

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 - Ron Baker fonds (F-34)

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Generated by Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department on December 19, 2022  
Language of description: English

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# Ron Baker fonds

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## Summary information

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>                                   | Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management<br>Department   |
| <b>Title:</b>  | Ron Baker fonds   |
| <b>Reference code:</b>                               | F-34  |
| <b>Wikidata identifier<br/>[alternative]:</b>        | Q99982722   |
| <b>Wikidata URL<br/>[alternative]:</b>               | <a href="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q99982722">https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q99982722</a>   |
| <b>Date:</b>   | 1948 - 1997 (date of creation)  |
| <b>Physical description:</b>                         | 75 cm of textual records<br>27 photographs: slides<br>7 photographs: prints<br>7 postcards  |
| <b>Dates of creation,<br/>revision and deletion:</b> | Finding aid prepared by Frances Fournier, Nadia Agosti, Enid Britt (June 2000); revised by Frances Fournier, Enid Britt (January/February 2004); updated by Enid Britt (March 2006, July 2008); updated by Richard Dancy (July 2009); biographical sketch updated by Jennifer Zerkee and Marcia Beacham Fuller (July 2011). |
| <b>Note [generalNote]:</b>                           | PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 27 photographs: slides, 7 photographs: prints located in SMI room 35-4-3  |

## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Ronald "Ron" James Baker was the first faculty member hired by President Patrick McTaggart-Cowan for the new Simon Fraser University (SFU) in 1964. Baker served as the university's Director of Academic Planning and as the first head of the English Department. He remained at SFU until 1969, when he was appointed to be the first president of the new University of Prince Edward Island.

Baker was born in London, England, on August 24, 1924, to James "Jim" Herbert Walter and Ethel Frances Baker (nee Miller). He served with the Royal Air Force (1943-1947), during which time he trained in Manitoba. After the war, in 1947, he immigrated to Canada.

Baker married Helen "Jo" Gillespie Elder [ca. 1947]; they would have 5 children (Sharon Ann, Lynn Frances, Ian James, Sarah Jane, and Katherine Jean). In 1975, he married Frances Marilyn Frazer (1932-2010), with whom he had one son, Ralph Edward "Ted."

Baker graduated from the University of British Columbia (UBC) with a Bachelor of Arts in 1951 and a Master of Arts in 1953, both in English. He went on to do graduate work in the School of Oriental

and African Studies at the University of London (1954-1956). Baker had lectured in English during his undergraduate degree at UBC, and returned to the University to become an associate professor in 1962. While at UBC, Baker was involved in the production of John B. Macdonald's report, *Higher Education in British Columbia and a Plan for the Future* (1962), which led directly to the development of a second university (SFU) in the Lower Mainland.

In 1964, Baker became the first faculty member hired by President Patrick McTaggart-Cowan for the newly created SFU. Baker served as the University's Director of Academic Planning and as the first head of the English Department. He remained at SFU until 1969, when he was appointed to be the first president of the new University of Prince Edward Island (1969-1978). He continued to teach there as a professor until 1991, when he retired.

Baker served on numerous councils and committees throughout his career, including the Canadian Association of University Teachers (1954-1969), the Royal Society of Arts (Fellow, 1971-1990), the Royal Commonwealth Society (1964-1966), the National Defence Strategic Studies Committee (Chairman, 1986-1998), the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) (Volunteer Advisor to First Nations Groups, 1988-2004), and the Canadian Citizen Court (Presiding Officer, 1996-2004). Baker was made an Officer of the Order of Canada (1978), and received numerous awards and honours, including the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal (1977), a Canada 125 Medal (1992), and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002). He also received honorary law degrees from the University of New Brunswick (1970), Mount Allison University (1977), University of Prince Edward Island (1989), and Simon Fraser University (1990).

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## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of records made and received by Ron Baker in his roles as academic planner, and charter faculty member, as well as additional materials relating to SFU's history. Includes personal and professional correspondence, reports, reference materials, a memoir by Baker about the early history of SFU, and other documents.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Immediate source of acquisition

The fonds was donated by Ronald J. Baker to the Simon Fraser University Archives.

### Arrangement

Original order was maintained by the Archivist where possible. Where no order was apparent, the materials were arranged by the Archivist.

## Restrictions on access

Files marked 'pending review' must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release, and as a result of the review access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the archivist for more details.

## Finding aids

Series descriptions and file lists are available. An autobiographical sketch by Ron Baker is available in the hard copy version of the finding aid maintained in the Archives Reading Room.

## Related material

Please consult the inventory for the Office of Academic Planning, F-49.

## Accruals

As of September 2009, all accessions have been processed. No further accruals are expected.

## Other notes

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

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## Access points

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- Department of English
- Photographic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Buildings and structures (subject)

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## Series descriptions

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### Series F-34-1: Personal correspondence

Date: 1959 - 1997 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of personal correspondence between Frances M. Frazer and Ron Baker. Includes day-by-day accounts of the writing of the Macdonald Report and the planning and beginnings of Simon Fraser University.

Physical description: 37 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

Open

Finding aids:

A file list is available.

Accruals:

No further accruals to the series are expected.

