



## Dalhousie University Archives

### **Finding Aid - Alexander John Murchison fonds (MS-13-30)**

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# Alexander John Murchison fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Dalhousie University Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Alexander John Murchison fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	MS-13-30
<b>Date:</b>	1969-1975 (date of creation)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Physical description:</b>	7 cm of textual records
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Alexander John Murchison fonds, MS-13-30, Box [box number], Folder [folder number], Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Alexander Murchison was a Dalhousie Medical School graduate and researcher in adolescent psychiatry. He was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and earned his MD from Dalhousie in 1963. He was a Killam Award recipient for post-graduate training in psychiatry in Halifax and had fellowships at hospitals in England and Scotland. He returned to Halifax to join the staff at the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital and the Atlantic Child Guidance Clinic. Dr. Murchison was active in professional associations and community organizations, in particular with the Children's Aid Society of Halifax. He died in 1975.

### Custodial history

Records were accessioned by the Dalhousie University Archives in 1984. Custodial history is unknown.

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## Scope and content

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Fonds consists Alexander Murchison's papers and reports related to child welfare.

## Notes

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### Title notes

### Restrictions on access

There are no access restrictions on these materials. All materials are open for research.

### Conditions governing use

Materials do not circulate and must be used in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room. Materials may be under copyright. Contact departmental staff for guidance on reproduction.

### Accruals

Further accruals are possible, but not expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final

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## Access points

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- Dalhousie University. Faculty of Medicine. (subject)
- Children's Aid Society of Nova Scotia (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Reports, publications, studies, and documentation (documentary form)
- Manuscripts (documentary form)
- Research notes (documentary form)
- Medical archives (subject)
- Pediatrics (subject)
- Psychiatry (subject)
- Social Work--Canada (subject)
- Housing--Nova Scotia (subject)
- Halifax (N.S.) (place)

## Collection holdings

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### **File: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12 - Reports and proposals related to group homes and child welfare in Nova Scotia**

Title: Reports and proposals related to group homes and child welfare in Nova Scotia

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12

Date: 1969-1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains 11 reports, papers and proposals regarding child welfare and group homes in Nova Scotia, drafted between 1969-1974 by committees of the Atlantic Child Guidance Centre and the Children's Aid Society of Halifax.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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### **Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 1 - Fourth draft of Atlantic Child Guidance Centre position paper**

Title: Fourth draft of Atlantic Child Guidance Centre position paper

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 1

Date: 1972 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of the fourth draft of an Atlantic Child Guidance Centre position paper, dated August 31, 1972, prepared by the Atlantic Child Guidance Centre Policy Committee (Dr. Alexander Murchison, Dr. G. Gordon, Norris Turner, Paul Norton, Dr. S. Bijoor, and Everett Harris). The item is addressed to "all Atlantic Child Guidance Centre staff for comment" before final submission, and has the goal of ensuring that "adolescents [...] not be forgotten either in terms of bureaucratic structure or in terms of submergence in adult designed and orientated programs," and that they "require advocates" to ensure that any public health legislation does not overlook the needs of those who are "underage [...] in a] largely adult orientated society."

Physical description: 15 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 2 - Group home development proposal prepared by the Children's Aid Society of Halifax**Title: Group home development proposal prepared by the Children's Aid Society of HalifaxReference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 2Date: 1973 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Item consists of a later draft of group home development proposal compiled by the Alexander Murchison and others for the Group Home Advisory Committee, Children's Aid Society of Halifax, dated March 9, 1973. The committee consisted of Dr. Murchison, Ron Smith, Pat Corkery, T. Daley, Mrs. Cleveland, Father O'Neil and John Letkeman. The purpose of the document is "to recommend proposals relative to the development of group homes by the Children's Aid Society of Halifax."

Physical description: 5 pages of textual recordsPhysical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 GPublication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 3 - Group home development proposal prepared by the Children's Aid Society of Halifax**Title: Group home development proposal prepared by the Children's Aid Society of HalifaxReference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 3Date: 1973 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Item consists of an early draft of a "Group home development proposal" compiled by the Alexander Murchison (and others) for the Group Home Advisory Committee, Children's Aid Society of Halifax, dated March 5, 1973. The committee consisted of Dr. Murchison (chairman), Ron Smith, Pat Corkery, T. Daley, Mrs. Cleveland, and Father O'Neil. The purpose of the document is "to recommend proposals relative to the development of group homes by the Children's Aid Society of Halifax". Item also contains handwritten inked marginal notes and corrections.

