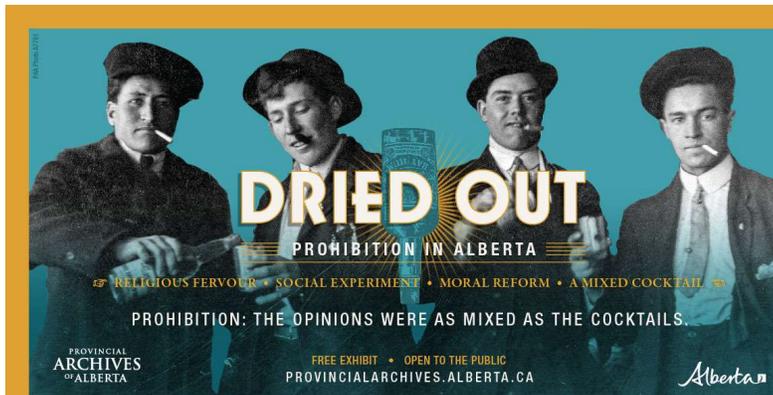


# NEWSLETTER

## Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society



Raise a toast to *Dried Out: Prohibition in Alberta*, the latest exhibit at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, to be showcased until February 2024.

The Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society (FPAAS) continue to work with the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). September is quickly upon us and time for our Annual General Meeting (AGM)! Please consider attending our AGM on September 28, 2023 and serving on the board. Also, we are looking for new members.

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### FPAAS Board 2022/2023

- President: Linda Borys
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- Treasurer: Karen Hesson
- Secretary: Margaret Shane
- Directors-at-Large: Judy Kovacs  
Tim Marriott  
Kelley Abercrombie  
Catherine Whalley

## Archives Store: What's New

By Kristen Ungstad, Archives Retail Services Coordinator

The installation of the "Dried Out" exhibit, featuring the history of prohibition in Alberta will run from April 2023 to February 2024. At the turn of the 20th century, Albertans, swept along by a tide of religious fervor and moral reform, would find themselves participating in a social experiment on a vast scale: Prohibition. The results of the experiment, like a cocktail, were mixed. The Archives Store has been playing a part in this exhibit development by bringing in exciting new products. Rum Runners and Teetotalers alike will find something interesting to take home!

If you're a Rum Runner, you might be interested in the coasters, which feature a reproduction of a Liquor Prescription from 1922. The 12-pack is the perfect conversation piece and ice breaker for a home cocktail party, as each guest can fill out their own "prescription" with their drink of choice.

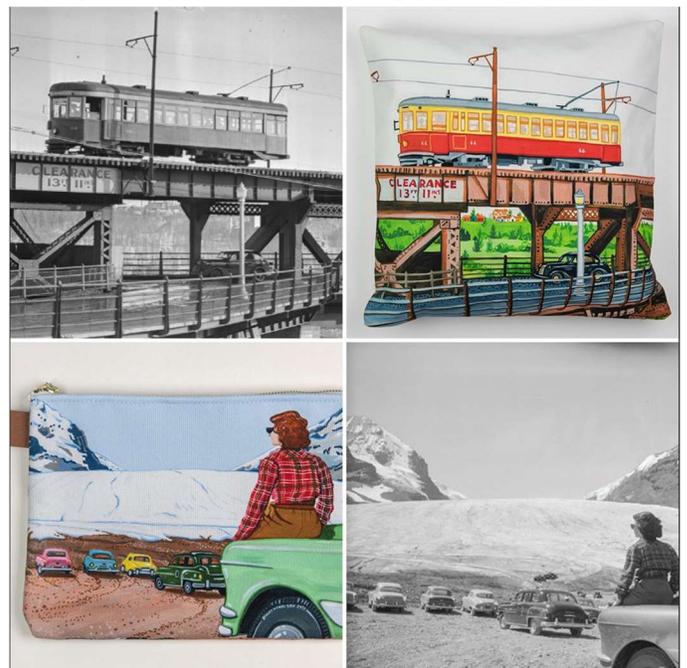
The temperance poster turned into a tea towel can either remind those in your home that you are a dry household, or it can be a cheeky addition to a home bar. It's up to you!

Safe Stimulant is a tea custom blended for the PAA by local tea company, Acquired Taste. It is designed to resemble a good scotch in its flavor profile, featuring vanilla, toffee, and a hint of smoke.

