

**FINDING AID 4037**

FONDS 4037

ONTARIO INTER-CHURCH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION FONDS

Accession Number 1985.105C

**ONTARIO INTER-CHURCH COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION FONDS. – 1953-1974. – 60 cm of textual records.**

The Ontario Inter-Church Committee on Public Education was an interdenominational committee focused on incorporating Christian religious teachings within the public school system of Ontario. For the bulk of its existence, this Committee was known as the Inter-Church Committee on Religious Education in Public Schools and was made up of primarily Protestant representatives from the United Church, Anglican Church, Evangelical United Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples), Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada, Mennonite Conference, Presbyterian Church, as well as a representative for the Roman Catholic Church joining eventually joining. The Christian Women's Council on Education and Ontario Educational Association's Bible Study Committee also participated as well as the Ontario Christian Council of Education (O.C.C.E.), through which the Committee was closely associated. Early cooperative work among the denominations began in the 1920s over selecting passages for the Opening Exercise observed in schools, although this followed by a lull in organizing. In the mid-1930s an ecumenical organizing body was again established, and, at this time, the nature of the O.C.C.E. providing ecumenical training and promotion in the field of Christian education helped solidify the integrated efforts between the O.C.C.E. and the Committee. In 1937, E.R. McLean, then General Secretary became Secretary for the Committee. Suggestions were made to have the Committee be an official arm of the O.C.C.E, however, this was never enacted though the O.C.C.E. continue to participate with the Committee. In the 1960s, the Committee took part in formal discussions of religious education in Ontario's public school system through the creation of the MacKay Commission put forth by the Minister of Ontario. The Committee, along with other ecumenical organizations, churches and other bodies wrote reports for this Commission. During this period, further efforts were made to establish paid staffing positions for the Committee through the Canadian Council of Churches, although this was not carried out. In 1966, the Committee changed its name to the Ontario Inter-Church Committee on Public Education. In 1970-1971, the Committee joined the Ecumenical Study Commission regarding religious education in schools that operated well into the next decade.

Fonds consists of Series 1) Minutes, 1953-1968; Series 2) Briefs and Correspondence, 1959-1974; Series 3) Records of Secretary and Chairman, E.R. McLean, including correspondence, addresses, and manuscript materials, 1944-1966.

Related Groups of Records: See also the Ontario Council of Christian Education Fonds (4001); Division of Mission Fonds, Series 6: Working Unit on Education and Resources, Subseries 3: Ecumenical Study Commission on Public Education (512).

See also the UCCA Reference Library for related publications.

**SERIES 1: MINUTES, 1953-1968**

<b>Acc. No.</b>	<b>Box/File</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1985.105C	1-1	Minutes [single meetings for 1953-1954]	1953-1956
	1-2	---	1957-1958
	1-3	---	1959-1960
	1-4	---	1961-1962
	1-5	---	1963-1964
	1-6	---	1965-1966
	1-7	--- [incomplete]	1967-1968

SERIES 2: BRIEFS AND CORRESPONDENCE, 1959-1974

<b>Acc. No.</b>	<b>Box-File</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1985.105C	1-8	"In His Image: A Text in Religious Education for Senior Secondary School Students" – Prepared for the Committee [authored by Pidgeon?]	1958
	1-9	"Religious Education in the Public Schools of Ontario – Re-draft of Pamphlet"	1959
	1-10	Records re: North York, Toronto	1961
	1-11	Committee Brief – McKay Commission – Draft versions	1966
	1-13	--- - "Sample Outlines for courses in religious studies" – Supplementary to <i>The Foundations of Education</i>	1967
	2-4	--- - "An Ecumenical Reaction to the Keller McKay report" - Draft	Nov. 1971
	2-5	--- ---	Mar. 1972
	2-1	Committee reports, briefs, memos	1944-1966
	2-2	---	[ca.1958-1963]
	2-3	--- re: courses and teacher guides	1961-1965
		Manuscript – "Grade 6 Teacher's Guide" – Draft by Dr. and Mrs. J. Mathers	1963
	1-12	Brief by Graham Scott – request for review	1966
	3-6	Correspondence (various UCC exec staff and committee members) re: Ecumenical Study Commission	1969-1974
	3-7	Correspondence (E.E. Long) re: Ecumenical Study Commission	1961; 1970-1972
	3-8	Correspondence (A. E. Larke) re: committee	1961-1965
	3-9	--- re: Grade 8 course	[ca. 1959]

Series 3: RECORDS OF SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN, E. R. McLean, 1944-1966

<b>Acc. No.</b>	<b>Box-File</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1985.105C	3-1	Addresses and papers	1944-1961
	3-2	---	1957-1961
	3-3	Correspondence	1957-1966
	3-4	Manuscript draft - "Religion in Ontario Schools" by E. R. McLean	[before 1965]
	3-5	Manuscript – draft revisions by E. R. McLean – "Teachers' Guide to Religious Education in Grade 1" by J. S. Glen at request of Committee	[195?]