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Rare Books**

**Finding Aid - Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium v.
Canada fonds (MsC-103)**

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Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium v. Canada fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium v. Canada fonds
Reference code:	MsC-103
Date:	2000-2006 (date of creation)
Date:	[2000]-[2006] (date of creation)
Physical description:	34 m of textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created January 11, 2016. SS

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium is a bookstore located on Davie Street in Vancouver, serving adult (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) communities. Little Sister's was bombed three times in the years when it was the only gay and lesbian bookstore in western Canada. More recently, Little Sisters was involved legal battle against censorship and discrimination that made it to the Supreme Court Of Canada; the bookstore challenged the provision of the Customs Act prohibiting the importation of obscene material as well as a section of the Act that put the onus on the importer to disprove obscenity. This case broadened and redefined the definitions of obscenity and tolerance in contemporary Canadian society. In 1998, Little Sisters was presented the Award For The Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada presented by the Canadian Library Association.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Joseph Arvay, QC, is a Canadian lawyer who has argued numerous landmark cases involving civil liberties and constitutional rights.

Custodial history

Records were in the custody of Joseph J. Arvay, legal representative for Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium, prior to their acquisition by Simon Fraser University Library Special Collections and Rare Books in 2011.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records relating to the landmark legal battle between Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium and the Government of Canada over customs' censorship and seizure of gay & lesbian books and magazines intended for sale in the bookstore.

Notes

Title notes

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Status description:** Published
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Access points

- Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Law and justice (subject)