

# **Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada**

## **Finding Aid - Killam General Hospital, Alta. fonds (F03)**

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# Killam General Hospital, Alta. fonds

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## Summary information

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| <b>Repository:</b>                                   | Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada                                    |
| <b>Title:</b>  | Killam General Hospital, Alta. fonds   |
| <b>Reference code:</b>                               | F03  |
| <b>Date:</b>   | 1930-2010, predominant 1963-2010 (creation)  |
| <b>Physical description:</b>                         | 10 cm of textual material<br>125 photographs<br>5 postcards<br>1 architectural drawing |
| <b>Language:</b>                                     | English  |
| <b>Dates of creation,<br/>revision and deletion:</b> | July 2, 2014July 2, 2020   |

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

In 1930, the Sisters of St. Joseph opened Killam General Hospital, which remained open the longest of the four hospitals which they started in Alberta. Two years later, St. Paul's Hospital began in Rimbey. The hospital in Stettler had opened in 1926 and closed a year later, while the hospital in Galahad had opened in 1926.

In 1930, the F. E. Nichol home was purchased by the Sisters for the construction of the hospital in Killam. At this time, there were no grants from the provincial government for the construction or operation of the hospital. Killam General Hospital was given this name to demonstrate that all patients would be treated, no matter with which religion they were affiliated. Sister Jane Frances O'Rourke took charge of the hospital soon after opening. Sister Loyola Donovan followed as Superior and Administrator. In 1945, the hospital had 15 beds.

By 1946, the people in the community had observed for some time that a larger hospital was needed, and thus a wing was added to the hospital. In 1958, the Alberta Hospitalization Plan was put in place, and the Killam General Hospital was one of the first of Alberta's voluntary hospitals to adopt the idea of inviting lay persons of the community to help with hospital management.

In 1959, Sister Mary Lourdes Therens became the new administrator for the hospital. In 1963, during her time as administrator, a new hospital, chapel and residence for the Sisters was opened.

The Flagstaff Beaver Auxiliary Hospital was built and originally owned by the county, which had wanted a long-term care hospital. It was a separate corporation with its own board of directors. The county asked Sister Lourdes and Sister St. Bride if they would operate the hospital for the county. They agreed to do so, and it was administered along with Killam General Hospital as one facility but two separate corporations. There was an Administrator who was a Sister who oversaw a Director of Nurses position in each hospital. These positions were also filled by Sisters. The Auxiliary Hospital and General Hospital were connected

by a corridor with double doors that were always left open. The Convent was also attached to the building. The Auxiliary Hospital shared the kitchen and boiler system with the General Hospital and the county paid a certain amount for this shared usage. The lab and x-ray departments were shared between the hospitals, and patients from the General Hospital went to the physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments which were at the Auxiliary Hospital. The Auxiliary Hospital provided long-term care and was known as the geriatric wing. The Auxiliary Hospital had 50 beds, and the Killam General Hospital had a small nursery.

In 1970, Sister Mary Kevin Moran became the new administrator for the complex. There was some lobbying for the Killam General Hospital to be turned over to the county, but the Sisters resisted this for twelve years. In the end, the county turned the Auxiliary Hospital over to the Killam General hospital. The Killam General Hospital was in operation from 1930-1990 under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1990, the Sisters withdrew from operation of the Killam General and Flagstaff Beaver Auxiliary Hospitals. In 1990, the hospitals were renamed the Killam Hospital Complex. At this point, the hospitals had 30 active beds and 150 chronic beds. In 2002, ownership was transferred to Alberta Catholic Health Corporation. The Convent was rented to home care for five years and is now also owned by the Alberta Catholic Hospital Corporation. The former Convent houses doctors' offices today. The hospital complex was later named Killam Health Care Centre.

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## Scope and content

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The fonds consists of histories for Killam, Galahad, Rimbey and Stettler hospitals that have been combined to create a history of the Alberta hospitals run by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Killam General Hospital was opened for the longest period of all these hospitals, and therefore a large quantity of the combined history is about this hospital. Along with the series for the histories of the four hospitals, there are series for commemorative and administrative materials. The fonds contains community histories, a timeline, staff listings, correspondence, newsletters, pamphlets, and photographs.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred from the Sisters in Alberta to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada - London site archives.

### Location of originals

The records are located at The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

### Restrictions on access

F03-S003-01 General Hospital and Flagstaff Beaver Auxiliary 1930-1990 is restricted to the public. The Archives reserves the right to restrict access to the collection depending on the condition of the archival material, the amount of material requested, and the purpose of the research. The use of certain

materials may also be restricted for reasons of privacy or sensitivity, or under a donor agreement. Access restrictions will be applied equally to all researchers and reviewed periodically. No researcher will be given access to any materials that contain a personal information bank such as donor agreements or personnel records, or to other proprietary information such as appraisals, insurance valuations, or condition reports.

### Conditions governing use

Permission to study archival records does not extend to publication or display rights. The researcher must request this permission in writing from the Archives.

### Finding aids

There is a series and file list.

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

### Note [Sources]

Sisters Kateri Ghesquiere, Theresa Carmel Slavik, and St. Bride Laverty, pers. comm., 2014.

