

ARCHIVES
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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REPORT 2006

1. Fall 2004 Meeting

The Fall 2004 meeting of the diocesan archivists from the provinces of Canada and Ontario was held in Quebec City on 4 and 5 November. In attendance were: Jim Sweeny - Diocese of Quebec, Sophie Lemercier - Diocese of Montreal, Julia Mathieson - Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, Lorraine Slopek - Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI, Mary-Anne Nicholls - Diocese of Toronto, Mark Richardson - Diocese of Huron, Glenn Lockwood - Diocese of Ottawa, Alan Knight - Diocese of Algoma, Richard Virr - Diocese of Montreal and Provincial Archivist and Nancy Hurn - General Synod Archivist.

As usual, two full days were spent reviewing activities and common concerns. In particular, the first morning was dedicated to up-dates from each diocese. Friday afternoon and all day Saturday were given over to: a discussion of updating the Archives Guide, the status of databases upon which the Guides were based and the development of uniform descriptive standards; the possibility for an AAN website was explored; the question of what happens to ACPO records was looked into and what should be done when these are found; there was an update on Privacy Policy which continues to be a major concern; the problems of artifact collections in diocesan archives was discussed; there was an update on Residential Schools; the General Synod electronic records policy was presented; policy changes for Marriage Commission records were discussed and in particular what impact the new procedures will have, and AAN network business was discussed, in particular the need to find a new Provincial archivist for Ontario. Friday afternoon concluded with a tour of Holy Trinity Cathedral given by the Dean, the Very Reverend Walter Raymond, OGS. Saturday concluded with champagne cocktails at Jim Sweeny's followed by dinner at The Garrison Club hosted by the Diocese of Quebec.

Travel costs were in part covered for the Province of Canada by the annual grant from Provincial Synod.

The next meeting will be in Ottawa, 3 and 4 November 2006.

2. Anglican Archives Network (AAN)

The Anglican Archives Network (AAN) is the means by which the diocesan archives across Canada work together; providing support, exchanging information and planning events and training sessions. These activities are coordinated by the four provincial archivists and the archivist of General Synod. This "steering committee" usually meets at least four times a year by conference call and from these meeting the activities of the AAN are organized.

3. Official documents and the Provincial Archives

A request from the Provincial Chancellor, Charles Ferris, has brought to my attention once again that official documents and records are not being deposited in the Provincial Archives in a timely manner and in many cases not at all. Of particular concern at the moment are certificates of episcopal election and consecration. Three official copies of both certificates should be prepared: one for the diocese concerned, one for deposit with the Provincial Archives and one for deposit with General Synod. Both the Provincial Archives and General Synod have incomplete holding and often have to make do with photocopies. Other materials that should be deposited both with the Provincial Archives and with General Synod are copies of Synod Journals and copies of the diocesan canon as these are revised. Finally, I would like to remind the officers of Provincial Synod and the secretaries of committees that the regular deposit of documents and minutes will ensure that the activities and actions of the Province are fully documented. At the present time there are some truly embarrassing gaps in the records.

4. Anglican Libraries in Canada Conference

Finally, I would draw your attention to a conference on Anglican libraries in Canada being organized by the Canadian Church Historical Society. This one-day conference will be held in Montreal on Tuesday, 19 June 2007. Both papers and brief communications have been solicited and the agenda for the day is almost complete. The conference will break new ground in this area of Anglican history whose richness is little known and even less explored. Diocesan archivist are being urged to provide communications describing relevant library holding that are in diocesan archives or in parishes and institutions in their diocese. The proceedings of the conference will be published in the *Journal of the Canadian Church Historical Society*. Registration procedures will be available early in 2007. For further information please contact me either at the Montreal Diocesan Archives or at the Rare Books Division, McGill University Library. My email at McGill is: richard.virr@mcgill.ca

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