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Finding Aid - John Howard Society of British Columbia, Nanaimo Area Council fonds (RBSC-ARC-1291)

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John Howard Society of British Columbia, Nanaimo Area Council fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	John Howard Society of British Columbia, Nanaimo Area Council fonds
Reference code:	RBSC-ARC-1291
Date:	1975-1984 (date of creation)
Physical description:	64 cm of textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	The fonds was processed, arranged, and re-described by Gabriella J. Cigarroa in Spring 2024.
Note [generalNote]:	<p>Content Warning: As a programme designed for adult offenders of what were, at the time, designated “minor crimes,” the Mid-Island Diversion Programme created materials detailing alleged offenders’ crimes and personal backgrounds. Although not all records in the fonds centre around emotionally sensitive topics to the same extent or level of detail, some materials contain potentially triggering content. Such material arises from case files and rejection files’ police records, as well as diversion counsellors’ guidance in case files’ and rejection files’ running records. The archivist encountered potentially triggering content on the following topics: alcoholism, animal abuse, drug abuse, domestic abuse, pedophilia, sexual assault, and self-harm. In order to provide a high-level warning, this note is included here to indicate that potentially triggering material may appear throughout the fonds. In addition, the archivist flagged materials she encountered during processing at the file level, although this does not include all content that may be included in this warning. Where content warnings occur, they are noted in the general notes fields at the series and file levels, and are physically labeled on the file folders. Please be aware of these materials and consider creating a plan for self-care in advance of your research visit.</p>

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The John Howard Society of British Columbia was initially established in Vancouver in 1929 and incorporated in 1932, becoming the first John Howard Society in Canada. The objects of the Society as outlined in its constitution were: to seek to remove conditions which lead persons into crime; to befriend the first offender; to work for the wise and just treatment of those confined to penal institutions; to guide and help the mothers, wives and children of men in prison; to help discharged and paroled men and women to re-establish themselves; and to work for wise and just legislation with reference to court procedures and penal administration. The John Howard Society of Canada was later established in 1962. In 1983, the John Howard Society of British Columbia moved its head office to Victoria to act as an umbrella organization for the various independent John Howard Societies operating throughout British Columbia, including the John Howard Society of British Columbia, Nanaimo Area Council. Over their histories, regional John Howard Societies in British Columbia have aimed their services towards delivering programs and services for people impacted by the criminal justice system, as well as those facing multiple barriers such as homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and mental health disabilities. Programs and services have provided assistance with housing, education, employment, and other community-based needs. Regional societies have also been involved in services and advocacy to encourage alternatives to the social justice system, including parole, probation, bail supervision, and community assessments. The John Howard Society, Nanaimo Area Council specialized in local programs including addiction treatment, restorative practice, community reintegration, employment, and community health and wellbeing. In September 2022, the John Howard Society, Nanaimo Area Council partnered with Connective and changed its name to Connective Support Society, Nanaimo. In its September 7, 2022 press release, the organization explained the change as a response to a need for unified programming serving the needs of marginalized people experiencing homelessness, addiction, and justice system involvement.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of the John Howard Society of British Columbia, Nanaimo Area Council's records of the Mid-Island Diversion Programme. Founded in 1975, the Mid-Island Diversion Programme formulated its aims and operations upon John Hogarth's *Sentencing as a Human Process* (1971) and the Law Reform Commission of Canada's Working Paper No. 7 on diversion (1975). The programme was founded with the following objectives: providing a community-based diversion program as an alternative to the criminal justice system for individuals who committed minor offenses; shifting the responsibility of addressing such offenses from the government to the community; modifying the attitude of the public towards these offenders and towards the criminal justice system; and working towards the decriminalization of certain minor offenses. The programme was overseen by the Nanaimo Area Council Diversion Programme Support Committee with representatives from the Crown Counsel, RCMP, probation officers, John Howard Society members, and interested community members. Within its first few years, the programme expanded from Nanaimo to also include communities in Cowichan, Duncan, Ladysmith, and Parksville.

The programme seems to have continued until around 2019, at which point the John Howard Society, Nanaimo Area Council directed its resources towards other restorative justice efforts.

The programme was designed for adult offenders with no more than two prior convictions who had been accused of the following types of offenses, among others: theft under \$200, possession of stolen property under \$200, assault, causing a disturbance, possession of marijuana, willful damage, and possession of a prohibited weapon. Adults accused of other types of offenses could be accepted or rejected from the programme based on their previous criminal record, social background, and community presence. Acceptance into the programme required a referral from the Crown Counsel, approval from the RCMP investigating officer and victim, and voluntary participation on the part of the alleged offender. Participation in the programme required the alleged offender's stated intention to take responsibility for their actions, but did not count as a legal admission of guilt. After acceptance into the programme, the client would formulate a diversion plan with a diversion counsellor. The diversion plan generally required the client to complete the following tasks over a three-month period: community work at a non-profit organization; a letter of appreciation to the RCMP Investigating Officer for referral to the programme; a letter of apology to the victim; if relevant, paid restitution for damages; and meetings with a diversion counsellor weekly or every other week. Upon the programme's completion, the diversion counsellor submitted a final report to inform the Crown, RCMP, and victim.

Fonds documents the administration and operations of the Mid-Island Diversion Programme, and includes statistical reports, procedural manuals, correspondence, case files, rejection files, and other material.

Fonds is arranged into two series: Administration; and Case files.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

Fonds was donated directly to The UBC Library by the Chairman of the John Howard Society of B.C., Nanaimo Area Council, in 1987.

Arrangement

When processing the fonds in 2024, the archivist maintained the fonds' previous order.

