

BC ARCHIVES FIRST NATIONS RESEARCH GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to help researchers locate material on British Columbia First Nations at the BC Archives as well as to provide referrals to related resources available elsewhere. It is not meant to be a general research guide on the subject, which is both broad in scope and complex in terms of the records available. Some introductory works and general guides are listed below as well as some useful internet resources. Call numbers have been provided for items in our collection. The urls for linked items can be found in Appendix 2. For a general orientation on how to use the Archives see our *Research Orientation Guide*.

Published guides and resources

- Duff, Wilson. *The Indian history of British Columbia: the impact of the white man*. Victoria: Royal British Columbia Museum, 1997. Originally published in 1964. Although Duff's text remains unchanged, the bibliography has been updated and some appendices added, including a table of name changes. NW 970.4 A633 2014
- Cottam, S. Barry. *Aboriginal peoples and archives: a brief history of aboriginal and European relations in Canada*. Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, 1997. NW 971.004 C67
- Joseph, Gene. *Sharing the knowledge: a First Nations resource guide*. Vancouver: Legal Services Society, 1992. NW 016.3231 J67 1992.
- McCardle, Bennett Ellen. *Indian history and claims: a research handbook*. 2 vol. Ottawa: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1983. NW 970.52 M123.
- McMillan, Alan D. and Eldon Yellowhorn. *First peoples in Canada*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2004. NW 071.004 M32 2004. Previously published as: *Native peoples and cultures of Canada*.
- Russell, Bill. *Records of the federal Department of Indian Affairs at the National Archives of Canada: a source for genealogical research*. Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1998. NW 929.1072 R961.
- Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. *Stolen lands, broken promises: researching the Indian land question in British Columbia (second edition)*. Vancouver: UBCIC, 2005. Covers basic research methods, historical background and a broad range of research topics including genealogy. Available on [UBCIC website](#).
- Young, Terry. *Researching the history of aboriginal peoples in British Columbia: a guide to resources at the British Columbia Archives and Records Service and BC Lands*. [Victoria, BC]: BC Lands, [1992]. NW 026.9711 Y77.
- Also useful for general background information on First Nations history in British Columbia is the *Handbook of North American Indians* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian). Each volume has an extensive bibliography. NW 970.1 H236h vols. 5-11, 15
See especially:
 - Vol. 4 *History of Indian-white relations* (1988) not at BC Archives
 - Vol. 6 *Subarctic* (1981) NW970.1 H236h v6
 - Vol. 7 *Northwest Coast* (1990) NW970.1 H236h v7
 - Vol. 12 *Plateau* (1998) NW970.1 H236h v12
 - Vol. 13 *Plains* (2001) not at BC Archives

Internet resources (as of May 2018)

- [Aboriginal heritage](#)
- [Aboriginal peoples - guide to the records of the Government of Canada](#)
- [British Columbia. Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation](#)
- [First Nations House of Learning Xwi7xwa Library](#). Includes useful links and [British Columbia First Nations names authority list](#)
- [Indian Affairs annual reports 1864-1990](#)
- [Indigenous studies portal research tool](#) University of Saskatchewan Library index and links to books, articles, theses, documents, photographs, archival resources, maps, etc. dealing with Indigenous people in Canada.
- [National Aboriginal Document Database](#) Statutes/acts, court decisions, treaties, etc.
- [Treaty negotiations](#) (BC)
- [Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs](#) Includes Our Homes Are Bleeding Digital Collection, Report and Minutes of Decision of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for British Columbia (McKenna-McBride Commission) and UBCIC publications (cited elsewhere in this guide) including *Stolen lands, broken promises, Our homes are bleeding* and *The lands we lost*.

PUBLISHED SOURCES

The Archives has a large collection of published material related to First Nations history. It consists of books, pamphlets, journal articles and sometimes theses (which may also be treated as manuscripts - see under Manuscript Material below). These sources are useful in gaining an understanding of historical developments and overall context, as well as often providing leads to further material.

Search the library catalogue using keywords, subjects, names, authors or titles that you have identified as being of interest to your research. Note that too broad or general a word (e.g. Indians) can yield a large number of references, many of which will not be relevant for your purposes. It is a good idea to start with the most specific terms and broaden your search if necessary.

When looking for information about a particular nation or community, check under the name, e.g. Haida Indians, as well as their geographic location, e.g. Indians Queen Charlotte Islands. Note that names have changed over time. If you have found relevant citations, look at the subject headings for those references. They may be useful in looking for further material.

Doing a paper for school and have limited time? Look for a book, scholarly article or thesis on your topic and check the bibliography, especially for journal articles and unpublished material.

Government publications

As government, both federal and provincial, played a large role in the history of Canada's First Nations, government publications should not be overlooked in your research. Some selected titles are listed below.