We have not limited ourselves to just the exhibit and what was once old is now new. The Archives Store has brought in a new run of its famous t-shirt featuring the iconic "The Rat" graphic. They are available in five different sizes, small, medium, large, x-large, and xx-large.

Finally, the Archives Store is carrying some lovely Nancy Nickolson merchandise. Nancy is an Edmonton-based artist whose work provides a whimsical ode to life in this place we call Alberta. Everything from roadside attractions, gardening, to perogy-making. Nancy has created artwork especially for the Store based on archival imagery in the PAA holdings, which has been used to create some fun products in the form of pillow and pencil cases.

The Conservation lab is fully stocked with ongoing client conservation projects and there is a pleasantly large wait- list of potential Conservation Services clients. This will ensure a steady stream of



work for the Client Conservator and consistent opportunities to build long-lasting client relationships.

If timing permits, conservation clients offered a brief guided tour of the building and laboratory when I meet with them. They almost always take me up on the offer and I delight in seeing the amazement in their faces when I show them things like our vaults or the cabinets of photos in the Reading Room. So many people had absolutely no idea of the records or resources or that they are available to guests. I have received multiple reassurances that they will spread the word to their friends, families, and members of their wider communities.

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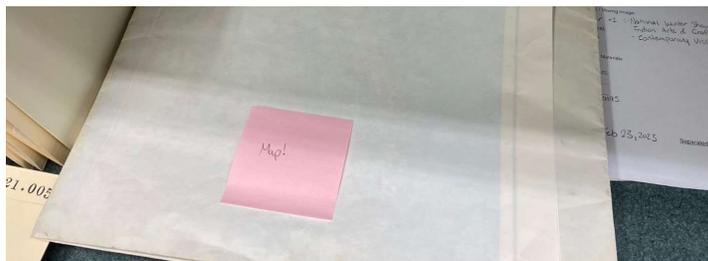
## FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Carmen Zhang

I am one of the Friends Archival Technicians, sharing the position with Lorraine Butchart. As a Private Records Archival Technician, I am responsible for various tasks that include but are not limited to, assigning accession numbers to donations, creating accession files, adding donor information and the donation locations into the Access to Memory (AtoM) database, processing records, creating file lists, and going on donor pickups to places such as Calgary, Drayton Valley and within Edmonton. I am also responsible for pulling Tuesday public vital statistics requests and covering retrievals in the public facing reading room when needed.

My first task at PAA was to accession various donations both small and large. As someone who had an internship at a smaller archive before joining the PAA team, there were many things to learn. One thing out of many I learned was to differentiate the various types of audiovisual material, such as the difference between "regular" 8mm and "super" 8mm films.

When summer came, it was time for PAA to transition from The Museum System (TMS) to AtoM, a new collections management database system. Therefore, there was a data freeze and we could only enter the information into the system when the data freeze ended. When the data freeze lifted, everything went pretty well until I had to add new donors into the system. Sometimes when I clicked save, an error showed up and I had to re-enter the entire donor's information again. Next, I found out that these errors left all these "untitled" entries on the donor's list. Well, time to delete these "untitled" entries forever.

February went by in a speed of light! As a part time staff member, it turns out I only worked for 10 days during this whole month. Overall, for much of 2023, my main responsibility was to process the 103 boxes of the Alberta Indian Arts and Crafts Society collection while creating a file list and making four flap folders for the oversized materials. I did find an interesting map during the processing work; the Indian and Inuit Communities and Languages map, printed in 1980. It shows the distributions of Indian and Inuit Communities and Languages in Canada in the 1976. This was also during the time before Nunavut existed!



Other interesting tasks I have been learning include how to use the Intelliscan scanner to complete various digitalization projects such as scanning and digitalizing the 1902 births, 1972 deaths ledgers, and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) records. Also, combining OMI tiffs into PDFs for upload to AtoM for public access. This has truly been a fun yet interesting past year for me!

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## Accessible Archives and 100+ Years of Treaty 7

By Jonas Vasseur, TRC Archivist Intern

During my time at the Provincial Archives of Alberta as the TRC Archivist Intern through Young Canada Works, a major project was to get the Indigenous Resources Guide (found on <https://searchprovincialarchives.alberta.ca/indigenous-resources-guide>) updated. TRC stands for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and my role was informed by the TRC Calls to Action, specifically those referring to archives and the need to ensure that records related to residential schools are accessible to the public. An Indigenous Resources Guide was first published at the PAA around 2014, and it was created with the intention of making as many records related to Indigenous people and communities as easily accessible as possible. This PDF and print guide was updated every few years.

