

**University of Toronto Archives
and Records Management Services**



Barbara Kahan fonds
B2022-0010

Chloe Chaitov, 2024

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Biographical note

Barbara Kahan (1951 –) is a Canadian writer, publisher, and retired researcher in the field of health promotion. From 1997-2009, Kahan worked with the University of Toronto's Centre for Health Promotion where, through her role in the Best Practices Working Group, she took an active role in the development of a best practices approach to health promotion.

Kahan was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 1972.

After completing undergraduate studies, Kahan worked for several non-profit community groups in Saskatchewan, Montreal, and Toronto. In Toronto, Kahan was employed as an Intake Worker (1975-1977) at the Neighbourhood Information Centre (NIC), a non-profit information and referral centre serving the East York community of Toronto. Following this, Kahan worked in the book and publishing industry, first in London, England, at the Women in Print feminist printing collective (1978-1979), then in Regina, SK, at Tumbleweed Books, a community bookstore collective (1980-1983).

From 1984 to 1996, Kahan worked on various contracts in health and social issues research, evaluation, teaching, and policy analysis, including at Saskatchewan Health and the University of Regina. In 1995, Kahan earned a Certificate in Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University. Throughout this period, Kahan produced several publications including the book *Healthier Children* (1990) and served as the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group (1992-1996).

In 1996, Kahan began graduate studies at the University of Toronto Graduate Department of Community Health where she received the James A. McNab Award (1996-1997) and an Open Master's Fellowship (1997-1998). She graduated with a MHS in Health Promotion in 1998.

Before completing graduate studies, Kahan joined the University of Toronto Centre for Health Promotion's Best Practices Working Group where she performed preliminary research on continuous quality improvement (CQI) and best practices in health promotion. Shortly after graduating in 1998, she accepted the role of Member at the Centre. In this role, she co-led the development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive conceptual framework called the Interactive Domain Model (IDM) Approach to Best Practices (BP) in Health Promotion. Kahan published numerous articles and facilitated many workshops on health promotion and the IDM throughout her time with the Centre.

Following the completion of her MHSc, Kahan returned to Saskatchewan where, in addition to her work for the Centre for Health Promotion, she continued her career in health and social issues consulting. She retired from health and social issues research ca. 2012.

In addition to her career in health promotion and community services, Kahan is a writer who has published several poems, plays, and a novel, *Elemental Eve* (2023). She serves as Editor at the small press publisher Wild Sage Press. Barbara Kahan lives in Saskatoon with her partner, Evan Morris. Together they have two children and two grandchildren.

The way archival record creators identify themselves and are identified by others is key to understanding the perspectives and content of their records. Barbara Kahan uses she/her pronouns. Additional information from the creator about identity was not provided. Kahan is socially understood to be white.

References:

Kahan, Barbara. "About." Accessed March 2024. <https://barbarakahan.com/about/>.

Scope and content

1975-1976, 1996-2014, 2019, 2022

0.26 m textual records

6 audio cassettes

4776 digital files (844 MB)

Fonds comprises textual records, audio recordings, and digital files and photographs documenting Barbara Kahan's academic and professional activities in health promotion and community support services. Series 1 documents her community work with the Neighbourhood Information Centre (NIC). Series 2 and 3 document her time as a graduate student in the Health Promotion program at the University of Toronto. Series 4 and 5 document her work with the University of Toronto's Centre for Health Promotion (defunct ca. 2009), an affiliate of the Department of Public Health Sciences. Series 5 pertains specifically to Kahan's work on the Interactive Domain Model (IDM) framework.

Records in the fonds primarily document Kahan's work with the Centre for Health Promotion, with material types including manuals, minutes, correspondence, reports, research data (including interview audio recordings and transcripts), proposals, workshop materials, planning documents, articles (including drafts), photographs, and computer program and website files. Also included are research notes, article drafts, correspondence, newsletters, pamphlets, and reports from Kahan's time as a graduate student and community worker. Digital file formats are predominantly text documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf, .wpd), spreadsheets (.xls), PowerPoint files (.ppt), image files (.bmp, .gif, .jpg), webpages (.htm), and drawing files (.vsd).

Note: Digital files were transferred from a USB flash drive and are dated based on last modified dates. Duplicate files and files that lacked research value were not retained. A spreadsheet inventory of all digital files is available upon request by email.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged into series identified by Kahan at the time of transfer to the archives. Digital files have been incorporated into these series according to designations made by Kahan.

Access: Open, except for the following files which are restricted:

- Series 3: B2022-0010/004(03), B2022-0010_df002
- Series 5: B2022-0010/001(07)

Please see series-level access notes for details.

Barbara Kahan fonds
B2022-0010

University of Toronto Archives

Boxes:

Textual records: B2022-0010/001-/002
Sound recordings: B2022-0010/001S-/006S
Digital folders: B2022-0010_df001-df022

Language: English, Chinese (traditional), French, Greek, Hindi, Italian

Related material:

Roxana Ng fonds – B2014-0005/021 (05) Health: Centre for Health Promotion, U of T

Series 1: Neighbourhood Information Centre

1975-1976

0.02 m textual records

Series comprises textual records produced by Kahan and colleagues at the Neighbourhood Information Centre (NIC) in East York, Toronto. Opened in 1969, the NIC acted as a liaison between local agencies, government organizations, and the community to provide resources and information in multiple languages about community events and services, including those related to housing, health, legal aid, daycare, and employment. As an Intake Worker at the NIC, Kahan was responsible for handling inquiries and producing newsletters. Materials in this series include pamphlets, reports, constitution and by-laws, newsletters ("N.I.C. Notes"), and minutes.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2022-0010/001(01)

Language: English, Chinese (traditional), Greek, Hindi, Italian

Series 2: U of T Health Promotion program

1997-1998, 2000-2001, 2007

0.02 m textual records

24 digital files (2 MB)

Series comprises textual records documenting reviews and recommendations for the Health Promotion graduate program by Kahan and fellow student colleagues, as well as a program evaluation plan created by Kahan as part of her coursework. Materials include printed email correspondence and a program evaluation report, including informational pamphlets on the program.

