondence, research, and reports relating to consulting legal and legislative consulting work.

For access, please consult the University Archives.

Teaching Files. — 1994.

1 cm of textual materials.

Series includes review questions for Economics 336 at UBC.

British Columbia History Research and Writing. — 2001-2023.

38 cm of textual materials.

Series contains archival research, drafts, published writing, notes, and correspondence relating to the history of British Columbia, particularly in Rossland and Eastgate.

Familial research, personal correspondence, and an autobiography (10-8) can also be found in this series.

Photographs series. — 2013-2014.

8 photographs.

Series contains photographs from Shearer's personal correspondence and his research on Rossland, BC history.

Photographs are numbered UBC 205.1/1 to UBC 205.1/8.

File List

BOX 1

STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL FINANCE

Background

1-1 Background Paper - Senator Douglas D. Everett [n.d.]

1-2 Proceedings (May 1971)

Briefs

1-3 Sir Roy Harrod (May 4, 1971)

1-4 Arthur J. Smith - Economic Council of Canada (May 4, 1971)

1-5 R.C. Bellan - U. of Manitoba (May 1971)

1-6 Richard Lipsey - Queen's University (May 4, 1971)

1-7 John Crispo - U. of Toronto (May 1971)

1-8 Douglas Gibson (May 1971)

1-9 Saburo Okita - Japanese Research Institute (May 4, 1971)

1-10 A.D. Scott and Ronald Shearer - U. of British Columbia (May 4, 1971)

1-11 Grant Reuber - U. of Western Ontario (May 1971)

1-12 J.H. Young - Prices and Incomes Commission [n.d.]

1-13 Keith Acheson - Carleton U. / John Chant - Queen's U. (May 17, 1971)

1-14 C.L. Barber - U. of Manitoba (May 17, 1971)

1-15 Raymond J. Saulnier - Columbia U. (May 25, 1971)

- 1-16 Russell Bell - Canadian Labour Congress (May 25, 1971)
- 1-17 Harry Johnson - London School of Economics (May 25, 1971)
- 1-18 Rene Leclerc - Canadian Bankers' Association (May 25, 1971)
- 1-19 Herbert Giersch - U. of Kiel (May 25, 1971)
- 1-20 Arthur M. Okun - Brookings Institute (June 14, 1971)
- 1-21 John F. Graham - Dalhousie U. (June 7, 1971)
- 1-22 Andre Raynauld - U. of Manitoba (June 7, 1971)
- 1-23 Beryl Wayne Sprinkel - Harris Trust and Savings Bank (June 7, 1971)
- 1-24 J.J. Deutsch - Queen's U. (June 14, 1971)
- 1-25 Thomas A. Wilson - U. of Toronto (June 1971)
- 1-26 J.M. Knowles - Joint Economic Committee (June 14, 1971)
- 1-27 Governor Louis Rasminsky - Bank of Canada (June 14, 1971)

Miscellaneous

- 1-28 Clippings [n.d.]
- 1-29 Correspondence - Anthony Scott (April-May 1971)

BOX 2

ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

- 2-1 [Speaking Notes] (1980)
- 2-2 [Constitutional Reports] (1980)
- 2-3 [Court of Appeals] (1980)

- 2-4 [British Columbia Constitutional Report] (1980)
- 2-5 [British Columbia Legislative Debates] (1980)
- 2-6 [Academic Advisory Committee Materials] (1980)
- 2-7 [Academic Advisory Committee Reports] (1979)
- 2-8 [Alan C. Cairns Essays] (1979)
- 2-9 Memos, Agendas, ect. (1979-1982)
- 2-10 [Constitution/Quebec Reports] (1980)
- 2-11 [Misc. Reports] (1979-1992)

(continued)

BANKING LEGISLATION

- 2-12 [Reports on Banking Legislation] (1976)
- 2-13 [Banking Legislation Correspondence] (1977)
- 2-14 [Banking Legislation Correspondence 2] (1977)
- 2-15 [Banking Legislation Correspondence 3] (1977)
- 2-16 [1977 Revisions of Bank Act] (1975-1976)
- 2-17 [Comments on Canadian Banking Legislation] (1977)
- 2-18 [Comments on Canadian Banking Legislation 2] (1977)