During my time at the PAA, records had to be described, files sorted through, and I needed to learn to use Access to Memory (AtoM), the access point to the PAA's holdings. Early on, we decided to integrate the guide into AtoM, allowing it to be updated as the PAA acquired records.

One of the early hurdles was learning to code in quasi-HTML, working in the rough backend of what would become publicly available.

Of course, though, there was not much coding time during my position. This internship allowed me take part—to differing degrees based on the task—in many of the activities that keep an archives functioning, including reference work, donor meetings, appraisal, and description to make records available to the public. Some of the most satisfying work for me was in appraising and describing private records at the PAA, working through both new donations and material from the 1970s and onwards.

One of these collections of records became the Treaty 7 Hundredth Anniversary Collection, now found in our database under the identifier PR4005



Figure 2: PR1977.0229/50 – Prince Charles at Treaty 7 re-enactment

(<https://searchprovincialarchives.alberta.ca/treaty-7-hundredth-anniversary-collection>). In July of 1977, the Siksika Nation hosted an event and ceremony commemorating the hundred-year anniversary of the signing of Treaty 7, hosted on the Blackfoot Reserve at Cluny, Alberta. Various

dignitaries, politicians, and First Nation Chiefs took part in the ceremonies and a re-enactment of the signing of Treaty 7.

One of those dignitaries in attendance was King Charles III (then the Prince of Wales). During the commemoration, Charles played a role and was gifted his own headdress, assuming a major part in the re-enactment. In this collection, we hold over 50 slides, several prints, and a few paper records—such as an invitation to the ceremony and a commemoration program leaflet. The Government of Alberta entitled their portion of the ceremony as “A Century of Trust” as an optimistic take on the past (and ideally too, the future).

I was pleased to find out just why we have a photo of the then-Prince Charles wearing a headdress and regalia. I found myself wondering whether we might see King Charles III take on a similar role when Treaty 7 turns 150 in 2027.

It has been a joy to work with AtoM and get record collections—like the one I have described here—available online as part of the Indigenous Resources Guide. Collection PR4005 is within the Treaty 7 section of the Indigenous Resources Guide, and benefits from (and provides further context to) the other records that are found in that subject. I hope it will be a useful research tool for patrons and staff.

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## Mould Remediation Project

By Kassidy Kingston, Conservator Assistant

I have been conducting a mould remediation project here at the Provincial Archives of Alberta since the beginning of May 2022 and it has been an interesting learning experience for me. This project experienced some initial delays throughout the month of May while awaiting the arrival of the extraction hood, and further unfortunate delays when the wrong base size was delivered. During this wait period, I conducted an assessment of the affected collection to determine the severity of the mould on each item and how large the scope of treatment would need to be. For this assessment, I included the accession information, number of items or linear meters present, and the severity level of mould contamination (mild, moderate, severe) for each box or bagged item. I also used this time to begin my mould treatment research and planning for the project ahead.



Once the extraction hood was properly set up, I was able to begin the treatment aspect of the project, which included brushing and vacuuming each item, and following up with a soot sponge in areas that required a bit of extra attention. For some records that could handle it (mostly book covers and some coated paper), I would use a 70:30 ethanol to water mixture that I would swab over stained areas to further kill the spores. Unfortunately, almost all of these records are paper-based and are very porous, making them a very easy breeding ground for mould. This also makes it more difficult to fully remove this mould since it tends to embed itself into the fibres and most cannot endure solvent intervention that could help kill the spores.

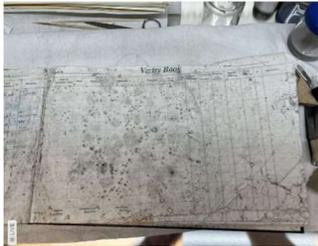
Since many of these records came directly from church floods there is not only the issue of mould, but also the issue of dirt and grime that has become deposited onto the pages. This has caused severe damage issues and embrittlement that requires additional care while cleaning and could extend the treatment process significantly. Some pages had even come adhered together from dirt and had to be carefully separated with as minimal information loss as possible. Unfortunately, a lot of these pages now require further conservation treatment in the lab, such as tear repair, and have been flagged accordingly for future consideration.

