

The logo for Simon Fraser University (SFU), consisting of the letters "SFU" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

# **Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department**

## **Finding Aid - Gordon Shrum fonds (F-32)**

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# Gordon Shrum fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department
<b>Title:</b>	Gordon Shrum fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	F-32
<b>Wikidata identifier [alternative]:</b>	Q106644098
<b>Wikidata URL [alternative]:</b>	<a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q106644098">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q106644098</a>
<b>Date:</b>	1962 - 1971 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	50 cm of textual records 38 photographs
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Finding aid prepared by Krisztina Laszlo, Frances Fournier, Enid Britt (March 2000).
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8 photographs located in F-32-1-0-10 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 28 photographs located in F-32-1-0-7 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 photograph located in F-32-1-0-4

## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Gordon Merritt Shrum (1896-1985) was a scientist, teacher, administrator, and the first Chancellor of Simon Fraser University.

He was born in Smithville, Ontario in 1896. He entered the University of Toronto in 1913 with the intention of becoming a teacher. He joined the Canadian Officers' Training Corps in 1915 and joined the army the following year. After serving in France and receiving the Military Medal, he returned to finish his university studies. He received his BA in 1919, MA in 1921 and PhD in 1923 in physics. His notable achievements included liquefying helium in 1923 and discovering the origin of the auroral green line in the Northern Lights in 1925.

Later that year he left Toronto to become professor of physics at the University of British Columbia. Over the next 36 years, he served that institution as an academic and administrator.

During his time at UBC, Shrum became a colonel in the COTC, and received the Order of the British Empire during World War II. He was also appointed a director of the BC Research Council in 1944. In 1958, he served as chairman of a royal commission investigating the BC Power Commission. This led to his appointment as Chair of the BC Energy Board in 1959.

In 1961, Shrum had to leave UBC because he had reached the compulsory retirement age of 65. He was immediately appointed head of BC Electric (later BC Hydro) by Premier W. A. C. Bennett. In that capacity he was responsible for the Peace River hydro project.

Bennett also selected Shrum to create the new university recommended by the Macdonald Report of 1963. Shrum built Simon Fraser University, as it would be named, in 18 months earning it the title of "the Instant University." Shrum served as SFU's first chancellor until June 1969 and continued to head BC Hydro until 1972. In May 1975 he became director of the Vancouver Museum and Planetarium Association and reorganized the museum-planetarium complex at Vanier Park.

Now in his eighties, Shrum was approached by Premier Bill Bennett to take charge of the financially-troubled Robson Square Courthouse project. He successfully completed the project and was next asked to develop a trade and convention centre for Vancouver. He stepped down from this project when the federal government took over construction. Gordon Shrum died at the age of 89 in 1985.

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## Scope and content

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The fonds consists of records created, received and collected by Gordon M. Shrum. Records reflect his involvement with Simon Fraser University as Chancellor, his contribution to building the new university and his interest in education and SFU after he retired as Chancellor. Includes correspondence, reports, briefs, memoranda, photographs, architectural drawings, publications, and newspaper clippings.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Arrangement

The fonds was arranged by the Archivist.

### Finding aids

Series descriptions and file lists are available.

### Related material

Please consult the inventory for the Gordon M. Shrum collection, F-31, and the inventory for the Office of the Chancellor, F-3.

### Accruals

All accessions have been processed as of September 2002. No further accruals are expected.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Published

## Access points

- Office of the Chancellor
- Photographic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Buildings and structures (subject)

## Series descriptions

### Series F-32-1: Subject files

Date: 1962 - 1971 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records relating to a number of issues, activities and areas of interest relating to Gordon M. Shrum's involvement with Simon Fraser University. Records reflect information on the architectural competition to design SFU, convocation, staff, scholarships, and other like topics. Includes correspondence, reports, briefs, memoranda, architectural drawings, and publications.

Physical description: 41 cm of textual records  
38 photographs

Note [generalNote]:

Physical description: 8 photographs located in F-32-1-0-10  
Physical description: 28 photographs located in F-32-1-0-7  
Physical description: 1 photograph located in F-32-1-0-4

Publication status:

published

### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-32-1-0-0-1	File - Reference file - University education	1962 - 1963	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-2	File - Reference file - University education 1/2	1963 - 1969	Open	32-1

F-32-1-0-0-3	File - Reference file - University education 2/2	1963 - 1969	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-4	File - Reference file - other universities	1962 - 1966	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-5	File - Simon Fraser, Explorer	1963 - 1965	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-6	File - Architectural competition	1963	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-7	File - Architectural competition	1963	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-8	File - Brief addressed to Vancouver City Council, 30 April 1963	1963	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-9	File - Construction	1963 - 1965	Open	32-1
F-32-1-0-0-10	File - Aerial views	1964 - 1966	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-11	File - SFU funding	1963 - 1969	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-12	File - SFU building fund campaign	1964	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-13	File - Staff appointments (includes President)	1963 - 1964	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-14	File - Coat of Arms	1964	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-15	File - Convocation founders	1964	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-16	File - Chancellor	1962 - 1969	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-17	File - Board of Governors	1963 - 1969	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-18	File - Senate	1965 - 1967	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-19	File - Opening Ceremony - September 9, 1965	1965	Open	32-2
F-32-1-0-0-20	File - Convocation - Installation, October 28, 1965	1965	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-21	File - Convocation - May 20, 1967	1967	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-22	File - Convocation	1968	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-23	File - Convocation	1969	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-24	File - Honorary degrees	1968 - 1969	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-25	File - Athletics	1966 - 1971	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-26	File - SFU staff	1966 - 1967	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-27	File - Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)	1967 - 1968	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-28	File - SFU Administration crisis 1/2	1968 - 1969	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-29	File - SFU Administration crisis 2/2	1968 - 1969	Open	32-3
F-32-1-0-0-30	File - Ministers' Conference on Recreation 1/2	1966	Open	32-4
F-32-1-0-0-31	File - Ministers' Conference on Recreation 2/2	1966	Open	32-4

### Series F-32-2: Press clippings

Date: 1963 - 1969 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of press clippings collected by and for Gordon M. Shrum. Press clippings reflect information about education and Simon Fraser University.

Physical description: 10 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

<b>File / item list</b>				
Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-32-2-0-0-1	File - Education	1969	Open	32-4
F-32-2-0-0-2	File - SFU	1963 - 1966	Open	32-4
F-32-2-0-0-3	File - SFU	1964	Open	32-4
F-32-2-0-0-4	File - SFU	1966	Open	32-4
F-32-2-0-0-5	File - SFU	1967	Open	32-4
F-32-2-0-0-6	File - SFU	1968	Open	32-4
F-32-2-0-0-7	File - SFU	1969	Open	32-4