(continued)

SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION

- 2-19 Org: General Administration (1993-1995)
- 2-20 Members (1994)
- 2-21 Priorities (December 1993)
- 2-22 Terms of Reference (September 1993)
- 2-23 List-Deans, Heads [n.d.]
- 2-24 Meeting Minutes, Agendas & Notes 1] (1993)
- 2-25 [Meeting Minutes, Agendas & Notes 2] (1994-1995)
- 2-26 [Meeting Minutes, Agendas & Notes 3] (1993-1994)
- 2-27 [University Organization] Report May 94 [and correspondence] (1994)
- 2-28 [University Organization Report] Process (March 1994)
- 2-29 [University Organization] Draft 1 April (1994)
- 2-30 [University Organization] Draft 3 April (1994)
- 2-31 3rd Report [The Process of Institutional Reform: report, drafts, correspondence & notes] (1995)
- 2-32 Centralization - Report (January 1995)
- 2-33 Centralization – Draft 4 (November 1994)
- 2-34 Centralization – Draft 3 (November 1994)
- 2-35 [Centralization – Correspondence] (1994-1995)
- 2-36 Commerce – Mgt. Syst. (1992-1993)
- 2-37 Academic Policy Committee New Faculties (April 1993)

- 2-38 Admin Appts: Policy [n.d.]
- 2-39 Head Stipends [data] (1992-1993)
- 2-40 Cost of Head (1993)
- 2-41 FTE Faculty-Students (1946, 1993)
- 2-42 [Department] Size [data] (1993)

BOX 3

- 3-1 [Department] Size – Replies (1994)
- 3-2 The Department [/Misc] (1993-1994)
- 3-3 First Letter [& Drafts to Departments] (1993)
- 3-4 Medicine – SBL Report [Senate Budget Committee Presentation] (1993)
- 3-5 [Faculty of Medicine – Presentation] (April 1994)
- 3-6 Health Sciences – Replies (April 1994)
- 3-7 Health Science Miscell (1994)
- 3-8 [Replies] Geography & Soil Science (1994)
- 3-9 [Replies] Natural Resources (1994)
- 3-10 Replies Agriculture (1993)
- 3-11 Replies: Science (1993)
- 3-12 Replies: Arts (1993-1994)
- 3-13 Replies: Other (1993-1994)
- 3-14 Replies: Applied Science (1993)

- 3-15 [Replies] Education (1993-1994)
- 3-16 Dupre Report [& Journal Articles] (1993-1994)
- 3-17 [Other University Organization Reports] (1990-1993)

BOX 4

ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (cont.)

- 4-1 [Continuing Committee of Ministers on Constitution 1980] (1980)
- 4-2 [Canadian Economy and the Constitution Reports] (1980)
- 4-3 [Constitutional Meeting July 22-25 1980 Reports] (1980)

(continued)

BANKING LEGISLATION (cont.)

- 4-4 Monetary Policy and the Current Account of the Balance of International Payments (1962)
- 4-5 Royal Commission on Banking and Finance Vol. 29 (1962)
- 4-6 Royal Commission on Banking and Finance Vol. 30 (1962)
- 4-7 The Chartered Banks (1962)
- 4-8 The Credit Unions and Caisses on Populaires (1962)

BOX 5

ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (cont.)

- 5-1 [Advisory Committee on Confederation Misc.] (1977-1978)

- 5-2 [Advisory Committee on Confederation Language Question] (1978)
- 5-3 [Advisory Committee on Confederation Meeting Minutes] (1977-1978)
- 5-4 [Advisory Committee on Confederation Correspondence] (1977-1978)
- 5-5 [Advisory Committee on Confederation Papers & Drafts] (1977-1978)
- 5-6 [Advisory Committee on Confederation Papers & Drafts] (1977-1978)

BOX 6

ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND WRITING

The Finance Act

- 6-1 [Drafts on the Finance Act, written by Carolyn Clark and Ronald A. Shearer] (1974-1975)
- 6-2 Monetary Policy Under the Finance Act (1976)
-Draft, "New Evidence on Monetary Policy Under the Finance Act, 1920-1934" by Carolyn Clark and Ronald A. Shearer
- 6-3 [Draft, "New Evidence on Monetary Policy Under the Finance Act, 1920-1934" by Carolyn Clark and Ronald A. Shearer] [n.d.]
- 6-4 [Notes] Finance Act Early History [n.d.]
- 6-5 Charts: Finance Act [n.d.]

