



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - Vincent C. MacDonald fonds (MS-2-171, Box 1-3)

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Vincent C. MacDonald fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	Vincent C. MacDonald fonds
Reference code:	MS-2-171, Box 1-3
Date:	1927-1985 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	35 cm of textual records. - 56 photographs : b&w ; 25.5 x 20.5 cm.
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Vincent C. MacDonald fonds, MS-2-171, Box [box number], Folder [folder number], Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Vincent Christopher MacDonald was born in Mulgrave, Nova Scotia, in 1897 to Archibald and Clara MacDonald. He was educated at Dalhousie University where he received a B.A. (1930) and LL.B. (1920). In 1927 MacDonald married his first wife, Emily O'Connor, with whom he had three children, David, Peter, and Paul. After Emily's death in 1937, MacDonald married Hilda Durney in 1938 and had two children, Brian Henry and Alan Hugh.

MacDonald led a prestigious career as a lawyer, educator, and civil servant. Called to the bars of Nova Scotia and Ontario in 1920 and 1927 respectively, he practiced law in both provinces; worked as a law clerk in the Nova Scotia Legislature; was a research assistant to the Royal Commission on Maritime Claims; served as secretary to Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King in 1927; and lectured law at Dalhousie from 1920-1926 and Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto from 1929-1930. In 1930 he returned to Dalhousie to teach law and in 1934 became Dean of the Law School. He also served as Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour of Canada from 1942-1944. He remained at Dalhousie until 1950 when he was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. MacDonald worked with numerous boards and commissions throughout his career, and even served as an advisor to the Newfoundland government on union with Canada in 1948. He published numerous papers, frequently on topics related to constitutional and labour law, and edited a variety of publications, including the *Dominion Law Reports* and *Canadian Criminal Cases* (1924-1934). He also served on the board of governors of Dalhousie University and received honorary degrees from St. Francis Xavier, British Columbia, Dalhousie, and Columbia. MacDonald died in 1964.

Custodial history

Material received in four accessions from 1972 thru 2001 from Vincent MacDonald's son Alan.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of law publications and print materials relating primarily to government, the Canadian Constitution, or to Newfoundland joining confederation; copies of speeches; correspondence with family, friends, and professional associates, including some from former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King; newspaper clippings and memorabilia; photographs; and a small group of other miscellaneous documents which includes stories of MacDonald written by friends and associates for the Dalhousie University Faculty of Law publication Hearsay.

Notes

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.

Finding aids

A detailed inventory is available onsite.

Related material

Other records about MacDonald can be found in the Faculty of Law fonds (UA-13).

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Dalhousie University. Board of Governors.
- Dalhousie University. Faculty of Law.
- Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Dalhousie University--Administration (subject)
- Dalhousie University--People (subject)
- Dalhousie University--Periodicals (subject)
- Law schools--Alumni and alumnae (subject)
- Lawyers (subject)
- Personal archives (subject)
- Photographs (subject)
- Politics, Practical--Canada (subject)
- Reports, publications, studies, and documentation (subject)
- Halifax (N.S.) (place)

Collection holdings