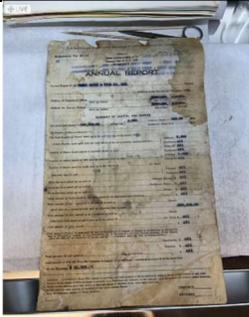
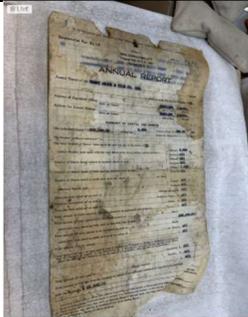


Unfortunately, severe mould contamination can cause staining and extreme degradation in areas that can break off during handling. It also weakens the fibres of the paper that soften the surface, making it more susceptible to damage when conducting these treatments if you are not careful. All of these factors contribute to how the appearance of the record is, even after cleaning, and it will not always be the most satisfyingly visible difference, but the object will be in a more stable condition for treatment or handling.

Once records were cleaned, they were re-housed into new, clean, and more appropriately sized boxes that has reduced the used space on the shelves.

Below I have included some before and after photographs of damaged records.

Description	Before	After
Page samples from a Vestry book from the St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Morinville ranging from 1998 to 2013		
Page samples from a Vestry book from the St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Morinville ranging from 1998 to 2013		

Description	Before	After
Page samples from a Vestry book from the St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Morinville ranging from 1998 to 2013		
Day Book for the years 1930 to 1931 from the Alexander J. Williamsom collection		
Annual Report from the Perry Brick and Tile Co. Ltd. from 1955		
Annual Report from the Perry Brick and Tile Co. Ltd. from 1955		
Accounts Receivable report from 1954 for the Perry Brick and Tile Co. Ltd.		

## YCW Intern Reflections

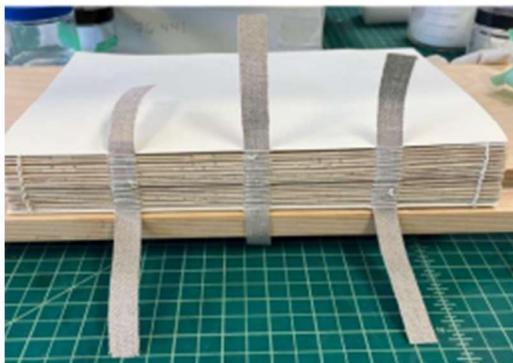
By **Stephanie Olsen**, Conservator Intern

As a graduate of Fleming College's Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management program, this Young Canada Works project supported by the Friends of the PAA allowed me to work on many conservation projects during my time at the PAA. One of the major treatments I completed during this contract was the rebinding of the Fort Rae Codex Historicus, one of many bound volumes found in the Missionary Oblates fonds that require conservation work.

Containing information from 1909-1949, this book required a lot of attention. At my initial assessment, I knew that it would require a lot of work to remove all the tape along the page edges and repair all of the tears. This book also required a complete rebinding as the spine had been replaced with strips of cloth and masking tape. To be able to rebind the book, I first had to remove the pages from the old binding and go through every page to repair the gutter where my new stitching would go. Something that surprised me about this treatment is that, in some places where the tape had very badly stained, the paper had become transparent and very brittle like plastic. These areas required special attention and care to prevent further information loss along the edges of the brittle pages.

