

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds

**NO.:**

AU026

**TITLE:**

Prosperity Environmental Association fonds

**CREATOR:**

Opryshko, Peter

**DATE RANGE:**

1981-2003

**EXTENT:**

0.52 m of textual records and other materials

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:**

On December 13, 1988 it was revealed that a single-line bleached kraft pulp mill would be built in the County of Athabasca near the Athabasca River. Following the Alberta government's announcement, the Prosperity Environmental Association (PEA) was formed and together with the Friends of the Athabasca Environmental Association, brought public attention to the chemical process used in the pulping process and its potentially harmful effects on humans and the environment. The group started with the residents of the community of Prosperity, Alberta working together in an ad hoc group called the Prosperity Pulp Mill Information Group. On April 5, 1989 the name changed to the Prosperity Environmental Group, and on August 1, 1989 the group was incorporated as The Prosperity Environmental Association (PEA). Founding members included, President Emil Zachkewich, Secretary Peter Opryshko, George Fleming, Roseanne Aleksiuik and Nick Zilinski. The PEA was a group of 125 members from the farming community located near the proposed Alberta-Pacific Forestries Inc. (Al-Pac) pulp mill. The group aimed to represent the 125 residents and landowners within the surrounding 12 km radius of the proposed pulp mill.

The PEA was successful in demanding public hearings and making Al-Pac account for their pulping processes and create a baseline study of the environment prior to the development. On August 20, 1989 seven members of the PEA met with Alberta Environment Minister Ralph Klein regarding their issues and concerns with having a pulp mill in their community. One of the major concerns was site selection among the farming community. The PEA raised \$37,000.00 to hire consultants and pay expenses for interventions. As a member of the PEA, Peter Opryshko worked to ensure fair environmental public hearings were carried out, and tried to stop the building of the mill by suing the government for contravening their own *Clean Air* and *Clean Water Acts*.

The PEA also fought against the expropriation of land in Prosperity for Al-Pac rail spurs proposed by Canadian National Railways (CNR). The railways were to service the new Al-Pac pulp mill. Opryshko, along with other members of the PEA, objected to the construction of the proposed railway lines on the grounds that the safety of their property would be jeopardized. Members of the PEA, and Prosperity land owners, were concerned with the toxic chemicals which the trains would be carrying and the effects they would have on their land. In 1992, PEA also fought against Al-Pac's proposed landfill and dry waste site.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

Fonds consists of materials related to the Prosperity Environmental Association, the Al-Pac pulp mill in Alberta and the construction of a railway in Prosperity, Alberta. Textual records include: correspondence, newspaper articles, minutes, notes, schedules, agendas, reports, newsletters, notices, application forms, fax cover sheets, agreements, legal documents, permits, account statements, contact lists, by-laws, flyers, supplemental information sheets, song lyrics, envelopes, articles, *Friends of the Athabasca* newsletters, announcements, site drawings, proposals, appendices, news releases, memorandums, terms of reference, mailing lists, posters, municipal plans, site plans, maps and issues of *The Mirror Northern Report*, *Environment Network News*, *Alberta's New Democrat* and *Transitions Inland Empire Public Lands Council*.

Also included are DVDs of a Prosperity Environmental Association meeting and clips of news broadcasts pertaining to the Al-Pac pulp mill in northern Alberta and environmental issues related to forestry.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds also includes 4 DVDs. - 2 posters. - 9 site plans. - 5 maps.

**PHYSICAL CONDITION:**

The records are in good physical condition.

**CONSERVATION:**

Conservation copies were made of sticky notes, fax paper and newspaper clippings.

**ARRANGEMENT NOTE:**

The fonds has been arranged following the creator's arrangement, with the exception of records that were received in a disorganized manner which were arranged according to topic.

The records of the Prosperity Environmental Association fonds and the Friends of the Athabasca Environmental Association fonds in accession 2012.009 are intermixed as they are both created by Peter Opryshko, who was a member of both organizations.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

Materials are in English.

**SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:**

Donated by Peter Opryshko to the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections at Athabasca University in 2012.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

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

**FINDING AIDS:**

A file list and some digitized material is available.

**INCLUDES FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2012.009

**ASSOCIATED MATERIAL:**

2009.002 and 2011.012

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the administrative history was taken from the records.

The fonds description was created by Marissa Fraser in 2016 and the file list was created by Joan Chrusch in 2013 and updated by Marissa Fraser in 2016.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Environmental policy

Eminent domain – Alberta

Paper industry

Wood-pulp industry

Railroad companies—Canadian National