

Alice West Fonds

An inventory of records held by BC Labour Heritage Centre

**prepared by Donna Sacuta
November 2023**

Title: Alice West Fonds

Dates: 1934 - 2013

Physical Description: Series 1: Alice West
Textual records, certificates, membership card, 94 photographs, ephemera

Series 2: Ross Hodges
4 photographs, textual records

Administrative History: Alice (Pack) West was a BC union pioneer who died on September 17, 2021 at the age of 95. She devoted much of her working life to paving a better path for working women, mostly as a formidable force within the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). She started work at Vancouver Plywood in 1942 and was in the forefront of a drive by the IWA to unionize the large plant. She began work with the federal Unemployment Insurance Commission in 1966, just in time for legislation allowing federal employees to unionize. She was soon elected shop steward, local President and then Regional Treasurer of the new Public Service Alliance of Canada. In 1979, she became the first woman National Director for BC, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. In retirement, she plunged into activism for seniors, co-founding the influential BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM), which staged rallies, organized petitions and wrote briefs on senior's issues. She helped organize a 3-day seniors' summit in 1999 that developed into the activist group, Women Elders in Action (WE*Act). In 2013 she was awarded the Rosemary Brown Award for Women, as someone who had made an outstanding contribution to women in the labour movement.

Scope/Content: The collection includes records relating to Alice West's union activism and a large collection of photographs stretching from 1942 to 2013. Also included is a remarkable personalized bracelet recognizing her attendance at a union convention in 1943.

A sub-series of items donated at the same time by her son-in-law Ross Hodges is included. Four photographs of family members and employee lists of Shop 360 workers at the Boeing Plant on Sea Island during the Second World War are included.

Title Source: Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Finding Aid:

File list and inventory available

Names:

International Woodworkers of America

I.W.A.

Public Service Alliance of Canada

P.S.A.C.

B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members

BC FORUM

Women Elders in Action

WE*Act

Rosemary Brown Award

Women war workers

Pay Equity

Alice Pack

Title: Alice West Fonds			
Date: 1934 - 2013			
Physical Description:			
File List:			
Ref Code	Title	Dates	Container
2021.2	Alice West Fonds		
2021.2.1	Series: Alice West		4
2021.2.1.1	Correspondence and bulletins - Pay Equity	1999	4
2021.2.1.2	Women Elders in Action (WE*ACT) Correspondence and publications - Pension policy	2003-2005	4
2021.2.1.3	Advocate - BC Federation of Retired Union Members newsletter, Dec 2009, March 2010, June 2010, Sept 2010, Sept 2013	2009-2013	4
2021.2.1.4	Certificates, membership card, business card	1980-2017	4
2021.2.1.5	Photographs		
2021.2.1.5.1	Norah O'Brien, Alice Pack, Margaret Smith at plywood plant	c. 1940	4
2021.2.1.5.2	Women at plywood plant	c. 1940	4
2021.2.1.5.3	MacMillan Industries Plywood Division		
2021.2.1.5.4	Federation of Russian Canadians parade banner	1943	4
2021.2.1.5.5	Labour parade	n.d.	4
2021.2.1.5.6	Street Railwaymen's Union Greets May Day	n.d.	4
2021.2.1.5.7	Conference of the North	1979	4
2021.2.1.5.8	National Officers Training	March 1980	4
2021.2.1.5.9	National Officers Training	March 1980	4
2021.2.1.5.10	CEIU Convention Burnaby	1981	4
2021.2.1.5.11	CEIU Convention Burnaby	1981	4
2021.2.1.5.12	CLC Convention Winnipeg	1982	4
2021.2.1.5.13	CLC Convention Winnipeg	1982	4
2021.2.1.5.14	PSAC EO Committee Ottawa	January 1986	4
2021.2.1.5.15	Say NO! to 19	June 1987	4
2021.2.1.5.16	David Rice CLC	n.d.	4
2021.2.1.5.17	Dave Barrett	n.d.	4
2021.2.1.5.18	Alice West	n.d.	4
2021.2.1.5.19	Miscellaneous photos (6)	n.d.	4
2021.2.1.5.20	Rosemary Brown Award photos (6)	2013	4
2021.2.1.5.21	Retirement party photos (27)	1988	4
2021.2.1.5.22	PSAC and work photos (37)	n.d.	4

2021.2.1.5.23	Silver bracelet, 'Alice Pack', I.W.A. Convention 1943	1943	OVERSIZE Box #3
2021.2.1.5.24	Life membership plaque 1989	1989	OVERSIZE Box #3
2021.2.1.5.25	Rosemary Brown Award for Women	2013	OVERSIZE Box #3
2021.2.1.5.26	Solidarity Excellence Award	n.d.	OVERSIZE Box #3
2021.2.1.5.27	UNDE Local 1002 Retirement plaque	n.d.	OVERSIZE Box #3
2021.2.1.5.28	Autograph books (2)	n.d.	OVERSIZE Box #3
2021.2.2	Series: Ross Hodges		4
2021.2.2.1	Addresses and Phone Numbers of Shop 360 Employees, (Boeing Sea Island)	1944	4
2021.2.2.2	Poem: "Build the PBY's"	1943	4
2021.2.2.3	Photographs		
2021.2.2.3.1	Aasta Sjurdal in work clothes	1943	4
2021.2.2.3.2	Arne Sjurdal skiing	1942	4
2021.2.2.3.3	Elma Tapp (Ingles) (Forsman)	n.d.	4