Physical description: 5 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 4 - Brief to the Commission on Special Protection Services prepared by the Children's Aid Society of Halifax**

Title: Brief to the Commission on Special Protection Services prepared by the Children's Aid Society of Halifax

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 4

Date: 1972 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of a draft brief submitted to the Commission of Special Protection Services compiled by Dr. Alexander Murchison and others for the Children's Aid Society of Halifax, presented on May 29, 1972. The report was compiled for the purpose of stressing the importance of examining the "very fine line [...] between delinquent behavior resulting in direct Court Action under the Juvenile Delinquents Act and the behavior exhibited by a child in need of protection as defined in the Child Welfare Act" and making best practice recommendations, when determining foster home placements resulting from Family Court cases regarding child welfare and juvenile delinquency. Item also contains an appendix of three anonymous case studies from the Shelburne region.

Physical description: 20 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 5 - Brief to the Premier with invitations to the Ministers of Health, Welfare and Education and to the Nova Scotia Health Council**

Title: Brief to the Premier with invitations to the Ministers of Health, Welfare and Education and to the Nova Scotia Health Council

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 5

Date: 1971 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of the final draft of a brief compiled by Dr. Alexander Murchison and others on an ad hoc committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Sylvia Keet, prepared for Premier Gerald Regan and his ministers, in April 1971. The subject is "the need for [the] establishment of residential treatment centres for disturbed adolescents in Nova Scotia." The committee received support from Mr. Andrew Crook (Canadian Mental Health) and Mr. Tim Daley (Children's Aid Society and Department of Public Welfare." The data was initially collected by Mrs. Elaine Fraser in April 1970 when she was a student at the Maritime School of Social Work, and the final analysis was conducted by students of that school under the direction of Mr. Frank Winters.

Physical description: 27 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 6 - Solvent inhalation / Alexander Murchison : [manuscript]**

Title: Solvent inhalation / Alexander Murchison : [manuscript]

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 6

Date: 1969 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item consists of a draft typescript of a short paper outlining research regarding solvent inhalation addiction compiled by Dr. Alexander Murchison in February 1969. The item lists the substances most often used, outlines the "usual procedure" for inhaling solvents, addresses initial results and subsequent side-effects faced by those who engage in solvent inhalation, as well as determining the sort of person who may be susceptible to engaging in solvent inhalation.

Physical description: 6 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 7 - Recommendations for revision of the Child Welfare Act of the Province of Nova Scotia**

Title: Recommendations for revision of the Child Welfare Act of the Province of Nova Scotia

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 7



Date: 1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a brief presented to the Minister's Committee to Re-write the Child Welfare Act by the Children and Youth Action Council drafted on May 15, 1974. The report contains recommendations from the Council regarding amendments to the Child Welfare Act. Other members of the committee include Mrs. Susan Burchell (Social worker), Mrs. Betty Curran (Student social worker, Maritime School of Social Work), Mr. Terry Donahoe (Barrister), Miss Emily Duffy (Student social worker, Maritime School of Social Work), Dr. Murchison (then of the Dartmouth Branch of the Atlantic Child Guidance Centre), Miss Cathy Neilson (Student, Dalhousie Legal Aid), Miss Ann Preyde (Girl's Residence Centre), and Mrs. Mary Zinck (Halifax Children's Aid Society), as well as co-chairpersons Dr. Joan Cummings (Maritime School of Social Work) and Mrs. Marilyn Peers (Dartmouth Branch, Atlantic Child Guidance Centre).

Physical description: 20 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 8 - Review of literature regarding the operation of a Child Guidance Centre in a hospital setting**

Title: Review of literature regarding the operation of a Child Guidance Centre in a hospital setting

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 8

Date: [1973?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a draft brief compiled by Alexander Murchison and others in 1973 or 1974, regarding the opening of a Child Guidance Centre. Item reviews reports and speeches (Clyde Marshall's 1969 working paper, a 1970 address by the Honourable R.A. Donahoe to the Conference of Mental Health Centre Boards, the Hastings Report, and the Government of Ontario's White Paper), as a means of determining that the functioning of the Centre would be "impaired" if the Centre was to be located in the Abbie Lane Psychiatric Hospital. The item addresses concerns with the proposal arising from the schism between prevention (which the Centre would encourage) versus treatment (which the hospital engages in), as well as the stigma associated with the hospital, affecting negatively potential work with at-risk youth and their families.

