Item: 2003.13.1.2.363 – A train coming around a bend in the mountain
About Us

The Northern BC Archives & Special Collections acquires, preserves, and provides access to materials of permanent value that relate to:

- The institutional history of UNBC
- The culture and history of Northern British Columbia

We serve research and scholarship by making these records available to researchers, students, faculty, and the general public.

Our Holdings

Archival Database

Our archival holdings are searchable through our database: search.nbca.unbc.ca

Use this database like a library catalogue to find descriptions of archival materials. Some have been digitized but most have not.

Northern BC Archives & Special Collections Holdings

Our holdings contain materials from 1697 to the present. These numbers are estimates as our collections are expanding everyday:

- 33,000+ photographic images (15,000+ digitized)
- 1,000+ sound and moving image recordings (700+ digitized)
- 9,795+ rare books (1000+ digitized)
- 2,719 linear metres of archival materials
- 500 artworks from the University Art Collection
- 5000+ maps & plans (265+ digitized)

Item: 2009.7.1.044 - View of Prince Rupert from above, featuring church building in foreground
Plan Your Visit

You are welcome to drop by during our business hours, but appointments are always appreciated. Use these tips to get the most out of your visit to the archives:

• **Know what you want to look at**
  - **Search our database** ([search.nbca.unbc.ca](search.nbca.unbc.ca)) and make note of the Reference Code for any materials you would like to access. You may find that what you are looking for is available online.

• **Let us know you’re coming**
  - **Email us** and let us know what you would like to access (with Reference Codes) and when you would like to view it. This will ensure that the materials you wish to access will be ready for your arrival.

• **Plan your time**
  - Look at the physical description of the materials you want to access. This will help you determine the amount of time you will need to spend working with the materials. Our collections are non-circulating, which means you can only access them in the archives during business hours.

• **Things to bring or leave behind**
  - You are welcome to use your laptop or tablet to make notes
  - **Food** and **drink** are not allowed in the archives reading room
  - We provide pencils for your use and do not allow the use of pens
  - You may bring a cell phone or camera to take non-flash photos for personal use or study

• **Please remember: these materials are rare, unique, and irreplaceable**
  - Please handle them gently and keep them in their original order and condition.

Add to Our Collections

If you, your family, or your organization have materials that fit our mandate, we would love to hear from you. We welcome archival and monetary donations that enrich existing collections, support the teaching and research programs at the University, and complement the Northern BC Archives & Special Collections present holdings.
Archives by Subject

The following subject guides provide an overview of our collections and highlight topics in which we have extensive holdings, particularly on natural resources development, forestry, transportation development, and northern exploration. Find these and more of our subject and topic guides at:
libguides.unbc.ca/archives/home/archives_by_subject

Natural Resource Development in Northern BC
Collections that illustrate the development of natural resource industries in Northern BC and environmental impact comprise one of our most extensive subject areas. These materials relate to mining, forestry, fishing, and hydro projects.
Image 2000.1.1.3.20.1 Clinton Creek Mine
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/nres/nbca

Forest History in Northern BC
These collections relate to forest research and the forest industry. These include research and model forests like the Aleza Lake Research Forest but also collections from mills like the Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. You will also find photograph collections and oral history collections.
Image 2007.1.25.6.12 District Officers meeting at Aleza Lake Experimental Station
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/forestry/nbca

First Nations & Indigenous Peoples of Northern BC
These collections feature First Nations and indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples did not create most of these collections, as those records rightly remain with their original indigenous creators. Instead, we hold collections about indigenous communities or peoples, such as records created by government bodies, missionaries, organizations, and scholars.
Image 2009.7.1.104 Chief’s lodge and totem, Nass River
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/firstnations/nbca
Oral Histories of Northern BC

These are collections of interviews detailing past life in numerous Northern BC communities and beyond. These were created by authors, scholars, and researchers who collected oral histories through their work and research. This guide also provides tips on conducting and preserving oral histories.

Image 2009.6.13.49.1579 Iona Campagnolo, CBC interview
Website libguides.unbc.ca/oral-histories/nbca

Transportation Development in Northern BC

These extensive collections show transportation development and its impact on Northern BC. Highlighted in this guide are the Prince George Railway & Forestry Museum Collection and the David Davies Railway Collection, both of which provide extensive textual, cartographic, and photographic evidence of exploratory ventures in BC’s Northern regions.