- British Columbia. *British Columbia Gazette*. 1859- . Originally known as the *Government Gazette*. Includes notification of allotments of some reserves and land transactions. NWs 320.05 V223 (1859-1860), NWs 320.05 V223g (1864-1869), NW 320.05 B862 (1863-2004). Annual indexes: NW 320.05 B862 index (1873-1988).
- British Columbia. *Papers connected with the Indian land question, 1850-1875*. Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1875. Also published in the *BC Sessional Papers*. Contains the *1871 Schedule of all Indian Reserves (surveyed) in the Province of British Columbia* and edited versions of the texts of the Vancouver Island (Douglas) Treaties (see MS-0772 for copies of the originals). NW 970.5 B862p.
- British Columbia. *Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for British Columbia*. Victoria: Acme Press, 1916. 4 vols. Known as the McKenna-McBride Commission Report. Contents: v.1: Babine, Bella Coola, Cowichan, Kamloops; v.2: Kootenay, Kwawkwalth, Lytton; v.3: Naas, New Westminster, Okanagan, Queen Charlotte v.4: Stikine, Stuart Lake, Treaty No. 8, West Coast, Williams Lake. NW 970.5 B862. Also available [online](#).
- British Columbia. *Statutes of British Columbia*. 1871- . NW348.711 B862. Use the *Index to the Journals of the Legislative Assembly* (NW328.71 F791 and [online](#)) to identify specific acts. For colonial legislation see *Concordance to Colonial Office . . . Pre-Confederation Acts, Ordinances and Proclamations for the Colony of Vancouver Island, Colony of British Columbia and the United Colony*. NW 348.711 F841
- British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. Official record of the proceedings and decisions of the Legislative Assembly similar to minutes (progress of bills, motions, decisions, questions and answers, vote results, committee reports, documents tabled, etc).
- British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Sessional Papers*. Published papers and reports tabled in the Legislative Assembly, many related to aboriginal issues. Microfilm D24-D26. There is an [index](#) to the *Sessional Papers* for 1872-1916 on the BC Archives website. Sessional papers from 1876 to 1970 are available [online](#). Sessional papers for 1872-1875 were printed in the *Journals of the Legislative Assembly* (NW 328.711 F791 and [online](#)). Sessional papers prior to 1875 can be found in the *Journals of the Legislative Council of British Columbia*. (NW 328 B862 1866-1871¹)
- Canada. *Indian Affairs annual reports*. 1864-1990. Available in hardcopy, microfilm (D28 1874-1936) and on the [Library and Archives Canada web site](#). Issued as reports of the Secretary of State to 1873, the Department of the Interior to 1879, the Department of Indian Affairs to 1936, the Department of Mines and Resources to 1950, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to 1965, and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to 1990. Also published in the *Canada Sessional Papers*.

¹ Note that the *Journals of the Colonial Legislatures of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1851-1871* edited by James E. Hendrickson does not include the appendices to the Legislative Council Journals where the sessional papers are found. The original *Journals* must be used.

- Canada. Department of Indian Affairs. *Schedule of Indian reserves in the Dominion: supplement to Annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the year ended June 30 1902*. Ottawa: King's Printer, 1902. GR-1181.
- Canada. Department of Indian Affairs. *Schedule of Indian reserves in the Dominion: supplement to Annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the year ended March 31, 1913*. Ottawa: Govt. Print. Bureau, 1913. NW 970.52C212s 1913. See also GR-1181.
- Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. *Schedule of Indian reserves and settlements*. 1966 -. Title and frequency vary. Earlier schedules were published as supplements to the annual reports (see above). BC Archives has 1966 (NW 970.52 C213 1966), 1972 (NW 970.52 C213 1972), 1983 (NW 970.52 S315) and 1990 (NW 970.52 S315 1990).
- Canada. Parliament. *Special Committees of the Senate and House of Commons meeting in joint session to inquire into the claims of the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia, as set forth in their petition submitted to Parliament in June 1926. Proceedings, reports and the evidence*. Ottawa: King's Printer, 1927. Appendix no. 2 to the Journals of the House of Commons, 1926-27. NW 970.5 C214cp.
Also published as *Appendix to the Journals of the Senate of Canada, 1926-27. Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons appointed to inquire into the claims of the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia, as set forth in their petition submitted to Parliament in June 1926. Report and evidence*. Ottawa: King's Printer, 1927. NW 970.5 C214cr.
- Canada. *Report of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia for 1872 & 1873*. Ottawa: L.B. Taylor, 1873. NW 970.5 C212e. Also available [online](#).
- Canada. *Statutes of Canada. Indian Act*. 1876- . Certain editions of the *Indian Act* were published separately. See *The historical development of the Indian Act* for a brief history. NW 970.5 H673.
- Fox, Christina. *Index to the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, 1st session of the first Parliament, 1872 to the 2nd session of the twenty-ninth Parliament, 1971, inclusive*. Victoria: Provincial Library, 1974. NW 328.71 F791. Also available [online](#) as part of the [Archived Journals of the Legislative Assembly](#)..
- Hendrickson, James E., ed. *Journals of the Colonial Legislatures of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1851-1871*. Victoria: Provincial Archives of British Columbia, 1980. 5 vols. NW 328.71101 J86 Also available [online](#) as part of the [Archived Journals of the Legislative Assembly](#).
- *Schedule of Indian reserves in the Province of British Columbia (Ditchburn-Clark report)*. See GR-0931 and GR-2039 [B0085].

Some useful texts dealing with land and treaty issues

- Cail, Robert E. *Land, man, and the law : the disposal of Crown lands in British Columbia, 1871-1913*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 1974. NW 971.24 C134
- Duff, Wilson, "[The Fort Victoria treaties](#)", *BC Studies* 3 (Fall 1969): 3-57. NW 971K B119 no.3