Building Societies

- 6-6 The Business History Review (1985)
-Edits to "Terminating Building Societies in Quebec City, 1850-1864" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer
- 6-7 Building Societies (July 24, 1989)
-Draft, "Terminating Building Societies in Quebec City, 1850-1864" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer

Money Supply

- 6-8 Canadian Journal of Economics (1986-1992)
-Edits to "The Supply of Canadian Money, 1824-1871: Estimates and Implications" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer
- 6-9 Savings Banks-Charts (1991)
- 6-10 [Research and Drafts, "The Supply of Canadian Money, 1824-1871" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer] (1991-1992)
- 6-11 [Edits, "The Supply of Canadian Money, 1824-1871: The Estimates" Canadian Journal of Economics] (1992)
- 6-12 [Technical Appendices, "The Supply of Canadian Money, 1824-1871" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer] (1992)
- 6-13 [Draft, "Seasonal Factors in the Money Supply, 1842-1871" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer] [n.d.]

Savings Banks in Lower Canada

- 6-14 Savings Banks (1988-1989)
- 6-15 [Revised First Draft, "First Generation Savings Banks in Lower Canada" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer] (1989)
- 6-16 [Comments, "First Generation Savings Banks"] (1990)
- 6-17 Correspondence with Private Banks [on Early Banking in Lower Canada] (1991)
- 6-18 Banks for the Industrious Classes (1991-1992)
-Edits by the Journal of Economic History to "Banks for the Industrious Classes of Her Majesty's Subjects" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Patterson
- 6-19 ["How Did 'The Industrious Classes of Her Majesty's Subjects' Save? First Generation Savings Banks in Lower Canada" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer] (1992)

Railroads

- 6-20 Tugging on Bootstraps (1992)
-Full title, "Tugging on the Bootstraps: Funding the First International Railway" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer
- 6-21 St. Lawrence and Atlantic [Railroad, Research] Comments [n.d.]

Lower Fraser Basin

- 6-22 [Writing and Research on Fraser Valley Forest Industry] (1994-1995)
- 6-23 [Correspondence, "The Clear-Cutting of the Forrest of the Lower Fraser Basin" Canadian Economic Association] (March 13, 1995)
- 6-24 [Correspondence with R. Morey Porter on] Fraser Drainage (March 27, 1995)
- 6-25 [Draft, "Canadian Resource Management That Changed an Economic Landscape: A Historical Review of Policies Influencing Early Logging in the Pre-1930's Within British Columbia's Lower Fraser Valley and Neighboring Whatcom County, Washington" by Ronald A. Shearer and John T. Sproul] (April 25, 1995)
- 6-26 [Draft, "The Valley and the City: Aspects of the Economic History of the Lower Fraser Basin" by R. Morey Porter, Ronald A. Shearer, and John T. Sproul] (May 3, 1995)
- 6-27 [Draft, "Clear-Cutting the Lower Fraser Basin, Some Institutional Considerations" by Ronald A. Shearer and John T. Sproul] (May 26, 1995)
- 6-28 [Policy Workshop, "Aspects of the Economic History of the Lower Fraser Basin" by Ronald A. Shearer and John T. Sproul] (October 3, 1996)
- 6-29 Abbotsford Symposium ["The Lower Fraser Basin, its Landscape and its People"] (1996)
- 6-30 [Notes and Research on] Fraser Floods (1997)

