

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Series

**No.:**

AU023.002S

**FORMS PART OF:**

AU023 Martha Kostuch fonds

**TITLE:**

Acid rain series

**CREATOR:**

Kostuch, Martha

**DATE RANGE:**

1966-2003, predominantly 1981-1999

**EXTENT:**

2.58 m textual records and other material

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

In 1978, while investigating unusual animal health problems in and around Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Martha Kostuch became aware of high sulphur dioxide emissions from nearby sour gas plants. When investigating the link between SO<sub>2</sub> and its effects on health, she became aware that SO<sub>2</sub> was a major contributor to acid rain.

After researching acid rain and the dangers it posed, she helped to establish the Prairie Acid Rain Coalition (PARC) in October 1981 and was Chair of that organization until her death. Kostuch assembled a large collection of information about acid rain that she freely copied and sent out to anyone who requested information. She worked with other organizations to conduct workshops and hold information seminars on acid rain.

Kostuch was an active member of several national, provincial and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that often worked with diverse multi-stakeholder groups, including industry, to create provincial and Canada wide standards and regulations for acid rain forming air emissions. She was Chair of the Steering Committee on a Canada/US Acid Rain Partnership committee from 1988-1992 that worked to raise public awareness and promote positive action against acid rain.

Kostuch attended, and often coordinated conferences, symposiums, and forums to learn more about acid rain, and to bring national and international attention to the problem in order to force governments to take action. In 1986, she attended a global NGO Conference on Acid Rain in Lida, Stockholm, and learned of the tremendous

damage to the environment caused by industry in Europe. In 1987 she wrote an article entitled *The Sour Side of Acid Rain*, that was published in several magazines and helped explain in plain language what acid rain is, how it is formed and how it affects the environment.

Kostuch also wrote speeches, briefs and prepared presentations in an effort to bring acid rain to public attention. She delivered these to schools, children's groups, to government and NGO environmental groups, workshops, conferences and forums.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY:**

In April 2008, Martha Kostuch signed an agreement with Athabasca University to have her records digitized but she passed away before this work could be started. After her death on April 23, 2008, her records went into the custody of her son Edward and in July 2008, he donated the records to Athabasca University.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of material pertaining mainly to Kostuch's investigations and research into acid rain and her work with organizations to find solutions to the acid rain problem.

The textual records consist mainly of reports and articles on animal and human health effects, the effect on water, soil and plant health; several reports are written before the term 'acid rain' was coined. Other reports include, information on the oil sands, long range transport of air pollutants, reports from workshops on acid deposition and acidifying emissions and records from the proceedings and evidence of the Canadian Government's Standing Committee on the Environment.

Records also include, newsletters published by environmental groups, newspaper clippings, correspondence, news releases, campaign brochures, notes and several briefs and speeches by Martha Kostuch, Member of Parliament, Charles Caccia, and others. As well, much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

The transparencies depict acid deposition sensitivity on maps of Alberta. The two photographs are group shots from a conference on acid rain that Kostuch attended in Amsterdam, Holland. The postcard depicts a forest killed by acid rain in Holland.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Series also includes 20 transparencies. – 4 maps. – 2 photographs.- 6 newsletters. – 1 poster. – 1 postcard.

**CONSERVATION:**

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper.

**ARRANGEMENT NOTE:**

Series have been based on the major topics identified from the creator's arrangement, though some records may pertain to a number of series.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

The material is in English.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

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

**FINDING AIDS:**

Box list and file list are available. Some of the material is available in electronic form.

**INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2008.015

Further accruals are not expected.

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records and from *The Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Red Deer Advocate* newspapers.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Air - - Pollution

Ecology

Environmental policy - - research

Pollutants