- Exell, Robert, "History of Indian land claims in B.C.", *The Advocate*, vol. 48, pt. 6 (December 1990): 866-880. NW 970.03 E96
- Fisher, Robin, "[Joseph Trutch and Indian land policy](#)", *BC Studies*, No. 12, Winter 1971-72: 3-33. NW 971K B119 Also published in in J. Friesen and H.K. Ralston, eds. *Historical essays on British Columbia*. Toronto, 1976. NW 971K F912
- Foster, Hamar, "Letting go the bone: the idea of Indian title in British Columbia, 1849-1927", in Hamar Foster and John McLaren, eds. *Essays in the history of Canadian law*, Vol. VI: *British Columbia and the Yukon*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995, pp. 28-86. NW 349.711 E78
- Harris, R. Cole, *Making Native space: colonialism, resistance, and reserves in British Columbia*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 2002. NW 971.1004 H34 2002
- Madill, Dennis. *British Columbia Indian treaties in historical perspective*. [Ottawa]: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1981. NW 970.53 M182 Also available [online](#).
- Madill, Dennis. *Selected annotated bibliography on B.C. Indian policy and land claims*. Ottawa: Research Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs, 1982. NWp 016.97053 M182
- Morales, Robert. "[James Douglas meet Delgamuukw: the implications of the Delgamuukw decision on the Douglas treaties](#)." [Vancouver, 2000]. Good historical background to the treaties on pp.3-10. Unpublished paper prepared for The Delgamuukw/Gisday'wa National Process. Copy at Reference Desk.
- Tennant, Paul. *Aboriginal peoples and politics : the Indian land question in British Columbia, 1849-1989*. Vancouver : University of British Columbia Press, c1990 NW 970.5 T296
- Thalassa Research Associates. "The Douglas reserve policy." Prepared for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. Copy available in "First Nations Resources" binder at Reference Desk.
- Ware, Reuban. *Our homes are bleeding: a short history of Indian reserves*. Vancouver: UBCIC, 1975. NW 970.52 W271o
- Ware, Reuben. *The lands we lost: a history of cut-off lands and land losses from Indian reserves in British Columbia*. Vancouver: UBCIC, 1974. NW 970.52 W271l.

Native education and residential schools

Education and schooling of the aboriginal population of British Columbia was, as elsewhere in Canada, the responsibility of the federal government, although often undertaken by church organizations. A system of special residential and day schools was developed for this purpose.

A [search](#) of the BC Archives [library catalogue](#) will yield titles on residential schools held in our collection. *A national crime: the Canadian government and the residential school system 1879-1986*, by John S. Milloy (University of Manitoba Press, 1999, NW 371.829 M54 1999), is a comprehensive study, based on the author's extensive research for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. It also has a lengthy bibliography. You can also find publications on aboriginal education in general (search on "indians AND education").

Some useful online resources include:

- [Native residential schools in Canada: a selective bibliography](#) (2002), available on the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) web site. It includes “books, scholarly articles, school histories, personal accounts, theses, videos, and Internet resources.”
- [Conducting Research on Residential Schools](#) also available on the LAC site.
- [Indian Residential Schools in Canada](#), a Xwi7xwa Library research guide.

Museum and ethnological publications

Museum publications are a rich source of ethnological information. Some important early publications include those of the Bureau of American Ethnology (Smithsonian Institution), the American Museum of Natural History (including the *Publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition*, 1898-1909, NW 970.1 J58) and the National Museum of Canada (now the Canadian Museum of Civilization). For a guide to the BAE publications consult the *List of publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology with index to authors and titles*. The 1956 and 1961 editions are in the BC Archives library (NW970.4 S664I); the 1971 edition is [online](#). Many National Museum of Canada/Canadian Museum of Civilization publications pertain to British Columbia and can be found in the BC Archives library.

A number of British Columbia Provincial Museum/Royal British Columbia Museum publications also deal with various ethnological, archaeological and ethno-botanical subjects. For a list of publications before 1992 see “One hundred years in print: a checklist of publications by the British Columbia Provincial Museum/Royal British Columbia Museum 1891-1991” (available at the Reference Desk). Most of these publications are in the BC Archives library.

Ethnological observations can often be found in early Geological Survey of Canada publications (e.g. G.M. Dawson’s *Report on the Queen Charlotte Islands 1878*, NW971.1Q D272 or [online](#)). Early ethnological information can also be found in the *Report on the ethnological survey of Canada*, 1897-1902 (NW970.1 B862) and in the *Reports on the north-western tribes of Canada*, 1885-1898 (NW970.1B862b), both published by the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Periodicals

Do not overlook the information to be found in the journal literature. The first place to start is with journal/periodical indexes, many of which are to be found online, and are searchable through academic and public library websites. Older periodical indexes may only exist in hardcopy, again available at academic and public libraries. The BC Archives does not have these indexes. Bibliographies in books and articles can also be a useful source of journal literature. Once articles have been identified, search the BC Archives [library catalogue](#) for the journal title. Look at the holdings to determine if the desired issue is in the collection.

Some journals, such as [BC Studies](#), [BC Historical Quarterly](#), and [Okanagan History](#), have their own printed and/or online indexes. There may also be, as with the [Canadian Historical Review](#), links to digitized content, albeit often requiring paid subscriptions. For some journals, such as the *BC Historical Quarterly*, *BC Studies* and the [Canadian Journal of Native Studies](#) there is free access to all or some of their digitized issues. The [Indigenous studies portal](#) index includes journal articles.

MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL

Manuscript materials consist of unpublished, textual records, (e.g. correspondence of G.M. Sproat, Joint Reserve Commissioner, Newcombe family papers, or Royal Commission on Indian

Affairs transcripts of hearings). They can be private records or government records and can be typed as well as handwritten. They are primary sources which you will need to analyse and interpret in order to make them useful to your research.

There a card catalogue as well as the online Archives Collection Search. The pre-1974 card index (Government Records & Historical Manuscripts Catalogue – Old System, known as the “Old MSS” catalogue) uses the old cataloguing classification (e.g.F/5/A15) and can be searched by subject, title and creator of the record. Some of these records have been described at the *fonds* level and can be searched online on [Memory BC](#).

The BC Archives Collection Search database allows you to search for only textual records which have mainly GR (government records) or PR (private records fonds) or MS (private records series) numbers. A fonds level description will have one or more series level descriptions linked to it. Many of the GR and MS records have PDF finding aids attached. Copies of finding aids are also located in the Reference Room. Finding aids can be box lists, file lists, volume lists, microfilm reel lists or indexes and should be consulted to help identify the items required.