Related material

Other records relating to the John Howards Society of British Columbia can be found in the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia fonds held at the Simon Fraser University Archives.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Health and social services (subject)
- Law and justice (subject)
- Organizations (subject)
- British Columbia (place)

Series descriptions

Administration

Date: 1975-1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents the administration of the Mid-Island Diversion Programme. It includes manuals detailing the procedures and processes of the Mid-Island Diversion Programme, correspondence and contracts with other organizations and governmental bodies (e.g., the Crown Counsel, RCMP, other diversion programmes), studies on diversion, reports, monthly and annual statistics, and other material created as part of running the programme.

Physical description: 28 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-01	File - Pre-Diversion	July 1975-1979		
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-02	File - Diversion Guidelines and Procedure	1977-1980		
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-03	File - Procedure Manual 1982: Diversion	1982		
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-04	File - Old Support Letters	1975-1978		
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-05	File - Diversion Support Committee, Copies of S.D.C. Reports	Nov. 1975 - 1984		
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-06	File - Diversion Reports	[1977?]-1982		

RBSC-ARC-1291-01-07	File - Diversion Monthly Reports to C.S.W.	1979-1983
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-08	File - Recidivism, 1976-1981: 8% repeat rate.	[1976?]-1981
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-09	File - Kamloops, R. v. Jones	1977-1978
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-10	File - Annual Stats.	1976-1983
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-11	File - Diversion Statistics 1979.	1979
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-12	File - Statistics 1980	1980
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-13	File - Statistics 1981	1981
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-14	File - Statistics Diversion 1982	1982
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-15	File - Statistical Information 1983	1983
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-16	File - Statistics 1984: Nanaimo Only	1984
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-17	File - Duncan Data: Stats	1981-[1984?]
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-18	File - Statistics 1984: Duncan Only	1984
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-19	File - 1984 CSO Stats.	1984
RBSC-ARC-1291-01-20	File - Port Alberni Data	1980-1981
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-01	File - Diversion Programme Contracts	1976-1979
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-02	File - M.I.D. Contract 1983, also Duncan United Way submission	1983
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-03	File - Correspondence	Dec. 1975 - July 1978
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-04	File - Correspondence: 1978 - Dec. 1982 (folder 1 of 2)	Aug. 1978 - 1982
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-05	File - Correspondence: 1978 - Dec. 1982 (folder 2 of 2)	Aug. 1978 - 1982
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-06	File - Correspondence 1983	1983
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-07	File - Diversion in Duncan: Correspondence - etc.	1980-1982
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-08	File - Parksville Publicity	1978-1980
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-09	File - Parksville Correspondence	1978-1981
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-10	File - Minutes of the Parksville Diversion Support Committee.	1978-1980

Case files

Date: 1975-1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of a sample of case files and rejection files of Mid-Island Diversion Programme clients. Case files document a client's participation in the programme and contain the following material: personal information sheet, police record, running record sheet, letters of apology, general correspondence, and/or closing report. Rejection files consist of some combination of the following material: personal information sheet, police record, running record sheet, general correspondence, and/or statement of rejection from the programme.

Physical description: 36 cm of textual records

Note:

Content Warning: Case files and rejection files detail alleged offenders' crimes in police records and may describe alleged offenders' personal backgrounds in running records. Please be aware of potentially triggering content in this series on the following topics: alcoholism, animal abuse, drug abuse, domestic abuse, pedophilia, sexual assault, and self-harm.

Arrangement:

Case files and rejection files were systematically randomly sampled during the appraisal process. After sampling, the archivist arranged case files alphabetically into files according to year and programme location. Original chronological order of rejection files was maintained by archivist after sampling.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-11	File - [Case files, 1976]	1975-1976		
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-12	File - [Case files, 1977]	1976-1977		
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-13	File - [Case files, 1978]	1977-1978		
RBSC-ARC-1291-02-14	File - [Case files, 1979]	1978-1979		
RBSC-ARC-1291-03-01	File - [Case files, 1980]	1979-1980		
RBSC-ARC-1291-03-02	File - [Case files, 1981 (folder 1 of 2)]	1980-1981		
RBSC-ARC-1291-03-03	File - [Case files, 1981 (folder 2 of 2)]	1980-1981		
RBSC-ARC-1291-03-04	File - [Case files, 1982 (folder 1 of 2)]	1981-1982		
RBSC-ARC-1291-03-05	File - [Case files, 1982 (folder 2 of 2)]	1981-1982		
RBSC-ARC-1291-03-06	File - [Case files, 1983 (folder 1 of 2)]	1982-1983		
RBSC-ARC-1291-03-07	File - [Case files, 1983 (folder 2 of 2)]	1982-1983		

RBSC- ARC-1291-03-08	File - [Case files, 1984 (folder 1 of 2)]	1983-1984
RBSC- ARC-1291-03-09	File - [Case files, 1984 (folder 2 of 2)]	1983-1984
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-01	File - [Duncan Diversion, 1981-1982]	1981-1982
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-02	File - [Duncan Diversion, 1983]	1983
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-03	File - [Duncan Diversion, 1984]	1984
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-04	File - Rejections 1979	1979
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-05	File - Rejections.: July 1981 - September 1981. (folder 1 of 2)	1981
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-06	File - Rejections.: July 1981 - September 1981. (folder 2 of 2)	1981
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-07	File - Rejections: July 21, 1982 - Dec 31, 1982 (folder 1 of 2)	1982
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-08	File - Rejections: July 21, 1982 - Dec 31, 1982 (folder 2 of 2)	1982
RBSC- ARC-1291-04-09	File - Rejections: 1 Oct 1984 to 24 Dec 1984	1984