

City of Edmonton Archives

Finding Aid - City of Edmonton. Edmonton Health Department fonds (RG-12)

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Language of description: English

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City of Edmonton. Edmonton Health Department fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	5
Collection holdings	6
RG-12-1, Health Department Administrative Records (1908 - [ca.1989], predominant 1908 - 1958)	6
RG-12-2, Nursing Records (1970 - 1995)	7
RG-12-3, Reports ([ca.1980] - 1994)	7

Summary information

Repository:	City of Edmonton Archives
Title:	City of Edmonton. Edmonton Health Department fonds
Reference code:	RG-12
Date:	1908 - 1995 (creation)
Physical description:	2.75 m of textual records. - 7 photographs.
Language:	English

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

On July 23, 1892 Bylaw 22-1892 was passed allowing for the formation of a permanent civic health authority comprising of the mayor, a licensed medical practitioner and members of the health and relief committee. Originally formed to protect against communicable disease, the Health Department was responsible for the promotion, protection and restoration of public health in Edmonton. In practical terms, the Health Department was charged with tracking communicable disease and vital statistics including births and deaths in Edmonton; ensuring proper sanitary standards were met regarding disposal of waste, and the cleanliness of food related facilities; and ensuring milk, meat and water supplies were free of contaminants. After the Second World War the Health Department began to put more emphasis on preventative measures through health education.

When it was first established in 1892 the Health Department consisted of a single part-time employee - the Medical Officer of Health. For the first few years the department's duties were limited, but as the City expanded so too did the Health Department. In 1912, when Edmonton amalgamated with Strathcona, the Strathcona Board of Health was dissolved and the Edmonton Board of Health expanded south of the river. By 1919 the staff had grown considerably, and included a chief health inspector, a health inspector, a chief sanitary inspector, a sanitary inspector, a chief food inspector, a food inspector, a dairy inspector, a milk inspector and chemist, and a stenographer/accountant, all of whom reported to the Medical Officer of Health. By 1923 two nurses had been added to the staff, as well as several more health inspectors. By 1931 the Health Department was organized into two main divisions: medical services, which included regional clinics, a child hygiene section and social services; and inspectional services, which included disease quarantine, sanitary inspection, and food and milk control. There were also separate sections for vital statistics and administration

In 1952 the health services provided by the local school boards in Edmonton merged with the Edmonton Board of Health, providing increased efficiency and allowing access to larger provincial grants.

Between 1956 and 1961 the Health Department had several distinct branches: Communicable Disease Control, Meat and Food Supervision, School Health Service, Milk and Dairy Supervision, the Well Baby Clinic, Sanitation, a bathhouse attendant and administration.

In 1962 the department was reorganized due to increased staff and responsibilities. Branches were broadened and clarified, and more formal procedures of communication and internal consultation were adopted. As a result the new divisions included Administration, Milk and Dairy, Communicable Disease, Medical Services, Well Baby Clinic, Dental, and Sanitary. In 1964 a Special Services Division was added that included the services of a psychiatrist, psychologist and a public health educator.

In 1968, following yet another reorganization, the Health Department had a Medical Services Division (including nursing, clinics, school services, disease control and mental health services); an Environmental Health Services Division (including public health inspection section, food control section, milk and dairy inspection section, and public health education section); a Dental Division, and Administration.

In 1970 the administrative structure had changed again, with Administration, Medical Services Division, Nursing Division, Tuberculosis Division, Community Psychiatric Services Division, Dental Services Division, Health Education Division, and Environmental Hygiene Division. In 1972 a Nutrition Division was created, and in 1974 the Home Care Division was added as well.

In 1975 the administration was simplified by moving the various divisions into the Health Protection Branch (communicable disease unit, environmental health division) and the Health Promotion Branch (medical unit, nutrition unit, family planning unit, nursing division, dental division, mental health division, home care division), with a small Administration section and a Research section both operating independently.

In 1980 it became legally necessary to identify the Board as an autonomous corporation, distinct from the City, which led to the decision to officially change the name from the Health Department to the Edmonton Local Board of Health. In February of 1984 the Board decided to separate itself from the City in areas of property management, purchasing, financial management, computer services, and personnel administration. Despite these changes, a City Alderman continued to sit on the Board.