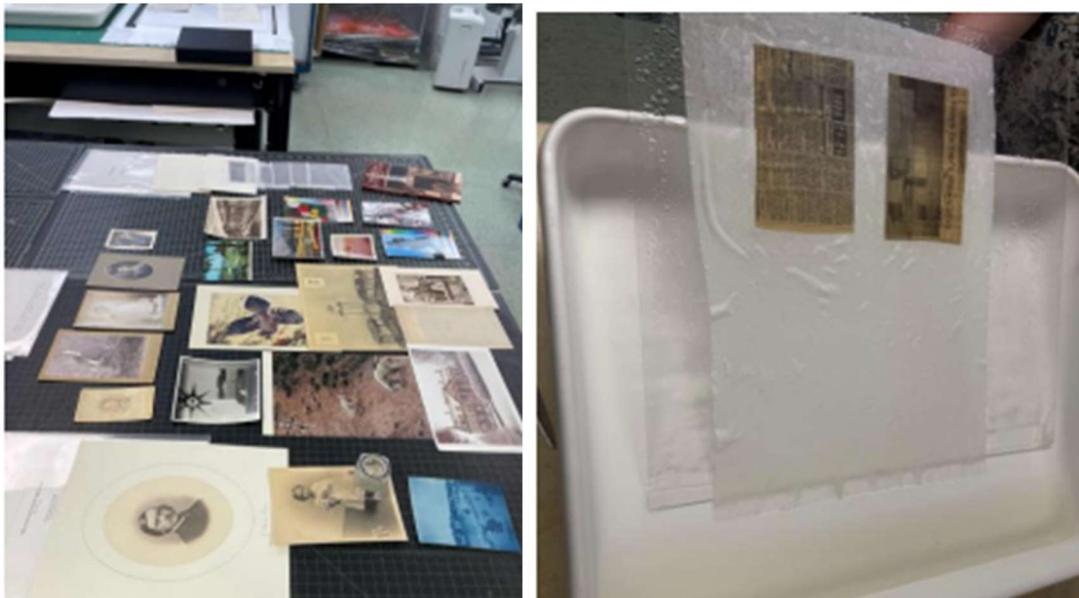


I rebound five other books in a similar fashion – they all required some level of tape removal, surface cleaning and tear repair before I could re-bind them.



Other highlights for me from this internship:

- Getting to know and mentor a Fleming College practicum intern named Kelsey Lamont as she worked to finish her program.
- Improving my ability to distinguish between all the different types of historical photographic materials using samples in the lab.
- Being able to experiment with different treatment options. In these photos, I am slant-washing test pieces of aged newspaper. This is an option for cleaning delicate items that are too fragile or brittle to be submersed in a tray or even cleaned on the suction table.
- Also, being able to explore other treatment options for documents, such as using a commercial deacidification spray for objects at risk of damage from brittleness and creating custom housing for documents and bound volumes using E-flute acid-free board and map folder stock.
- As part of the preservation routine, performing vault checks to monitor the relative humidity and temperature and uploaded information for the online eClimate Notebook, which the PAA uses to track long-term trends in environmental conditions within the facility. Also, learning how to create reports from this system and present environmental information in a meaningful way.



Other activities included:

- Guiding a tour for the public and staff through the conservation lab.
- Moderating two training sessions about using social media in our profession (this was in my role as part of the Training Committee for the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC)).

- Taking a field trip (along with the archivist interns) to the City of Edmonton Archives where I learned about their preservation program, as well as the scope of their holdings.
- Assisting with the Family Day Genealogy event hosted by the PAA. For this event I created a display of the types of preservation material we offer in the PAA store as well as a display about the different tools and supports available to the patrons visiting the PAA's Reading Room. I also created a "know before you go" pamphlet, describing what you can and cannot bring and do while visiting the Reading Room.

At the end of March, I wrapped up projects and documentation. This has been a wonderful learning opportunity for me, and I plan to put my knowledge to good use in my upcoming position at the Camrose Museum.

By **Kelsey Kropiniski**, Archivist Intern

I am this year's Young Canada Works Archivist (Intern) at the PAA. Since I started back in September, I have been working on the appraisal and description of records that had been donated by private individuals, businesses, and/or community organizations in Alberta. Over the last six months, I have appraised close to 40 donations that were part of the appraisal and description backlog. Working on these records, which have long awaited an archivist's attention, has been a really great learning opportunity.

What I liked most about handling private records, was the wide assortment of materials that came across my desk. Private Records come in to the PAA from all over the province, and just like the people, businesses, and communities of Alberta are diverse, so too are the records. My biggest highlight over the last six months has been completing an appraisal and fonds-level description of a large donation that came in from [Alberta's Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association](#). The fonds consists of over 12.07 m of textual records, 228 photographs, and other audio visual materials that document the association's activities from 1962-2018. What I liked most about working with this batch of records was that through detailed appraisal and description, I was able to make them easier for researchers to access and navigate. As a result of these efforts, people may get the chance to gain a deeper understanding of the underrepresented history of mental health and illness in Alberta.