Note: A number of theses have been catalogued as manuscripts, others as library material. Search both the library and textual record catalogues if you are looking for a particular thesis.

Government Records

The most heavily used set of records is commonly referred to as the **RG10** series². These are “the historical records relating to Indian Affairs created by the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and its predecessors. They include files, correspondence, letters and transcripts on all aspects of Indian administration for both headquarters and the field offices.” The originals are held by Library and Archives Canada (LAC). RG10 consists of 4 series: Pre-Confederation records, Headquarters records (including the Black (Western) Series and the School Files), Field Office records and Land records. For more information see the Indian Affairs binder (no. 25) in the Reference Room, [Aboriginal peoples – guide to the records of the Government of Canada](#), and [Indian Affairs Record Group 10 \(RG10\) Inventory](#). The BC Archives has copies of some of the RG10 records on microfilm (see Appendix 1 at the end of this guide), mostly relating to British Columbia.

One way to find records in RG10 is to search the Library and Archives using archives search ([Basic](#) or [Advanced](#)) using keywords and limiting to RG10 records). If a microfilm reel number is given for a citation, you can check the conversion list in the Indian Affairs binder for the BC Archives reel number. If there is no reel number, the document is available only in the original and Library and Archives Canada must be contacted directly to request a copy. Note that access to some LAC records is restricted. If a record has been digitized (e.g. in the Black series), then there is a link to it in the search result display.

Records created by provincial government ministries and departments can also contain useful information. The Attorney General, for example, had wide-ranging responsibilities; its records touch on a number of aboriginal issues. The records of the Provincial Secretary are similarly wide-ranging; the department has been responsible for such areas as education, health and welfare, and finance. Documents dealing with aboriginal matters are also to be found in Lands records and Executive Council records. For an index to Indian-related correspondence in the

² RG refers to “Record Group”. RG10 is now part of the larger Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development fonds (R216-0-0-F) which also includes RG22, RG85, RG91 and RG126. Records can still be searched using RG number, however

Department of Lands and Works files, 1871-1912, see MS-2728. Do not forget the records created during the Colonial period (ca. 1849-1871), including the Colonial Correspondence series (GR-1372) and various Colonial Office records. Staff can advise you on how to access this material.

Non-RG 10 government records of interest include:

- GR-0111 Provincial Museum correspondence inward 1897-1970 (see also MS-1077, Newcombe family papers).
- GR-0113 British Columbia orders-in-council. See GR-1664 for oversize attachments and GR-1955 for indexes. Available [online](#). Federal orders-in-council (sometimes called Privy Council orders) for 1867-1924 are also available [online](#).
- GR-0200 Records pertaining to Indian lands 1859-1870. Copies from the Public Record Office, London, of proclamations, correspondence, and despatches from successive Secretaries of State to the Governor of British Columbia pertaining to Indian lands and Crown lands.
- GR-0332 Colonial Office correspondence with Hudson's Bay Company with regard to Vancouver Island 1822-1880
- GR-0494 Indian Reserve Commission records 1876-1878
- GR-0495 Joint Reserve Commission correspondence 1877-1878.
- GR-0504 Provincial Secretary. Correspondence, petitions, accounts, statements of population, and reports relating to Indian lands in British Columbia
- GR-0672 Royal Commission on Indian Affairs draft report 1913-1916. See GR-1995.
- GR-0931 Schedule referred to in order-in-council No. 911 approved 26 July 1923 [regarding] confirmation of reserves, reduction of cut-offs, new reserves as a result of work of [William E.] Ditchburn [and Col. J.W.] Clark, to amend work of the Commission on Indian Lands and Indian Affairs in General in British Columbia, 1913-1916. This document is commonly known as the Ditchburn-Clark Report. See also GR-2039.
- GR-1071 Indian Advisory Committee 1948-1952. See *fonds* description (black duotang binder AAAA1332).
- GR-1181 Canada. Dept. Of Indian Affairs. Schedule of Indian Reserves in the Dominion, supplement to Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs, 1902 and 1913. British Columbia sections annotated by William Ernest Ditchburn, Indian Superintendent for British Columbia.
- GR-1965 Joint Reserve Commission. Reports of Commissioner Sproat to Minister of Interior, 1876-1877 (Micromedia fiche).
- GR-1995 Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia (1913-1916). Transcripts of evidence taken at hearings and copies of minutes of decision. See MS-1056 for typescript transcriptions of the testimony and the UBCIC website for the

testimony and minutes. See NW970.5 B862 for the published report and GR-0672 for the draft report.

- GR-2039 Annotated copy of the Schedule referred to in Order-in-Council 911/23 (26 July 1923), regarding confirmation of Indian reserves, new reserves, and the reduction and cut-offs of reserves within various British Columbia Indian Agencies. The Schedule amended the work of the Commission on Indian Lands and Indian Affairs in general in British Columbia, 1913-1916, and is commonly known as the Ditchburn-Clark Report. This copy of the Schedule has been “certified correct” by William E. Ditchburn (for the Dominion government) and John William Clark (representing the provincial government) and is dated 10 May 1923. Approved by P.C. 1265 (19 July 1924). See also GR-0931.
- GR-2809 Research notes of Wilson Duff. Duff was curator of anthropology at the BC Provincial Museum from 1950-1965. Includes field notes of other BCPM curators as well as Duff’s research and field notes. (Note: this is the collection as microfilmed. The content and organization of the original material is differs somewhat.)
- GR-2982 Indian Reserve Commission minutes of decision 1876-1907. Minutes of decision of the Joint Indian Reserve Commission (1876-1878) of the governments of Canada and British Columbia and of the Indian Reserve Commission (1878-1907) of the government of Canada regarding allotment of Indian reserves in British Columbia. See also [Federal and Provincial Collections of Minutes of Decision, Correspondence and Sketches](#) on UBCIC website.
- F/52/16 “Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 4th of November 1874”. Typescript.
- F/52/C16.2 “Certified copy of a Report of the Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 17th of May, 1911” P.C. 1081. Typescript.
- F/52/C83 “Petition of the Cowichan Tribe of Indians” re land rights, 15 March 1909. Typescript. [Scanned image](#) available on the RBCM 100 Objects of Interest site.

