

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:

Fonds

No.:

AU005

TITLE:

Slave River Coalition fonds

CREATOR:

Slave River Coalition

DATE RANGE:

1971-2009, predominant 1982-1986

EXTENT:

0.41 m of textual records. - 1 copied photograph

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

The Slave River Coalition is a conservation group concerned with environmental and wildlife protection in the Slave River, Alberta region. In the early 1980s, the coalition was involved in researching the proposed Slave River Hydro Development Project, and the Slave River Hydro Feasibility Study (released in June 1982) conducted by Alberta Environment to investigate the economic benefit and environmental impacts of the proposed dam. The coalition criticized this controversial project that had the potential of jeopardizing nesting grounds of the White Pelican, threatening breeding areas of the endangered Whooping Crane, and causing flooding in the Peace-Athabasca Delta.

In the mid-1980s the Slave River Coalition was also involved in investigating water resource management issues in the Mackenzie River Basin, especially the effects of an upstream hydro-electric development on the Mackenzie Delta, and the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

In April 1989, the coalition joined the Town of Fort Smith, the Dene Nation, and the Northwest Territories Métis Association in calling for a moratorium on pulp mill construction until a federal assessment could be held. The coalition expressed great concern over the potential deleterious effects on water quality, not only in the immediate area, but throughout the Athabasca and Slave River drainage basins, which extend into the Northwest Territories.

The role of the coalition's coordinator was filled by Deirdre E. Griffiths, a freelance artist-ecologist who had been involved in Slave River issues for a number of years. She and her husband currently reside in Athabasca, Alberta.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Fonds consists of documents related to the proposed Slave River Hydroelectric Project and various studies conducted in the Mackenzie River Basin. These records include: studies and reports, periodicals, photocopied publications, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, correspondence and envelopes, notes, photocopied papers related to the construction of the Bighorn and Brazeau Dams, a Dene Nation Newsletter, photocopied and hand drawn maps and figures, and overhead transparencies.

The copied photograph in the fonds depicts the Mackenzie Delta from an aerial perspective.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

The maps were hand drawn on very thin and/or fragile paper. Newspaper clippings are somewhat fragile.

CONSERVATION:

Conservation copies were made of the newspaper clippings and one of the maps. Those maps of the appropriate size and the overhead projector transparencies were encapsulated.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE:

Items were not received in any discernible order.

LANGUAGE NOTE:

The material is in English.

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:

The records in this fonds were donated by Deirdre E. Griffiths, a member of the Slave River Coalition, in 2008.

ACCESS CONDITIONS:

None.

USE CONDITIONS:

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

FINDING AIDS:

File list available.

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:

2008.010

Further accruals are not expected.

ASSOCIATED MATERIAL:

A painting by Deirdre Griffiths can be found in the town of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories.

GENERAL NOTE:

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records.

The fonds level description and finding aid were created by Dayna Kwasney (summer student) in 2009.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Dams

Environmental impact analysis

Hydroelectric power plants

Natural gas, pipelines - - Mackenzie Delta

Rivers

Water - - Law and legislation

Water resources development

Wildlife conservation