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Fonds A USP-229 –

**INITIATIVES OF CHANGE (IofC) CANADA FONDS
1927-2009**

14,88m of textual records. – 0.81m of audiovisual records.

Historical notes:

Initiatives of Change (IofC) Canada

Initiatives of Change (IofC) Canada is an active network of people from many cultures and creeds, across the generations, engaged in the process of 'remaking the world'. It was first known as the **Oxford Group**, arising from its work among university students in the late 1920s. In 1938, as European nations re-armed for war, its originator, [Frank Buchman](#), called for 'moral and spiritual re-armament' as the way to build a 'hate-free, fear-free, greed-free world'. Following World War II, **Moral Re-Armament (MRA)**, as it became known launched a programme of moral and spiritual reconstruction to foster change in private and public life, based on a change in motivation and character.

It all began after Frank Buchman, an American Lutheran minister of Swiss ancestry born in 1878, reached out first to university students, and in the 1920s his ideas took root at Oxford and in some American universities, spreading through the 1930s into many sectors and on to other continents. As war in Europe loomed in the summer of 1938, Buchman issued a world-wide call for moral and spiritual re-armament, and Moral Re-Armament (MRA) was publicly launched in Europe and North America. His aim was to provide a rallying point for positive forces in every country, and his ideas were increasingly taken up in the public forum. During the war hundreds of Buchman's team enlisted in the Allied forces, while he and others spent time in the United States contributing to the strengthening of national morale and planning towards the building of peace.

In 1946 MRA opened an international conference centre in [Caux, Switzerland](#), made possible through the generosity and hard work of hundreds of Swiss citizens. Since then, the establishment greets each year its International Conference.

By the 1950s, Centers were established in Latin America, India, Japan and several countries in Africa. The 1970s and 80s, MRA's work concentrated on supporting peace-making initiatives in Africa and Asia. [Asia Plateau](#) in India developed as a major international center for the training of people from industry, education and other national sectors. And in the 1990's, '[Hope in the Cities](#)' was created to bridge the racial divide in the United States, 'Clean Election' campaigns in Taiwan, Brazil and Kenya, and a continuing concern for the creation of a moral and spiritual infrastructure for development in both rich and poorer nations.

With the approach of the new millennium, there was world-wide recognition that the words 'moral re-

armament' no longer held the same resonance as they had in 1938. In 2001 the new name Initiatives of Change (IofC) was [announced to the world's media](#).

While ways of expressing truth, and methods of coordinating the global work, continue to change as succeeding generations take on this responsibility for the moral and spiritual renewal of society, the essential philosophy of Initiatives of Change remains the same – that personal change can lead to social, economic and political change. With its emphasis on experience rather than philosophy, it provides a focus where people of different religious and political persuasions can meet without compromising their own beliefs and be part of a global network committed to working for change in the world.

[excerpt taken from <https://www.iofc.org>]

Initiatives of Change (IofC) is a network of organizations in many countries. The Archives held by Saint Paul University comprise only the archives of the Canadian organization, IofC Canada.

Scope and content:

The archives include the following: correspondence, publications, play and film scripts, song sheets, music scores, lists, newsletters, essays, reports and memoranda, itineraries, promotional materials (pamphlets, invitations, stickers, postcards, and programs), printed memorabilia, scrapbooks, speeches, broadcast transcripts, articles, and photographs and slides.

The documents were included in this archival record based on their relevance to Canadian initiatives or involvements and on their relevance to the Oxford Group and later, Moral Re-Armament. The archives were designed to highlight, chronologically trace and follow the development of the Oxford Group in Canada and its transition into MRA.

Section 1 of the collection does not claim to constitute a complete history of the years from 1927-1977. Rather, it consists of a series of collections donated by individual members, passed down from office to office as the administration moved physically within Ontario and Quebec. They are primarily a narrative of Canada's part in a global movement.

Section 1 of archival records are primarily organized first by year and then by theme. They are classified in the following sections and parts:

Section 1:

- **Part I:** 1927-1938 – The Early Development of the Oxford Group in Canada
- **Part II:** 1939-1945 – The War Years: The Rise of Moral Re-Armament in Canada
- **Part III:** 1946-1951 – The War of Ideas and the Rebuilding of Europe
- **Part IV:** 1952-1957 – Global Strategy and the Mission to Asia
- **Part V:** 1958-1965 – Global Involvements
- **Part VI:** 1966-1974 – Changing Perspectives
- **Part VII:** 1975-1977 – Native Conscience Re-Strengthening

Section 2 of the archival records are mostly classified subjects while boxes 39-44 comprise chronological files from 1971-2009.

Section 2:

- Audio recordings
- Photo albums
- Newsletters
- CD's and digital materials
- Books
- Correspondences
- Chronological files (1971-2009)

Immediate source of acquisition:

The archival collection is the result of a donation contract between Initiatives of Change Association (Canada) and Saint Paul University made May 1st, 2019. Although the donor is the sole owner of all rights to the documents, Saint Paul University is free to process the documents as it sees fit with its policies and procedures.

Language of materials:

English and French

Restrictions on access:

The documents are open for consultation.

Documents containing personal and confidential information are restricted to consultation and reproduction.

The records are subject to the Copyright Act.

The SPU archival services reserved the right to limit access to fragile or damaged documents.

Finding aids:

A research guide is available at the SPU Archival Services.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Related documents:

See the Jean-Léon-Allie Library Collection.