M. Doyle (ed.), and C. Dignan (ed.), Contribution of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London to the Hospital and Health Care Services in Canada (1888-1992).

G. J. Humbert, A Compendium of the Catholic Health Association of Canada, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, 2011.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Revised

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## Access points

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- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Postcards (documentary form)
- Women and girls (subject)
- Health care (subject)
- Religion and religious people (subject)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- Hospitals (subject)
- Alberta (place)
- London (place)

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## Collection holdings

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### **Series: F03-S001 - Histories of Alberta Hospitals**

Title: Histories of Alberta Hospitals

Reference code: F03-S001

Date: 1983-1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series consists of materials from Killam, Galahad, Rimbey and Stettler hospitals. It includes histories, newsletters, correspondence, and staff listings.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records  
1 photograph

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
  - Textual record (documentary form)
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### **File: F03-S001-01 - The Hospital and Health Care Services of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Western Canada (1926-1990) [v. 2]**

Title: The Hospital and Health Care Services of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Western Canada (1926-1990) [v. 2]

Reference code: F03-S001-01

Publication status:

published

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### **File: F03-S001-02 - The Hospital and Health Care Services of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Western Canada (1926-1990) [v. 1]**

Title: The Hospital and Health Care Services of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Western Canada (1926-1990) [v. 1]

Reference code: F03-S001-02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F03-S001-03 - Alberta Catholic Hospital Planning Council in Western Hospitals**

Title: Alberta Catholic Hospital Planning Council in Western Hospitals

Reference code: F03-S001-03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F03-S001-04 - Western Catholic Reporter 1983 - Hospitals in Alberta**

Title: Western Catholic Reporter 1983 - Hospitals in Alberta

Reference code: F03-S001-04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F03-S001-05 - List of Sisters stationed in Western Hospitals**

Title: List of Sisters stationed in Western Hospitals

Reference code: F03-S001-05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F03-S001-06 - Sisters of St. Joseph - 1995 - Hospitals in Alberta**

Title: Sisters of St. Joseph - 1995 - Hospitals in Alberta

Reference code: F03-S001-06

Publication status:

published

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**Series: F03-S002 - Histories of Killam Hospitals**

Title: Histories of Killam Hospitals

Reference code: F03-S002

Date: 1983-2001 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series consists of histories for the Killam General Hospital. Many of the histories were written after the closing of the hospital in 1990. The materials include a history of the hospital, community history for Killam, a timeline, staff listings, and newspaper clippings.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F03-S002-01 - History of Killam Hospital**

Title: History of Killam Hospital

Reference code: F03-S002-01

Publication status:

published

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### **File: F03-S002-02 - Killam General Hospital and Father Merlin McCarthy**

Title: Killam General Hospital and Father Merlin McCarthy

Reference code: F03-S002-02

Publication status:

published

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### **File: F03-S002-03 - Killam, Alta. - General Hospital 1966-1983**

Title: Killam, Alta. - General Hospital 1966-1983

Reference code: F03-S002-03

Publication status:

published

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### **Series: F03-S003 - Commemorative materials**

Title: Commemorative materials

Reference code: F03-S003



Date: 1963-2010 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series consists of materials that have been kept by the Sisters of St. Joseph for commemorative reasons. Some of the materials include histories, correspondence, newsletters, pamphlets, photographs and programmes.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records  
7 photographs

Restrictions on access: F03-S003-01 General Hospital and Flagstaff Beaver Auxiliary, 1930-1990 is restricted to the public.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
  - Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F03-S003-01 - General Hospital and Flagstaff Beaver Auxiliary, 1930-1990**

Title: General Hospital and Flagstaff Beaver Auxiliary, 1930-1990

Reference code: F03-S003-01

Publication status:

published

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### **File: F03-S003-02 - Newspaper clippings**

Title: Newspaper clippings

Reference code: F03-S003-02

Publication status:

published

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### **Series: F03-S004 - Administrative materials**

Title: Administrative materials

Reference code: F03-S004

Date: 1963-2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series consists of materials kept by the hospital for administrative reasons, including histories, correspondence, photographs, board meeting minutes, a copy of a speech, a color

architectural drawing, and a number of reports. There are also records about the change in ownership of the hospital in 1990.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

10 photographs

1 architectural drawing

1 postcard

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

### **File: F03-S004-01 - Killam - Correspondence & Information**

Title: Killam - Correspondence & Information

Reference code: F03-S004-01

Publication status:

published

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### **File: F03-S004-02 - Special Events and Hospital Documents ca. 1967-1990**

Title: Special Events and Hospital Documents ca. 1967-1990

Reference code: F03-S004-02

Publication status:

published

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### **Series: F03-S005 - Photographs**

Title: Photographs

Reference code: F03-S005

Date: 1930-1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series consists of photographs which were originally in a photograph album of Alberta hospitals.

Physical description: 24 photographs : b&w

83 photographs : col.

4 postcards

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

**File: F03-S005-01 - 1928-1982 Photographs**

Title: 1928-1982 Photographs

Reference code: F03-S005-01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F03-S005-02 - 1990 Awards Night**

Title: 1990 Awards Night

Reference code: F03-S005-02

Publication status:

published

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