Exchange Rates

- 6-31 Two Faces of the Exchange Rate Regime (August 1999)
-Full title, "Canada's Monetary System in Historical Perspective: Two Faces of the Exchange Rate Regime" by M. Bordo, Angela Redish, and Ronald A. Shearer
- 6-32 [Drafts and Edits, "Canada's Banking and Monetary Systems in Historical Perspective: Two Faces of the Exchange Rate Regime" by M. Bordo, Angela Redish, and Ronald A. Shearer] (1999-2000)

Other Projects

- 6-33 [Master's Thesis] (1955)
- 6-34/35 [PhD Dissertation] (1959)
- 6-36 BC Economy in Perspective Data [ca. 1976]
- 6-37 [Draft,] "The Provincial Economy in Perspective" Ronald A. Shearer (1977-1978)
- 6-38 Great Victorian Bust (1990)
-Draft, "Canada and the Great Victorian Bust" by Ronald A. Shearer and Donald G. Patterson
- 6-39 Palgrave (1990-1992)
-Note, correspondence on Shearer's contributions to the Palgrave Dictionary of Money and Finance
- 6-40 "The Exchange Rate and the Constitution" by John F. Chant and Ronald A. Shearer (May 1991)
-Full title, "Money, the Exchange Rate, and the Constitution"
- 6-41 ["Was The Farmer's Bank Given a Bum Rap?" by Ronald A. Shearer and Donald G. Patterson] (1992)
- 6-42 [Drafts and Charts for Numerous Projects] (1992-1998)
- 6-43 ["The Economy" by Ronald A. Shearer] (1993)

- 6-44 [Draft, "Perspectives on the Pre-Confederation Financial Institutions and Financial Markets of Central Canada" by Ronald A. Shearer] (September 1995)
- 6-45 Banking on the Gold Frontier (1997-2009)
-Draft, "Banking on the Fold Frontier: Notes on Early Banking in British Columbia" by Ronald A. Shearer
- 6-46 California and the Gold Standard (February 1998)
-Draft, "California and the Gold Standard During the American Civil War" by Ronald A. Shearer

BOX 7

Research Files

- 7-1/2 Archives [Research for Multiple Projects] (1982-1997)
- 7-3 Correspondence: [Archival] Research (1986-1991)
- 7-4 Archives [Research Correspondence]: Bank of Montreal (1986-2000)
- 7-5 Gussman Data Trust Companies (1989)
- 7-6 Bank of Montreal [Archival Research Notes] (1991)
- 7-7/8 1907 (I) Charts & Computer Files [Research Data] (1999)
- 7-9 Dominion Notes: Imperial Treasury Bills [n.d.]
- 7-10 [Insurance Companies Research Data] [n.d.]

BOX 8

- 8-1 Archives [Research] Public Finance [n.d.]
- 8-2/4 [Research] Public Debt 1915-1924 [n.d.]

(continued)

Reviews and Edits of Others' Writing

8-5 Adam Smith Monetary Economics (1980-1982)

8-6 Book Reviews (1987-1997)

BOX 9

9-1 [Correspondence, Requests for Shearer's Comments on Papers] (1986-1987)

Research files (cont.)

9-2 Savings Banks: New Zealand (1989-1991)
-Note, may relate to the paper "Banks for the Industrious Classes of Her Majesty's Subjects" by Donald G. Patterson and Ronald A. Shearer

CONSULTATION FILES

9-3 MB (1995-1996)
-Note, Ronald Shearer consulted for MacMillan Bloedel Limited on matters relating to Timber Licensing policy in British Columbia.
-For access, please consult the University Archives.

9-4 Cash Credits (2006-2008)
-Note, Ronald Shearer consulted on a legal case relating to Canadian Banks' cash credit policies.
-For access, please consult the University Archives.