The Edmonton Local Board of Health was renamed the Edmonton Board of Health in 1986. This organization was funded by the Province of Alberta and operated under their auspices. This Board was dissolved in 1995 when it was merged with the Capital Health Authority, whose work also includes acute care, long term care, rehabilitation, and community health.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of minutes, reports, correspondence and other records relating to the various functions performed by the Edmonton Health Department and its successor bodies.

The material retains its original order, and has been described as two separate series:

- * Series 1: Health Department Administrative Records
- * Series 2: Nursing Records
- * Series 3: Reports

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on name of creator.

Immediate source of acquisition

This material was transferred to the City of Edmonton Archives from the Health Department, the Edmonton Board of Health, the Corporate Records Centre, the Edmonton Public Library, and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta Museum and Archives between 1970 and 2016.

Arrangement

The material was arranged by the archivist by subject.

The photographs were assigned item numbers with the prefix EA-203.

Some reports were assigned item numbers with the prefix GP.

Restrictions on access

These records contain information that is protected in alignment with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act.

Conditions governing use

Copyright may apply.

Reproduction restrictions may apply.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Note [General]

Accession numbers: A70-59, A74-30, A75-51, A81-114, A81-152, A83-4, A83-118, A84-178, A85-39, A86-131, A87-175, A96-75, A2010-118, A2013-86, A2016-101

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Status description:** Final
- **Institution identifier:** City of Edmonton Archives

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material - photograph (documentary form)
- Textual record - published (documentary form)
- Government (subject)
- Health care (subject)
- Women (subject)

Collection holdings

Series: RG-12-1 - Health Department Administrative Records

Title: Health Department Administrative Records

Reference code: RG-12-1

Date: 1908 - [ca.1989], predominant 1908 - 1958 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of minutes, correspondence, and photos created by the Edmonton Health Department.

Physical description: 65 cm of textual records. - 7 photographs

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]: Accession numbers: A74-30, A75-51, A81-114, 2016-101

Immediate source of acquisition: This material was transferred to the City of Edmonton Archives from the Health Department between 1974 and 1981, and from the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta Museum and Archives in 2016.

Arrangement: The photographs were assigned item numbers with the prefix EA-203.

Restrictions on access: These records contain information that is protected in alignment with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. These files are restricted in alignment with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. For more information please contact the reference archivist.

Conditions governing use: Copyright may apply.
Reproduction restrictions may apply.

Finding aids: File list available online.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Graphic material - photograph (documentary form)
 - Government (subject)
 - Health care (subject)
 - Women (subject)
-

Series: RG-12-2 - Nursing Records

Title: Nursing Records

Reference code: RG-12-2

Date: 1970 - 1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records created by the various sections of the Edmonton Health Department and its successor bodies which were operated by nurses. It includes meeting minutes from numerous committees, reviews of the various community programs run by nursing staff, and training material and educational resources used by nursing staff. It has been divided into three subseries:

* Subseries 2.1: Committee Minutes

* Subseries 2.2: Program Review

* Subseries 2.3: Training and Resources

Physical description: 1.3 m of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]: Accession number: A2010-118, A2016-101

Immediate source of acquisition: This material was transferred to the City of Edmonton Archives by the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta Museum and Archives in 2010 and 2016.

Restrictions on access: These records contain information that is protected in alignment with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. These files are restricted in alignment with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. For more information please contact the reference archivist.

Conditions governing use: Copyright may apply.

Reproduction restrictions may apply.

Finding aids: File list available online.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Government (subject)
 - Health care (subject)
 - Women (subject)
-

Series: RG-12-3 - Reports

Title: Reports

Reference code: RG-12-3

Date: [ca.1980] - 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of reports created by the Edmonton Board of Health and the Health Department.

Physical description: 75 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]: Accession numbers: A70-59, A81-152, A83-4, A84-178, A85-39, A86-131, A87-175, A96-75, A2013-86, A2016-101

Immediate source of acquisition: This material was transferred to the City of Edmonton Archives from between 1970 and 2016.

Arrangement: Some reports were assigned item numbers with the prefix GP.

Restrictions on access: These records contain information that is protected in alignment with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. There are no restrictions on access.

Conditions governing use: Copyright may apply.
Reproduction restrictions may apply.

Finding aids: File list available online.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record - published (documentary form)
 - Government (subject)
 - Health care (subject)
 - Women (subject)
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