Non-government records

Many useful private records exist. Records were created by institutions such as the Hudson’s Bay Company, schools and churches and by various individuals. The entries in the catalogues will give you a basic description of a collection, the inclusive dates, and its extent. Some of these records are listed below. Consult the finding aids, if available, for more detailed descriptions.

Hudson’s Bay Company records

- [MS-0772](#) Register of Hudson’s Bay Company land purchases from Indians in the neighborhood of Fort Victoria, 1850-1852 and record of agreements with Indians [Douglas treaties], etc. Digital images are attached to the record description. A [scanned copy](#) of the document with transcriptions is also available. Also on microfilm reel A01285.
- MS-2053 and MS-2878. Register for microfilmed documents at the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives, ca. 1670-1949. On microfilm reels A01270, A01271, A01815. Search on the [HBC Archives](#) web site for additional records.

- F/53/H86 Copy of return of treaties made by Hudson's Bay Company with Indian tribes shewing lands conveyed and sums paid 1850-1854.

Other private records

- MS-1077 Newcombe family papers 1870-1955. Correspondence, notebooks, subject files, annotated books, etc., of C.F. Newcombe and W.A. Newcombe, reflecting their interest in the ethnology, natural history and history of British Columbia. Includes G.T. Emmons correspondence, notes and manuscripts, mainly on the Tlingit Indians.
- MS-1116 and MS-2720 Society for the Furtherance of B.C. Indian Arts and Crafts/Indian Arts and Welfare Society records 1939-1954.
- MS-1175 Denys Nelson papers re British Columbia Indians 1923-1927.
- MS-1290 John Douglas Leechman papers 1924-1978. National Museum of Canada anthropologist.
- MS-2101 Marius Barbeau's Northwest Coast files 1910-1969. National Museum of Canada ethnologist active in BC. See John Cove, *A detailed inventory of the Barbeau Northwest Coast files* NW016.9703 T76b.
- MS-2181 and MS-2763 Emily Carr papers 1879-1946. Includes Carr's views on her Native subjects and on Native art.
- MS-2728 John Pritchard. "An index to Indian related correspondence in the Dept. of Lands and Works files, 1871-1912."
- A/B/40/D75.2 Diary of a trip to the Northwest Coast, April 22-October 1840. Includes "Notes on traditions and population of the Indians of the Northwest Coast". Transcript F1/D75.
- B/20/1853 Part of the Sir James Douglas private papers. Includes census of Indian population in Vancouver Island and British Columbia, pp. 5-30. Available on microfilm 737A.
- F/52/D74 James Douglas letter, 14 October 1874, re Indian reserves.
- H/D/R13 George Henry Raley papers, ca. 1893-1957. Methodist missionary in Kitimat and Fort Simpson. Principal at the Coqualeetza Institute (Indian School) in Sardis from 1914 to 1945. He conducted extensive research into totem poles, Indian crafts and the Kitimat Indian language.

NOTE: *Access restrictions may exist on both government and non-government records. Most provincial government records less than 100 years old are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) as well as the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act. Private records are subject to restrictions imposed by the donor. Researchers are advised to verify the current access status of records they wish to consult, PRIOR to visiting the Archives, by contacting the Reference Desk (250-387-1952).*

MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER IMAGES, SOUND RECORDINGS, MOVING IMAGES, NEWSPAPERS, VERTICAL FILES, VITAL EVENTS RECORDS

A general description of and access tools for these resources can be found in the *Research Orientation Guide*.

Maps

Use place names, or regions, names of reserves and subjects such as “fur trade” or “trapping” as well as subjects starting with “Indian” when consulting the cartographic records card catalogue in the Reference Room and online. Note only a small number of our maps are described on our Archives Collection Search database. To limit your online search to maps, use the Advanced Search option and select “cartographic material” in the “General material designation” search filter.

Finding aids exist for some of the map collections, e.g. CM_E117 “Trapline maps of central and northern British Columbia.” Copies are located in the Reference Room.

Other than checking the cartographic catalogues, it may also be useful to look at the *Historical atlas of Canada* (NW 911.71 H674 v.1-3), *A Sto:lo Coast Salish historical atlas* (NW 971.11 S8 2001), *Historical atlas of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest* (NW 911.7 H417 1999) and *Atlas of Indian reserves & settlements of Canada, 1971* (NW 912.7052 A88).

For digitized maps see LAC’s database [Indian Reserves – Western Canada](#) which includes British Columbia reserves.

Photographs and other images

There are various binders of First Nations photographs. Photographs may also be found in the Historical Photograph (HP) collection General Files, organized by place name and in the Portrait Files, organized by surname. Search online by band, place, subject or personal name and limit your search to “graphic material” using the “General material designation” search filter. Try variant names and spellings, truncation and wild cards (e.g. kwak*, na?s) as names are not standardized in the database. A “List of paintings, drawings and prints in the Provincial Archives of British Columbia dealing with Indian subject matter or by Indian artists” is available in the Reference Room. For Emily Carr’s Native works see *Unsettling encounters: First Nations imagery in the art of Emily Carr* by Gerta Moray (UBC Press: Vancouver, 2006. NW 759.11 M67 2006). A collection of over 23,000 ethno-historic photographs is also to be found in the Audio-Visual Collection of the Royal BC Museum. An appointment is necessary to view this collection (250-387-2434).

