

The logo for Simon Fraser University (SFU) is a red square with the letters "SFU" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

## Finding Aid - Grace McCarthy fonds (MsC-168)

---

Generated by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books on June 03, 2022  
Language of description: English

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books  
W.A.C. Bennett Library - Room 7100  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby  
British Columbia  
Canada  
V5A 1S6  
Telephone: 778.782.5674  
[Email: scrb@sfu.ca](mailto:scrb@sfu.ca)  
<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/special-collections>  
<http://atom.archives.sfu.ca/msc-168>

# Grace McCarthy fonds

---

## Table of contents

---

Summary information .....	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and content .....	4
Notes .....	4
Access points .....	5

---

## Summary information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
<b>Title:</b>	Grace McCarthy fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	MsC-168
<b>Date:</b>	1960-1991 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	8.83 m of textual records and graphic material
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Created December 14, 2015. SSRevised August 9, 2017 and October 5, 2017 MH

---

## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

---

### Note

Born in Vancouver, B.C. on October 14, 1927, Grace McCarthy (nee Winterbottom) was first elected to the provincial legislature of British Columbia as a member of the Social Credit party in 1966. She was re-elected in 1969; defeated in 1972 when the NDP won power; and re-elected in 1975, 1979, 1983 and 1986. Following two unsuccessful runs, she became party leader in 1993, but resigned in May 1994 following a by-election loss.

McCarthy opened her first florist shop on East Hastings Street in 1944 at the age of seventeen. In 1948, she married Raymond McCarthy. The couple eventually owned and operated the Grayce Florists chain until the mid-1970s. In 1961, McCarthy was elected to the Vancouver Parks Board, and held that position until 1966, when she was elected as the MLA for Vancouver Little Mountain. W.A.C. Bennett, Premier of British Columbia and leader of the Social Credit Party, appointed her as a minister without a portfolio. She was re-elected in 1969. After the NDP defeated the Socreds in 1972, McCarthy was elected Social Credit Party president in 1973, increasing membership in the party from 5,000 to 70,000 in two years. With the re-election of the party under Bill Bennett in 1975, McCarthy was appointed Minister of Recreation and Travel Industry, Provincial Secretary, and was the first woman in Canada to be appointed Deputy Premier. Until her resignation in 1988 under the leadership of Premier Bill Vander Zalm, McCarthy served in many other roles, including as Minister of Economic Development, Human Resources, Government Services, Social Services, Tourism, and the minister responsible for B.C. Transit. She ran unsuccessfully for party leadership in 1986, losing out to Vander Zalm, and in 1991, losing to Rita Johnston. In 1993, she successfully won leadership of the party; however, facing a decimated party and a by-election loss in Matsqui, McCarthy resigned in 1994.

McCarthy is credited with many significant accomplishments over her political career. Early in her career, she lobbied successfully for home-ownership for women in an era when women were not considered for a mortgage without a male guarantor. She was instrumental in bringing Expo '86 to Vancouver and oversaw the building of the first SkyTrain line. As Minister of Tourism, she spearheaded the building of the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre at Canada Harbour Place. Serving as Minister of Social

Services, Grace McCarthy established Canada's first Hot Line to respond to abused children, and brought the most comprehensive legislation to stop child abuse in the country.

She received many honours during her lifetime, including the Order of Canada (1992), the Order of British Columbia (2004), an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia, among others. She established the CH.I.L.D. Foundation in 1995 to raise funds for research for children suffering from Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis and liver disorders, and continued to serve as that foundation's volunteer Chairman of the Board until her death.

McCarthy passed away on May 24, 2017.

## Custodial history

Records were in the custody of Grace McCarthy until their donation to Simon Fraser University Library in 2011.

---

## Scope and content

---

Fonds consists of 89 scrapbooks relating to Grace McCarthy and her career as a politician within the British Columbia Social Credit party. Scrapbooks contain photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, press releases, ephemera, and other material dating from 1960 to 1991. The scrapbooks document the political landscape of British Columbia from 1968 to 1991, in particular the activities of the Social Credit party; events, initiatives, and causes in Vancouver and provincially; state visits; McCarthy's viewpoint on particular issues; her political and charitable activities; leadership campaigns; and her personal and political relationships. They also document McCarthy's most notable accomplishments, including bringing Expo '86 to Vancouver, establishing SkyTrain as a rapid transit system, driving the construction of the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, and the lighting of the Lions Gate Bridge. Includes correspondence with other politicians at the provincial, national and international level, including W.A.C. Bennett and Margaret Thatcher; her constituents, residents of British Columbia, and party members; and the business community.

---

## Notes

---

### Title notes

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

### Immediate source of acquisition

Scrapbooks were donated by Grace McCarthy to SFU Library, Special Collections and Rare Books in 2011.

### Arrangement

The scrapbooks are arranged chronologically.

### **Alternative form available**

Digitized materials are available for research in SFU Digitized Collections: <https://digital.lib.sfu.ca/mccarthy-collection/grace-mccarthy-scrapbook-collection>

### **Conditions governing use**

Some material in this fonds is under copyright. Researchers are required to secure permission from the copyright holders for usage of this material, except for those covered by fair dealing.

### **Other notes**

- **Publication status:** published
- **Status description:** Provisional
- **Conservation:** Some preservation and/or conservation work should be done to prevent long term damage to material from acidic materials, metal fasteners and adhesives.

---

### **Access points**

---

- McCarthy, Grace (subject)
- BC Social Credit Party (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Politics (subject)
- Women (subject)
- Government (subject)