Publication status:

published

**File / item list**

| Reference code | Title  | Dates       | Access status | Container |
|----------------|--|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| F-34-1-0-0-1   | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1959 - 1960 | Open          | 34-1      |
| F-34-1-0-0-2   | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1960        | Open          | 34-1      |
| F-34-1-0-0-3   | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1960        | Open          | 34-1      |
| F-34-1-0-0-4   | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1961        | Open          | 34-1      |
| F-34-1-0-0-5   | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1961        | Open          | 34-1      |
| F-34-1-0-0-6   | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1961        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-7   | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1961        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-8   | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1962        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-9   | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1962        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-10  | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1962        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-11  | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1962        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-12  | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1963        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-13  | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1963        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-14  | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1963        | Open          | 34-2      |
| F-34-1-0-0-15  | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1964        | Open          | 34-3      |
| F-34-1-0-0-16  | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1964        | Open          | 34-3      |
| F-34-1-0-0-17  | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1964        | Open          | 34-3      |

|               |  |             |      |      |
|---------------|--|-------------|------|------|
| F-34-1-0-0-18 | File - Personal correspondence - Baker to Frazer | 1965        | Open | 34-3 |
| F-34-1-0-0-19 | File - Personal correspondence - Frazer to Baker | 1965 - 1970 | Open | 34-3 |
| F-34-1-0-0-20 | File - Personal correspondence - Naming of SFU   | 1981 - 1997 | Open | 34-3 |

### Series F-34-2: SFU correspondence and subject files

Date: 1963 - 1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

While still a faculty member at UBC, Baker became one of the chief contributors to John B. Macdonald's report, Higher Education in British Columbia and a Plan for the Future. This report led directly to the government's decision to establish a second university (SFU) in the Lower Mainland. Baker also served on the provincial Academic Board for Higher Education, established to advise the government on applying the recommendations of the Macdonald Report. Records in this series relate to Baker's work on the Macdonald Report and the Academic Board as well as his role as academic planner and a charter faculty member in the early years of SFU. These files supplement the official records of the Office of Academic Planning, F 49. Includes personal and professional correspondence, reports, reference materials, a memoir by Baker about the early history of SFU, and other documents.

Physical description: 25 cm of textual records

27 photographs: slides

7 photographs: prints

7 postcards

Note [generalNote]:

Physical description: 27 photographs: slides, 7 photographs: prints located in SMI Room 35-4-3

Access points:

- Macdonald, John B. (subject)

Finding aids:

A file list is available.

Accruals:

No further accruals to the series are expected.

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

| Reference code | Title                           | Dates       | Access status | Container |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| F-34-2-0-0-1   | File - Correspondence - general | 1963 - 1981 | Open          | 34-4      |

|               |  |             |      |      |
|---------------|--|-------------|------|------|
| F-34-2-0-0-2  | File - Correspondence - general  | 1966 - 1973 | Open | 34-4 |
| F-34-2-0-0-3  | File - Correspondence - general  | 1984 - 1985 | Open | 34-4 |
| F-34-2-0-0-4  | File - Macdonald Report  | 1963 - 1971 | Open | 34-4 |
| F-34-2-0-0-5  | File - General information on Colleges, specific on SFU regarding architectural plans and general concepts 1/2 | 1964 - 1965 | Open | 34-4 |
| F-34-2-0-0-6  | File - General information on Colleges, specific on SFU regarding architectural plans and general concepts 2/2 | 1964 - 1965 | Open | 34-4 |
| F-34-2-0-0-7  | File - Correspondence - publications ordered for SFU   | 1964        | Open | 34-4 |
| F-34-2-0-0-8  | File - Academic Board  | 1964        | Open | 34-4 |
| F-34-2-0-0-9  | File - Academic Board  | 1964 - 1967 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-10 | File - SFU Faculty   | 1966 - 1981 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-11 | File - CAUT Censure  | 1968 - 1970 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-12 | File - Letters of Congratulations  | 1968 - 1975 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-13 | File - PSA crisis  | 1964 - 1970 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-14 | File - History of SFU  | 1968 - 1985 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-15 | File - Testimonials regarding Ron Baker  | 1977 - 1978 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-16 | File - Clippings and publications  | 1965 - 1988 | Open | 34-5 |
| F-34-2-0-0-17 | File - Photographs and postcards, vol. 1   | 1964 - 1967 | Open | 34-7 |
| F-34-2-0-0-18 | File - Photographs and postcards, vol. 2   | 1964 - 1967 | Open | 34-7 |

### Series F-34-3: Academic Planning files

Date: 1948 - 1970 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records relating to the activities of Ron Baker as academic planner for Simon Fraser University. Series includes correspondence, statistics, agendas, minutes, publications and other documents.

Physical description: 13 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Access to these files may be restricted as stipulated by Archives policy or the donor. Files marked 'pending review' must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release, and as a result of the review access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the archivist for more details.

Finding aids:

A file list is available.

Accruals:

No further accruals to the series are expected.

Publication status:



| published        |   |                           |                |           |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| File / item list |   |                           |                |           |
| Reference code   | Title   | Dates                     | Access status  | Container |
| F-34-3-0-0-1     | File - UBC registrations  | 1948 - 1964               | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-2     | File - UBC studies  | 1958 - 1964               | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-3     | File - Enrollment   | 1963 - 1965               | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-4     | File - Academic Planning - general                                | 1964 - 1965               | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-5     | File - Memoranda from Presidents to Heads of Departments          | 1964 - 1965               | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-6     | File - English department at SFU                                  | 1965                      | Open           | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-7     | File - Humanities Research Council                                | 1965                      | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-8     | File - Salaries   | 1965                      | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-9     | File - Student paper  | April 1965 - October 1965 | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-10    | File - Three Universities Graduate Committee                      | 1965 - 1967               | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-11    | File - Humanities Association                                     | 1966                      | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-12    | File - Joint Faculty meeting                                      | 1966                      | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-13    | File - Student Implementation Committee report                    | 1968                      | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-14    | File - Michael Bawtree re SFU Theatre program                     | 1969 - 1970               | Pending review | 34-6      |
| F-34-3-0-0-15    | File - Architectural drawing of Academic Quadrangle - Zoltan Kiss | 1964 - 1965               | Open           |           |