Another area that I enjoyed in my role as an Intern was working with family records. The records created, used, and kept by families are valuable to the public because they offer insights into the lives of those within the family as well as the communities they were a part of. These records hold a great deal of sentimental value, and oftentimes families want to connect with the archives in some capacity before gifting us their records. In my role, I have also been responsible for speaking with potential donors and preparing them for eventually making their donations. I used this awareness to support the Family History Day event in February by giving a brief presentation on what to expect when coming into the Reading Room to research family records. Creating ties and supporting the community in this way has been incredibly rewarding, and I'm so thankful to have had this opportunity to learn from the rest of the PAA staff over the last six months!

## FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Lorraine Butchart

A graduate of MacEwan University's Library and Information Technology program, Lorraine Butchart has been a Friends employee since September of 2015, working as an archival technician on the Private Records team. Much of the work that she does consists of accessioning or processing the donations that come into the Provincial Archives from individuals, groups, or companies in Alberta, with the aim of preserving them and making them available to the public. You may also see her covering retrievals in the reading room from time to time, and she takes her turn, along with the other archival technicians, in filling orders for vital statistics records that come in through the PAA website.



The PAA's recent migration from HerMIS/TMS to the Access to Memory database (AtoM) has been a primary focus for most of the Collections Management team over the past year, and Lorraine is no exception. This new format provides much more flexibility for the public to search and view our holdings online. Migration from the old database to the new was not without its challenges, however, and there has certainly been a learning curve associated with it, affecting everything from accessioning right through to retrievals in the reading room. Fortunately, the training that was made available has been very useful in helping answer the questions that have come up.

Everyone who works at the Provincial Archives provides a couple of posts for the PAA's Facebook account every year, and Lorraine recently wrote a couple that seemed to be quite well received. These included a post celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Big Miller's birth on December 18, and a post that appeared on January 13 about the Sahara restaurant and adjoining movie theatre in the Westmount neighbourhood.

Lorraine enjoys her work at the Provincial Archives and is grateful to the Friends of the Provincial Archives Society for providing the opportunity.

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## Casino: Save the Date

Please mark your calendars! The AGLC has advised that our next casino is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, March 25 and 26, 2024 at the Pure Casino on Argyll Road in south Edmonton (near the PAA). That's the same week as Easter (Good Friday is March 29) and both Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic schools are on spring break that week. More details to follow in the new year.

If you are interested in working this casino, please email us with your preference at [FriendsPAAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsPAAinfo@gmail.com)

## Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society

### Membership Application/Renewal and Donation Form

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The Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society is an incorporated, non-profit organization created in 1991 to support the ongoing work of the Provincial Archives of Alberta by

- assisting the Provincial Archives of Alberta in acquiring, preserving and making its collections accessible;
- promoting and supporting programs and services at the Provincial Archives of Alberta; and
- fostering an awareness and appreciation of the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the documentary heritage it preserves.

Our membership is an integral part of the success of our organization. Members may serve on the board of directors and are also welcome to assist with fundraising projects such as casinos or in various capacities at the Archives and in the community. Some of the other benefits of membership include

- receiving an annual newsletter
- being notified of upcoming events, exhibits, and projects at the Archives
- receiving a 10% discount on products at the Archives Store (excludes organizational members)

Become a member of the Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society and help us to preserve Alberta's history for future generations! Annual memberships run from April 1 to March 31.

Note: The Society maintains a membership list as required by the Societies Act. The list is made available to the Board of Directors and Society members only when it is necessary for Society business, or if legislation requires the disclosure of this information. The Society does not sell or make available its membership list for other distribution or marketing purposes.

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### Membership Categories and Rates

- |  |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual annual membership – \$20<br><input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+) annual membership – \$15<br><input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+) lifetime membership – \$50<br><input type="checkbox"/> Please accept my donation to help the Society with its programmes and projects in support of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Donation amount: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (with valid ID) – \$15<br><input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 adults & children under 18) – \$30<br><input type="checkbox"/> Organization annual membership – \$50 |
|--|--|

(All donations of \$10 or more will be acknowledged with a receipt for income tax purposes)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make cheque payable to *Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send cheque and form to: Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society  
 c/o Provincial Archives of Alberta  
 8555 Roper Road NW, Edmonton, AB T6E 5W1

Thank you for your  
generous support!

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 Email: [FriendsPAAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsPAAinfo@gmail.com)