For a useful overview see “Early photographers of First Peoples in British Columbia, 1850-1930” (in “First Nations Resources” binder at the Reference Desk). See also *Images from the Likeness House* by Dan Savard (Victoria: RBCM, 2010) (NW 778.9 S28 2010), *The face-pullers: photographing Native Canadians, 1871-1939* by Brock V. Silversides (Calgary: Fifth House, 2001) (NW 970.1 S587) and *Copying people: photographing British Columbia First Nations, 1860-1940* by Daniel Francis (Saskatoon: Fifth House, 1996) (NW 779.997 F735 1996). E.S. Curtis photographs can be found in his 24-volume publication, *The North American Indian* (NW970.1 C978) which is also available [online](#).

Sound recordings

These include music as well as oral history (e.g. interviews). Access and/or copying restrictions are noted in the catalogue entries. Most of the collection has been catalogued online and can be searched by keyword, name, title, subject, place and/or date. If your search terms do not yield any results, or anything relevant, try broadening your search and checking the description and subject headings of citations for potential search terms.

Sound recordings are often identified by interviewer or collector. The Imbert Orchard collection (T4103, T4222, T4255) and the Reynoldston Research and Studies collection (T0001-T0081, T0083-T0223, T0249, T0251, T1462-T1465), for example, both include First Nations material. Another notable collection is that of ethnomusicologist Ida Halpern ([MS-3195](#)). Sound recordings can also be found in the Museum's Audio-Visual Collection (see **Photographs** above). Excerpts from a number of oral history recordings have been published in the BC Archives *Sound Heritage* series.

Moving images

Some films date back to the early 20th century. Access and/or copying restrictions are noted in the catalogue entries. Search the online database by keyword, name, title, subject, place and/or date. If your search terms do not yield any results, or anything relevant, try broadening your search and checking the description and subject headings of citations for potential search terms. Two useful guides to films produced in British Columbia are *Motion picture production in British Columbia, 1898-1940* by Colin Browne (Victoria: BCPM, 1979) (NW 791.43 B882) and *Camera west: British Columbia on film, 1941-1965* by Dennis J. Duffy (Victoria: PABC, 1986) (NW 791.43 D858).

Newspapers

In addition to specific Native newspapers, e.g. *Ha-Shilth-Sa* and *Native Voice*, there are many community newspapers which will contain reports relating to First Nations issues. Most of the [newspaper holdings](#) at the BC Archives are on microfilm. If you know the date of an event, check the newspaper for that time period. Depending on the time period, and the newspaper, there may be a subject index. See the *Research Orientation Guide* for more details.

Some newspapers have been digitized including the [British Colonist](#) (1858-1950) and selected issues of [Native Voice](#) (1947, 1949-1955).

Vertical files

These are collections of newspaper and magazine clippings and other material prior to 1984. Both the index and files are on microfilm. A four-volume hardcopy file list, arranged alphabetically, is also available.