TEACHING FILES

9-5 Review Questions [Economics 336] (1994)

BOX 10

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORY RESEARCH AND WRITING

Rossland

- 10-1/3 Rossland History [Research] (2001-2016)
- 10-4 Woodlands Memorial Garden (2005-2007)
- 10-5/6 Class of 1950 (2006-2007)
-Note, research on the history of the class of 1950 from Rossland High School
- 10-7 ["The Chinese and Chinatown of Rossland: Fragments From Their Early History" by Ronald Shearer] (2008)
- 10-8 ["A Rich Diversity: Autobiographies of the members of the classes of 1949 and 1950 of the Rossland High School"] [ca. 2008]
- 10-9 Chinese Revision Paper (2008-2010)
- 10-10 [Correspondence on Rossland Research] (2008-2012)
- 10-11 Chinese and Chinatown, Long Version (2008-2012)
-Note, includes research and edited drafts on Chinatown in Rossland
- 10-12 [Chinese Community in Rossland, Research] (2008-2016)
- 10-13 ["Fragments: Essays on Neglected Aspects of Rossland's History" by Ronald A. Shearer] (2009-2012)
- 10-14 "Mid-Winter Mardi Gras: Rossland's Original Winter Carnival" by Ronald A. Shearer (2010)
- 10-15/16 Jeldness Administration (2010-2014)
- 10-17 ["Yes, There Was Skiing In Rossland before We Built The Chair Lift. And We Had Lots of Fun" by Ronald A. Shearer] (2011)
- 10-18 Rossland Archives [Research] (2012)

- 10-19 ["The Chinese and Chinatown of Old Rossland" by Ronald A. Shearer]
(September 4, 2012)
-Note, text from a lecture given by Ronald A. Shearer
- 10-20 [Correspondence] Don Leslie Smith re: Jeldness (2013)
- 10-21 [Correspondence] Magne Holten (2013)
- 10-22 [Correspondence] Ray Hancock (2013-2023)
- 10-23 ["Olaus Jeldness: Pioneer Mining Man and Father of Skiing at Rossland,
British Columbia and Spokane, Washington" by Ronald A. Shearer (June
2014)
- 10-24/25 ["Some Little Known Incidents and Characters From Rossland's Golden Age"
by Ronald A. Shearer] (August 2014)
- 10-26 Norma Shearer Family (2022)
- 10-27 "Who Owned the Land?" [n.d.]
-Full title, "Who Owned the Land? Eber Smith and the Struggle for the Land
Base of Early Rossland" by Ronald A. Shearer
- Eastgate
- 10-28 Fire Society History, Administration (2010-2012)
- 10-29 [Correspondence and Research on Eastgate History] (2010-2016)
- 10-30 ["Fire! A History of the Eastgate Fire Protection Society" by Ronald A.
Shearer] (February 2, 2011)
- 10-31 ["Fire! A History of the Eastgate Fire Protection Society" by Ronald A.
Shearer] (August 5, 2011)
- 10-32 ["Fire! A History of the Eastgate Fire Protection Society" by Ronald A.
Shearer] (May 19, 2016)

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 205.1/1 Magne Holten and wife Bonnie Moen (we are a little older now though) [ca. 2013]
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-21
- 205.1/2 The little farm Tröin in Stangvik [Norway] where Olaus Jeldness was born and lived before he immigrated to America. New picture taken by Magne Holten [ca. 2013]
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-21
- 205.1/3 Gjeldnes Farm (Gjeldnes Oppistua/The Upper farm [in] Surnadal. New photo by Magne Holten [ca. 2013]
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-21
- 205.1/4 Gjeldnes farm (Gjeldnes Oppistua/The Upper farm in Surnadal (old photo) Here was Nids Gjeldnes, father to Olaus born [n.d.]
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-21
- 205.1/5 [Ray Hancock (center), Ronald Shearer (right)] (September 7, 2014)
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-22 enclosed in Ray Hancock's letter dated September 12, 2014
- 205.1/6 [Ronald Shearer (center), Ray Hancock (right)] Blackmail is always a possibility [ca. 2014]
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-22 enclosed in Ray Hancock's letter dated September 12, 2014
- 205.1/7 [Ronald Shearer (left), Ray Hancock (right)] (January 27, 2013)
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-22
- 205.1/8 [Ronald Shearer (center left), Marcie Powell (center right), Ray Hancock (right)] (January 27, 2013)
-Note, this photograph was originally in file 10-22