Physical description: 5 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Physical condition:

Cover page not present, as pagination begins at "2"

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 9 - A proposal to encourage the development of adolescent health care in the Province of Nova Scotia: Phase 2, 1973**

Title: A proposal to encourage the development of adolescent health care in the Province of Nova Scotia: Phase 2, 1973

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 9

Date: 1973 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a draft funding proposal compiled by Alexander Murchison and others, submitted to the Atlantic Regional Office, Non-Medical Use of Drugs Directorate, Health Protection Branch, Department of National Health & Welfare, in February 1973, encouraging the funding and development of an adolescent health care program in Nova Scotia. The item addresses what was achieved from a similar proposal in 1972, and outline aims "to animate interested health care workers [in the province] to initiate changes within their own community and profession." The item contains a three-page budget appendix.

Physical description: 15 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

Accompanying material:

Final page is blank.

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 10 - Proposal submitted to Halifax Children's Foundation by the Children and Youth Action Council (CAYAC)**

Title: Proposal submitted to Halifax Children's Foundation by the Children and Youth Action Council (CAYAC)

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 10

Date: 1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a proposal submitted to the Halifax Children's Foundation by the Children and Youth Action Council dated August 2, 1974. The item outlines CAYAC's mission as a "grassroots response to perceived shortcomings in services and programs for young people in Nova Scotia," discusses the organization's objectives and activities (assessing and contributing to legislation, addressing services it provides, pushing for individual case representation, increasing public awareness, and engaging youth involvement). The proposal outlines a request that the Halifax Children's Foundation provide CAYAC with a "three-year demonstration grant" to employ a full-time coordinator and a secretary to achieve the organization's objectives.

Physical description: 21 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 11 - A review : Nova Scotia mental health system and changes required**

Title: A review : Nova Scotia mental health system and changes required

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 65, Folder 12, Item 11

Date: [early 1970s] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is an undated review of the current Nova Scotia mental health system, as well as an outline of required changes to the system, compiled by Alexander Murchison in the early 1970s. The item provides a brief outline of present mental health programs and facilities in the province — the Cape Breton Mental Health Centre in Sydney, the Eastern Counties Mental Health Centre in Antigonish, the Pictou County Mental Health Centre in New Glasgow, the Cumberland County Mental Health Centre in Amherst, the Cobequid Mental Health Centre in Truro, the Funday [sic] Mental Health Centre in Wolfville, the Digby-Annapolis Mental Health Centre in Digby, the program at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital, and the South Shore Mental Health Centre in Bridgewater — as well as mental and public hospital services — Nova Scotia Hospital, Abbie J. Lane Memorial Hospital, Halifax County Hospital, and Kings County Hospital — and provides recommendations on how to improve the province-wide program addressing mental health. Item contains a few inked and whited-out corrections.

Physical description: 21 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**File: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1 - Draft reports and proposals related to health and welfare in Nova Scotia**

Title: Draft reports and proposals related to health and welfare in Nova Scotia

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1

Date: 1970-1975 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains six reports, papers and proposals regarding child health, child welfare, and group homes in Nova Scotia, drafted between 1970-1975 by Alexander John Murchison and others.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 1 - Child and adolescent services / Alexander Murchison and Edward Newell**

Title: Child and adolescent services / Alexander Murchison and Edward Newell

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 1

Date: 1972 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a final draft of a report "Child and adolescent services," written by Alexander Murchison and Edward Newell in December 1972. It outlines planning for children's and adolescent health services in Nova Scotia, describes current services available to children and adolescents, addresses the health of the province's children and adolescents, points out gaps and deficiencies in the services provided by the province, and raises points in order to direct meaningful change.

Physical description: 47 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 2 - School phobia : a review / Alexander Murchison : [manuscript]**

Title: School phobia : a review / Alexander Murchison : [manuscript]

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 2

Date: 1970 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a paper written by Alexander Murchison in December 1970, outlining the "acute psychiatric emergency" of school phobia, suggesting that it is more complicated than being simply "separation anxiety." He defines the phobia, outlines the clinical features and symptoms, discusses the role of separation in the condition, and addresses potential treatments.

Physical description: 37 pages of textual records.