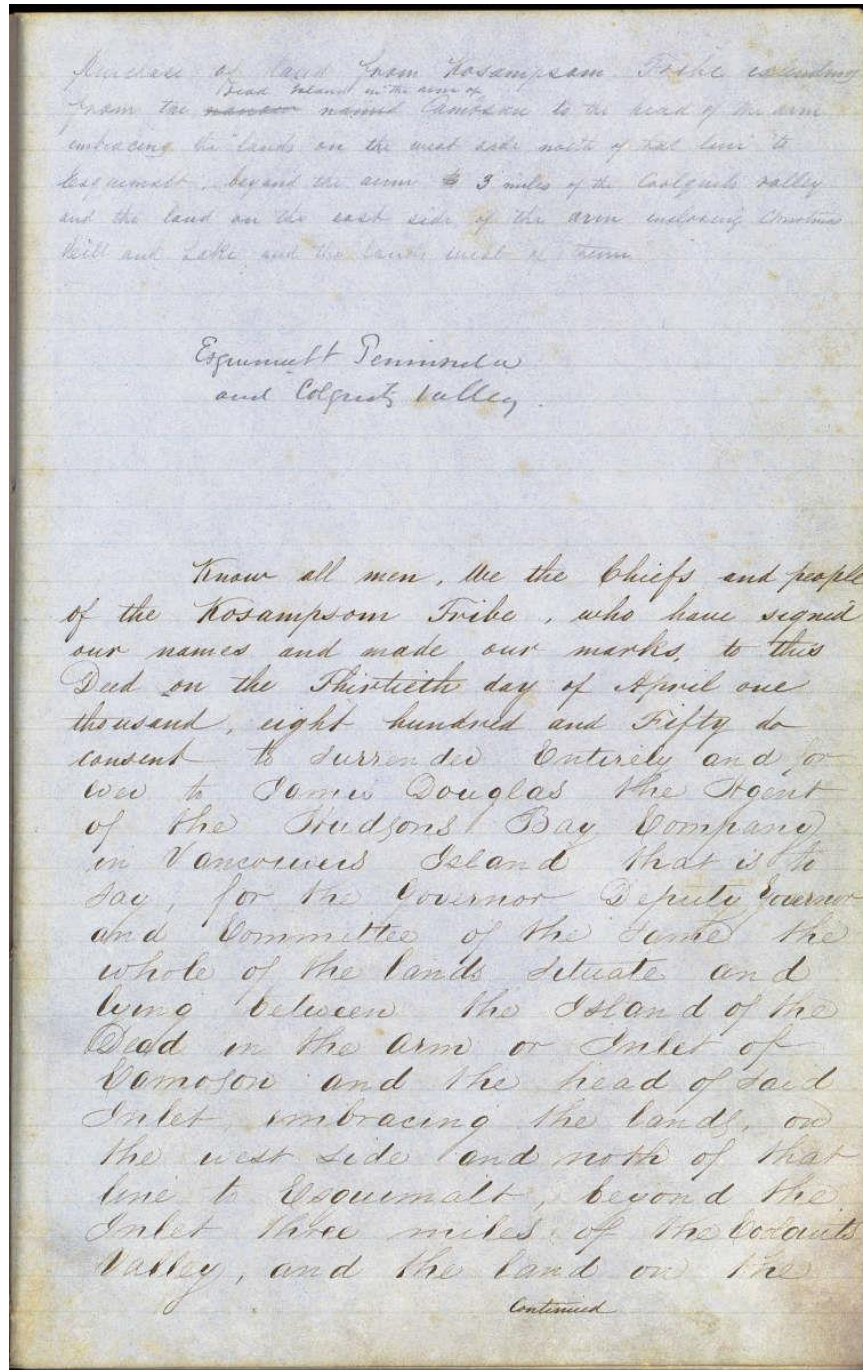
Vital events records

Although aboriginal birth, marriage and death records registered between 1916 and 1956 have been microfilmed separately, they are included in the [Genealogy Database](#) on our web site. Be aware, however, that most early Native births, deaths and marriages were not recorded by the Vital Statistics Branch and that the spelling of names may vary. Try variant spellings or use the wildcard * or the single letter wildcard ?. For more information see the *Guide to using the BC Vital Statistics "Indian" birth, marriage and death registration microfilm*.

RELATED BC ARCHIVES RESEARCH GUIDES

See [BC Archives Reference Guides](#) page under "First Nations Research" for the following:

- Archival Records for Aboriginal Rights and Title Cases
- Fort Victoria Treaties
- Fort Victoria Treaties Correspondence
- Resources for First Nations Genealogical Research at the BC Archives



MS-0772 I-68323

Appendix I

“RG 10” (NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA RECORD GROUP 10) RECORDS AT THE BC ARCHIVES

- GR-0123 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs British Columbia, 1858-1968. Records of the Office of the Indian Reserve Commissioner for British Columbia (1884-1898), the Office of the Indian Superintendent for British Columbia (1884-1894), plus records of the Office of the Indian Commissioner for B.C. and its antecedent, Office of the Chief-Inspector of Indian Agencies (1910-1956). Also included are records of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for British Columbia (1858-1930) along with field office records of the Nass, Skeena, and Queen Charlotte Indian agencies.
- GR-0358 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs. 1879-1953. Computerized finding aids to the School files. B-01854 contains a subject file, arranged alphabetically by school and agency. B-01855 contains a volume list. Note that the microfilmed School File Series (reels C7909-C9811) has been digitized and is available [online](#).
- GR-0933 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs, 1876-1910. Records of the Indian Reserve Commission (Joint Reserve Commission) relating to the allotment and establishment of Indian reserves in BC.
- GR-0934 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs, 1879-1956. Central Registry system files. Miscellaneous files relating to Indian affairs in British Columbia. Includes files re Indian schools, game laws, trapping, fur conservation, fisheries and fishing regulations, enlistments, war funds and Indian veterans' pensions.
- GR-1303 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs. 1874-1920. Correspondence and representations received by the Royal Commission (McKenna-McBride) re the administration of Indian Affairs. Also included are various accounts re the compiling and printing of the Commission's 1916 Report. See Canadiana Héritage collection for [digitized reels](#).³
- GR-1342 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs. 1874-1954. Finding aid for central registry files, 1833-1956, RG 10, volumes 7740-7919. This list shows Public Archives of Canada microfilm reel numbers, but contains only a portion of Record Group 10, central registry files available on microfilm. These files relate to all aspects of the administration of Indian Affairs throughout Canada. Topics include leases, rights of way, mining rights, timber resources, surveys and surrenders.
- GR-1550 Department of Indian Affairs, 1833-1971. Central registry files.
- GR-1597 Canada. Department Of Indian Affairs, 1893-1909. Letterbooks of the School Branch. Copies of letters sent by the Deputy Superintendent General concerning Indian school affairs.

³ LAC description: “This collection consists of correspondence and representations received by the Royal Commission concerning the administration of Indian Affairs in British Columbia. Included is an almost complete set of exhibits. In addition to land issues, the files deal with such topics as surveys, water rights, hunting and fishing privileges, timber and organization and administration of the Commission's work. Microfilm reels T-1461 and T-1462 consists of drafts of the report of the Commission, 1916, including confirmation of evidence.”

- GR-1729 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs, 1876-1920. Letterbooks containing copies of departmental correspondence relating to the administration of Indian affairs in both eastern and western Canada.
- GR-1751 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs, 1872-1950. Central Registry System: Black (Western) series. The Black Series files deal with almost all aspects of the administration of Indian Affairs in Western Canada, 1872-1959. (The bulk of the records concern the period 1872-1923). These records are in the process of being digitized by Library and Archives Canada. See [Red and Black Series](#).
- GR-2042 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs, 1910-1920. Records of the British Columbia Superintendency. Includes letterbook, 1910-1919, of the Surveyor's Office, Victoria, correspondence re the surveys of Indian Reserves; letterbooks, 1910-1920, of the Inspector of Indian Agencies.
- GR-2043 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs, 1881-1948. Records of British Columbia Indian Agencies; letterbooks, letters inward, subject files, general administration files, agents' journals, constable's reports, agricultural and industrial statistics, correspondence re Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia (1913-1916). Includes Alert Bay (1891-1909, 1913-1914), Babine (1888-1905), Bella Coola (1915- 1921), Cowichan (1881-1948), Kamloops (1888-1915), Kootenay (1906- 1919), New Westminster (1897-1922), Queen Charlotte (1888-1923), Stuart Lake (1910-1919), and West Coast (1895-1920) Indian Agencies.
- GR-2686 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs. 1890-1952. School files. NAC reel numbers C8135-C8163 (BCA reels B9808-B9836) Reels C7909-C9811 have been digitized and are available [online](#).
- GR-2759 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs, 1905-1953. School files. Mainly volumes relating to the Lejac Residential School but some volumes on the Colqualeetza and Kamloops Residential Schools. NAC reel numbers C8767-C8770 (BCA reels B9870-B9873). Reels C7909-C9811 have been digitized and are available [online](#).
- GR-2928 Canada. Department of Indian Affairs. 1876-1897. Non-official census records of Indians in British Columbia in the following regions: Okanagan Agency, Cowichan Agency, New Westminster Agency, Shuswap and Okanagan Districts, New Westminster, Yale and Coast Districts, Vancouver, Northern Vancouver Island, and Babine Agency. Volumes 10010-10012a also contain comments by the Indian Reserve Commission of 1876-1877 regarding setting up of reserves.

