

Archives of the Law Society of Ontario

Finding Aid - Foundation of the Bar of Ontario fonds (PF171)

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Foundation of the Bar of Ontario fonds

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Summary information

Repository: Archives of the Law Society of Ontario

Title: Foundation of the Bar of Ontario fonds

ID: PF171

Date: 1938-1984 (date of creation)

Physical description: 16.5 cm of textual records

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Foundation of the Bar of Ontario was established by Samuel E. Weir, Q.C., an Ontario lawyer, in the early 1950s. Conceived of as a charitable organization and influenced by the work of the Montreal Advocates' Benevolent Association and Law Association for the Benefit of Widows and Families of Solicitors in London, its initial purpose was to provide financial assistance to the families of Ontario lawyers in the event of death or illness. This proposed role later expanded to include issues of jurisprudence and law reform, the awarding of medals, prizes and scholarships, and the general promotion of ethical standards in the legal profession. Membership was to be open to all members of the Bar of Ontario for the annual fee of five dollars, headed by a board of thirty directors.

Though the foundation initially collected fees from members and established a bank account, it never attained charitable organization status, and the monies collected in the late 1950s were not used. This was likely due to the difficulties faced by Weir when attempting to incorporate the foundation in the 1950s and 1960s. Opposition to Weir's foundation by the Law Society of Upper Canada played a role as well, as seen in the formation of a special committee to consider the issue of its incorporation. In addition, the Law Society of Upper Canada created a similar foundation, the Law Society Foundation, in 1962, which fulfilled many of the goals of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These circumstances, and Weir's declining health, ended his pursuit of the incorporation of the organization in the mid-1960s. After Weir's death in 1981, his estate donated the funds gathered for the foundation, a sum of approximately \$1,500, to the Law Society Foundation.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records pertaining to the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario and its founder, Samuel E. Weir, an Ontario lawyer. The records in this fonds document Weir's work to establish an organizational charter, incorporate the foundation, enroll members, and garner support for the foundation from the legal community in Ontario. The records in this fonds include correspondence, memoranda, membership forms, financial records, charters, and petitions.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of the fonds.

Arrangement

Fonds is arranged in four series: Charters, applications and memoranda; Correspondence; Financial accounts; Membership

Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
-

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Collection holdings

Series: PF171-PF171-1 - Charters, applications and memoranda

Title: Charters, applications and memoranda

ID: PF171-PF171-1

Date: 1951-1968 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records pertaining to the activities of Samuel E. Weir, an Ontario lawyer, and the establishment of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document Weir's efforts to incorporate the foundation, garner support and membership among legal colleagues, and draft an

organizational charter. The records in this series are correspondence, memoranda, charters, drafts, and applications.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Arrangement:

Series is arranged chronologically.

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-1-991009-001 - The Foundation of the Bar of Ontario - unincorporated body - 1957

Title: The Foundation of the Bar of Ontario - unincorporated body - 1957

ID: PF171-PF171-1-991009-001

Date: 1951-1963 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of records pertaining to the creation and promotion of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document Samuel Weir's efforts to incorporate and garner support for the foundation. The records in this file include correspondence, notes, proposals, drafts, petitions, memoranda, and applications.

Physical description: 1.5 cm of textual records

Physical condition:

Some paper in this file is brittle and deteriorating.

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-1-991009-002 - Foundation of Bar of Ontario

Title: Foundation of Bar of Ontario

ID: PF171-PF171-1-991009-002

Date: 1957-1968 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of records pertaining to the creation and promotion of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document Samuel Weir's efforts to incorporate and garner support for the foundation as well as his interaction with the Law Society of Upper Canada regarding this issue. The records in this file include correspondence, memoranda, reports, and charters.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

Series: PF171-PF171-2 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

ID: PF171-PF171-2

Date: 1953-1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records pertaining to the management and development of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario by Samuel Weir. These records document Weir's efforts to garner support for the foundation, the level of membership during 1957, and the allotment of foundation money after Weir's 1981 death. The records in this series are correspondence, organizational charters, and memoranda.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

Arrangement:

Series is arranged chronologically.

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-2-991009-003 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

ID: PF171-PF171-2-991009-003

Date: 1953-1960 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of records pertaining to Samuel Weir's work to develop the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document the nature of the foundation, the level of Weir's personal involvement in its promotion, and the interest in the foundation from the Ontario legal community. The records in this file are correspondence.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-2-991009-004 - Correspondence - 1957

Title: Correspondence - 1957

ID: PF171-PF171-2-991009-004

Date: 1957 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of records pertaining to Samuel Weir's work to develop the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document the level of Weir's personal involvement in its promotion and applications for membership from the Ontario legal community. The records in this file are correspondence.

Physical description: 1.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-2-991009-005 - Correspondence, memoranda and charters

Title: Correspondence, memoranda and charters

ID: PF171-PF171-2-991009-005

Date: 1957-1958, 1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of records pertaining to the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario and the estate of Samuel Weir. These records document the proposed objectives and internal structure of the foundation, as well as issues regarding Weir's estate, the Law Society of Upper Canada, and the use of money gathered for the foundation by Weir. The records in this file include correspondence, memoranda, and organizational charters.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

Series: PF171-PF171-3 - Financial accounts

Title: Financial accounts

ID: PF171-PF171-3

Date: 1957 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records pertaining to the financial activities of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records primarily document the collection and management of membership fees for the foundation in 1957. The records in this series are bank account statements and a cash book.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Arrangement:

Series is arranged alphabetically.

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-3-991009-006 - Account statements

Title: Account statements

ID: PF171-PF171-3-991009-006

Date: 1957 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of financial records pertaining to the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records are account statements and balance verification for the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario for the months of March, April, May and June 1957, held in care of Samuel Weir at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, London, Ontario.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-3-991009-006 - Account statements

Title: Account statements

ID: PF171-PF171-3-991009-006

Date: 1957 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Item is a cash book used to record the names and payments of members for monies deposited at a Canadian Bank of Commerce, in London, Ontario, from March to July 1957.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

Series: PF171-PF171-4 - Membership

Title: Membership

ID: PF171-PF171-4

Date: 1938-1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records pertaining to membership in the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document contact information about 1957 members and their financial contribution to the foundation, as well as, to a lesser degree, the work of Samuel Weir to develop the structure and purpose of the foundation. The records in this series include correspondence, membership forms, lists, receipts, and cheques.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records

Arrangement:

Series is arranged alphabetically.

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-4-991009-008 - Membership application forms - A-K

Title: Membership application forms - A-K

ID: PF171-PF171-4-991009-008

Date: 1957 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of completed Foundation of the Bar of Ontario membership application forms for the year 1957, organized alphabetically by surname. The forms detail the names, addresses, call dates, and date of the subscription. These forms accompanied the membership fee of \$5.00.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-4-991009-009 - Membership application forms - L-Z

Title: Membership application forms - L-Z

ID: PF171-PF171-4-991009-009

Date: 1957 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of completed Foundation of the Bar of Ontario membership application forms for the year 1957, organized alphabetically by surname. The forms detail names, addresses, call dates, and date of the subscription. These forms accompanied the membership fee of \$5.00.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published

File: PF171-PF171-4-991009-010 - Subscriptions

Title: Subscriptions

ID: PF171-PF171-4-991009-010

Date: 1938-1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of records pertaining to the formation of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario and its membership. These records document membership fees paid and deposited, and the names and locations of members. The records in this file include cheques, memoranda, correspondence, notes, receipts, and lists.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Publication status:

published