Image 2013.6.36.1.056.13 Dunrobin locomotive
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/transportation/nbca

Northern Exploration and Surveying in Northern BC

These extensive collections document the many northern expeditions and surveys in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Featured here are records regarding the 1934 Bedaux Expedition. Also included is a bibliography of explorers, surveyors, and guides of Northern BC.

Image 2000.19.1.1 Prentiss Gray campsite in snowy forest
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/exploration/nbca

Health and Medicine in Northern BC

These collections on health and medicine in Northern BC include notable items such as the Prince George Corless Funeral Ledger (1916-1931) and Dr. D. B. Lazier Record of Confinements (1901-1930) in Northern BC. This is an area of our holding we want to expand to reflect the history of medical practice in this region.

Image 2000.1.1.3.07.08 Cassiar health care staff
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/medicine/nbca
Early Settlers and Ghost Towns of Northern BC

These are collections of photographs, letters, and other material created by early settlers in Northern BC. These depict life in salmon cannery towns, Gold Rush towns, and mining towns that were once thriving communities but are now no longer populated.

Image 2009.10.2.044 North Pacific Cannery, Port Edward
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/settlers/nbca

Political and Social History of Northern BC

These are collections of materials related to political personalities, social and political activists, and political history in Northern BC. Our holdings include the records of The Honourable Iona Campagnolo (Federal Cabinet Minister and Lieutenant Governor for BC); Ray Williston (Cabinet Minister for Premier Bennett); H.G.T. (Harry) Perry (Provincial Minister of Education); and Bridget Moran (social activist).

Image 2009.6.1.371 Pierre Trudeau and Iona Campagnolo
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/politicalhistory/nbca

Northern BC Literary Collections and Cultural Life

These collections show an author's complete process from the initial book idea through research and writing through to its publication and critical reception. These collections include drafts, notes, research materials, awards, and press coverage from local authors and poets such as Brian Fawcett, Barry McKinnon, and Bridget Moran.

Image 2008.3.1.22.62 Moran Signing Copy of 'Judgement at Stoney Creek'
Website libguides.unbc.ca/archives/literature/nbca

Multicultural Northern BC

These collections illustrate multiculturalism in Northern BC and include holdings describing the history of Chinese, Japanese, South Asians, First Nations, and Europeans in Northern BC. This is an area of our holding we want to expand to reflect the role people of different ethnicities played in the history of Northern BC.

Image 2009.10.2.080 Asian family
Website libguides.unbc.ca/multicultural/nbca
Digital Collections

Northern BC Digital Collections

The Northern BC Digital Collection holds digitized publications pertaining to Northern BC history, culture, and industrial development. These published collections include books, maps, plans, and some newsletters and newspapers. The Northern BC Regions included here are Stikine, Peace River-Liard, Fraser-Fort George, Bulkley-Nechako, Northwest, North Coast, and Cariboo. Access it here: www.NorthernBCCollections.ca

Northern BC Archives: Digital Collections

Digitized Photograph Collections

Browse over 15,000 digitized photographs from the 19th century to the present here: libguides.unbc.ca/digital_collections/photographs

Instagram: www.instagram.com/northernbcarchives/

Digitized Text Collections

Browse through some of our collections of digitized archival documents here: libguides.unbc.ca/digital_collections/documents

Digitized Video Collections

Browse our digital video collections here: libguides.unbc.ca/digital_collections/videos

Northern BC Archives YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/channel/UCeGCopFZ1H1N-L5ndWGoWA

Digitized Audio Collections

Listen to some of our digitized audio collections including interviews and oral histories here: libguides.unbc.ca/digital_collections/audio
Find Us

Northern BC Archives & Special Collections is located on the Prince George campus of the University of Northern British Columbia. We are located on the 4th floor of the UNBC Geoffrey R. Weller Library.

Hours of Service:
Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM – 12:30, 1:00-4:30 PM
Appointments Recommended

Geoffrey R. Weller Library
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, B.C. V2N 4Z9

Email: archives@unbc.ca
Website: library.unbc.ca/archives

Social Media Profiles
Instagram: northernnbarchives
YouTube: Northern BC Archives
Facebook: UNBC Northern BC Archives & Special Collections

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