Appendix 2

Web addresses for outside links cited in guide

Aboriginal heritage

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/Pages/introduction.aspx>

Aboriginal peoples – guide to the records of the Government of Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/the-public/005-1143-e.html>

Archived Journals of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

<http://archives.leg.bc.ca/>

Archives search (LAC – Advanced)

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search/arch_adv

Archives search (LAC - Basic)

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search-recherche/arch.php?Language=eng

BC Studies

<http://www.bcstudies.com/>

British Colonist 1858-1920

<http://britishcolonist.ca/>

British Columbia Historical Quarterly

<http://bchistory.library.ubc.ca/?db=bchf#>

British Columbia Indian treaties in historical perspective

http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/inac-ainc/bc_indian_treaties-e/treC-B_e.pdf

British Columbia. Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

www.gov.bc.ca/arr/

British Columbia Sessional Papers index 1872-1916

https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/images/Work/bc_sessional_papers_index-1872-1916.pdf

British Columbia Sessional Papers

<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcsessional>

Canadian Historical Review

<https://www.utpjournals.press/loi/chr> (also: <https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/248>)

Canadian Journal of Native Studies

www3.brandonu.ca/library/CJNS/

Conducting Research on Residential Schools

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/020008/f2/020008-2000-e.pdf

Federal and Provincial Collections of Minutes of Decision, Correspondence and Sketches

<http://jirc.ubcic.bc.ca/>

First Nations House of Learning Xwi7xwa Library

www.library.ubc.ca/xwi7xwa

First Nations names authority list
www.library.ubc.ca/xwi7xwa/bcfn.pdf

Hudson's Bay Company Archives
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/>

Index to the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, 1872 to 1971
http://archives.leg.bc.ca/civix/content/leg_archives/legarchives/1952142602/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl

Indian Affairs *Annual Reports* 1864-1990
www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/first-nations/indian-affairs-annual-reports/

Indian Affairs Record Group 10 (RG10) Inventory
www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/first-nations/indian-affairs-rg10/

Indian Residential Schools in Canada
<http://guides.library.ubc.ca/irss>

Indian Reserves – Western Canada
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/indian-reserves/index-e.html?PHPSESSID=maurkjbjg5ojf4k8b7t5nm11rs2

Indigenous Studies Portal Research Tool
<http://portal.usask.ca/>

James Douglas meet Delgamuukw: the implications of the Delgamuukw decision on the Douglas treaties
<http://web.archive.org/web/20070612081810/www.delgamuukw.org/research/douglastreaties.pdf>

Joseph Trutch and Indian land policy
<http://ojs.library.ubc.ca/index.php/bcstudies/article/viewFile/719/761>

Journals of the Colonial Legislatures of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1851-1871
http://archives.leg.bc.ca/civix/content/leg_archives/legarchives/1736000202/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl

List of publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology
www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/BAE/Bulletin200/200title.htm

Memory BC
<http://memorybc.ca/>

National Aboriginal Document Database
<http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/aboriginaldocs/index.html>

Native residential schools in Canada: a selective bibliography
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/native-residential/

Native Voice
<https://web.archive.org/web/20150204000249/http://nativevoice.bc.ca/>

Okanagan History
<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/ohs> (Index: <http://okanagahistoricalsociety.org/ohsindex/>)

Orders-in-council (BC)
<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/content/oic/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl>

Orders-in-council (Canada)
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/politics-government/orders-council/Pages/orders-in-council.aspx>

Our homes are bleeding: a short history of Indian Reserves

<http://ourhomesarebleeding.ubcic.bc.ca/>

Red and Black Series (LAC)

<https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/aboriginal-heritage/020016-2006-e.html>

Report of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia for 1872 & 1873

www.canadiana.org/ECO/ItemRecord/16227?id=9685cc143ceb31f6

Report on the Queen Charlotte Islands, 1878 (G.M.Dawson)

https://archive.org/details/cihm_03656

Royal Commission on Indian Affairs (McKenna-McBride Commission) records (correspondence, exhibits, representations, etc.; LAC reels T-3956 to T-3968).

http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_t3958/6?r=0&s=4

Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia (McKenna-McBride Commission)

Report https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/mckenna_mcbride_royal_commission

School files (RG10)

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.02-e.php?&q2=2&interval=50&sk=0&PHPSESSID=rgi7t06a60or2jdheocn6v65f4>

Stolen lands, broken promises: researching the Indian land question in British Columbia

https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/stolenlands_brokenpromises

The Fort Victoria treaties

<http://ojs.library.ubc.ca/index.php/bcstudies/article/viewFile/607/651>

The North American Indian

<http://curtis.library.northwestern.edu/>

Treaty negotiations (BC)

www.gov.bc.ca/arr/treaty/default.html

Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs

www.ubcic.bc.ca