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 3 - Cultural factors in a case of temporal lobe epilepsy associated with a schizophreniform psychosis / : Alexander Murchison and T.A.H. McCulloch : [manuscript]**

Title: Cultural factors in a case of temporal lobe epilepsy associated with a schizophreniform psychosis / : Alexander Murchison and T.A.H. McCulloch : [manuscript]

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 3

Date: [early 1970s] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a draft manuscript written by Alexander Murchison and T.A.H. McCulloch (of Canadian Forces Hospital Halifax) in the early 1970s. The item addresses a case study of an 18-year-old "leading seaman, unmarried and of Ojibwa Indian extraction" admitted to the psychiatric unit of Canadian Forces Hospital in Halifax after a sudden onset of psychosis experienced by the patient shortly after his vessel left Halifax in 1968.

Physical description: 31 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 4 - Proposal for interim funding to further develop a three-year health grant demonstration project concerning a new approach in delivery of health services to children and youth**

Title: Proposal for interim funding to further develop a three-year health grant demonstration project concerning a new approach in delivery of health services to children and youth

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 4

Date: [1972-1973?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is an early draft proposal written by Alexander Murchison and others in 1972 or 1973, regarding funding for a health grant to improve the delivery of health services to children and youth in Nova Scotia. The proposal accompanies a report entitled "A Time to Act."

Physical description: 6 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 5 - A proposal for health grant : a new approach in delivery of health services to children and youth**

Title: A proposal for health grant : a new approach in delivery of health services to children and youth

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 5

Date: [1973?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is an early draft proposal written by Alexander Murchison and others ca. 1973 regarding funding for a grant to improve the delivery of health services to children and youth in Nova Scotia. The proposal aims to implement several programs in Halifax County to assist the province's youth in moving "toward optimum health" by implementing the following programs: Life Development program (emphasizing proper nutrition, emotional and physical development); Day Care and Pre-School program; Teacher Training program; Community Health Nurse program; Environmental Control program (environmental effects on human growth and development); and General Training program (for professionals involved with children and adolescent care).

Physical description: 14 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**Item: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 6 - The group home and the community : [draft typescript]**

Title: The group home and the community : [draft typescript]

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 1, Item 6

Date: 1975 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a report written by Alexander Murchison, dated January 9, 1975, and presented to the Dartmouth Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, regarding improving group home facilities not only for adolescents and older individuals in Nova Scotia.

Physical description: 21 leaves of textual records : typescript.

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**File: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 2 - Notes and manuscripts related child guidance clinics review**

Title: Notes and manuscripts related child guidance clinics review

Reference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 2

Date: 1972-1975 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains notes and manuscripts written by Alexander Murchison and Norris Turner between 1972–1975 reviewing child guidance clinics and group homes in Nova Scotia. File also contains the June 1973 issue of the Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers Newsletter, with articles by Norris Turner , Patricia Hardy, Ernie Rafuse, F.M. Fraser, Martin M. Dolan, Linda Isitt, and Barrie R. MacFarlane.

Physical description: 88 pages of textual records

Physical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G

Publication status:

Published

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**File: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 3 - Group homes—let's get going : program papers from Annual Meeting of Nova Scotia Family and Child Welfare Association**Title: Group homes—let's get going : program papers from Annual Meeting of Nova Scotia Family and Child Welfare AssociationReference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 3Date: 1973 (date of creation)Scope and content:

File also contains copies of presentations given at the 23 May 1973 meeting: "Why an Alternate Family? (The Child and the Group Home," by Alexander Murchison; "The Orphan and Society," by Jean Paton-Kittson; "Social Services and the Group Home," by Frank Capstick; "Democratic Perspectives on Group Home Supervision," by Ronald L. Smith; "Houseparents Forum," by Mr. and Mrs. Salvador Renaldo; "Public Relations in a Group Home Program," by A.S. Kyte; and "Funding of Group Homes," by Timothy T. Daley.

Physical description: 106 pages of textual recordsPhysical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 GPublication status:

Published

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**File: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 4 - A time to act : a proposal to restructure child and adolescent programs and services, Nova Scotia**Title: A time to act : a proposal to restructure child and adolescent programs and services, Nova ScotiaReference code: MS-13-30, SF Box 66, Folder 4Date: 1973 (date of creation)Scope and content:

File contains a report written in 1973 by Alexander Murchison and Edward Newell regarding a restructuring of child and adolescent programs and services in Nova Scotia to "stimulate community and government interest, participation, and action for change."

Physical description: 118 pages of textual recordsPhysical location: Killam - 5th Floor - Archives - Range A61 G



Publication status:

Published

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