Digital files consist of reports, drafts, correspondence, interview notes, and contact lists. File formats include text documents (.doc, .docx) and spreadsheets (.xls).

Arrangement: One file of textual records followed by digital folder.

Access: Open

Boxes:

Textual records: B2022-0010/001(02)

Digital folders: B2022-0010_df001

Series 3: Intellectual property dispute

1997-1998

0.01 m textual records

11 digital files (1 MB)

Series comprises textual records documenting an intellectual property and plagiarism dispute between Kahan and a professor in the Department of Community Health. Records detail Kahan's assertion that the professor edited and assumed first authorship on a course paper written by Kahan and submitted the work for publication without Kahan's consent. Materials include Kahan's original article, correspondence with friends and various University staff and faculty regarding the incident, and a copy of an ethics and research misconduct guidelines document from the Faculty of Medicine.

Digital files consist of correspondence, Kahan's research notes, and article drafts edited by Kahan and by her professor. File formats are text documents (.doc, .rtf).

Arrangement: One file of textual records followed by digital folder.

Access: Restricted, please contact the University Archivist for additional information.

Boxes:

Textual records: B2022-0010/002(03)

Digital folders: B2022-0010_df002

Series 4: Determinants of health at the Centre for Health Promotion

1997

0.01 m textual records

3 audio cassettes

Series contains textual records and audio recordings documenting interviews conducted by Kahan regarding understandings of determinants of health at the Centre for Health Promotion. Materials in this series include an article draft as well as audio recordings and transcripts of Kahan's interviews with the Centre's Director Irv Rootman and Deputy Director Michael Goodstadt.

Arrangement: One file of textual records followed by sound recordings.

Access: Open

Boxes:

Textual records: B2022-0010/001(04)

Sound recordings: B2022-0010/001S-003S

Series 5: Interactive Domain Model Best Practices (IDM BP)

1996-2014, 2019, 2022

0.2 m textual records

3 audio cassettes

4741 digital files (841 MB)

Series consists of textual records and audio recordings documenting the development and dissemination of the Interactive Domain Model (IDM) Approach to Best Practices (BP) in Health Promotion. The IDM BP is a conceptual model developed by Kahan, Michael Goodstadt, and colleagues from the Centre for Health Promotion's Working Group on Best Practices in Health Promotion. Rather than advocating for a singular focus on evidence, the IDM BP was significant because it encouraged practitioners to consider interactions between contextual factors of environment and practice alongside a variety of health-related fundamentals such as values, goals, ethics, theories, beliefs, and evidence. Records in this series document Kahan's participation in the pilot implementation of the framework in various health settings, presentation of the framework at workshops and conferences, development of an interactive IDM computer program and website, working relationships at the Centre, development of IDM BP-associated tools and resources, and the creation of background papers and academic journal articles.

Materials include manuals and workbooks, workshop materials, conference proceedings, reports, correspondence, research data (including recorded interviews), pamphlets, planning documents, and journal article drafts and reviews.

Digital files consist of agendas and minutes, reports, proposals, drafts, correspondence, workplans, case studies and analyses, planning documentation, workshop materials, interview transcripts, invoices, schedules, computer program and website files, and photographs of Centre events and staff. Digital file formats are predominantly text documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf, .wpd), spreadsheets (.xls), PowerPoint files (.ppt), webpages (.htm), drawing files (.vsd), and image files (.bmp, .gif, .jpg).

Arrangement: Materials have been arranged by the archivist according to material type. Textual records and sound recordings have been arranged in chronological order within each material grouping. Digital files are arranged alphabetically by folder title according to their original folder structure at the time of transfer. Digital photographs maintain original folder groupings, and these are arranged chronologically.

Access: Open, except for the following file:

- B2022-0010/001(07)

This file has been restricted until 2044 to protect the privacy of third parties. Please contact the University Archivist for additional information

Boxes:

Textual records: B2022-0010/001(05)-(11), B2022-0010/002

Sound recordings: B2022-0010/004S-006S

Digital folders: B2022-0010_df003-df022

Language: English, French

Appendix – File listing

Series 1: Neighbourhood Information Centre

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010/001 (01)	Neighbourhood Information Centre : [newsletters and other material]	1975-1976

Series 2: U of T Health Promotion program

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010/001 (02)	Health promotion program at U of T	Sep. – Dec. 1997, April 2000

Digital folder

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010_df001	UofT material non-BP [non-best practices]	1997-1998, 2007, 2001

Series 3: Intellectual property dispute

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010/001 (03)	U of T intellectual property issue [RESTRICTED]	Jun. – Dec. 1997

Digital folder

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010_df002	Intellectual property issue [RESTRICTED]	Mar. 1997 – Aug. 1998

Series 4: Determinants of health at the Centre for Health Promotion

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010/001 (04)	Centre for Health Promotion U of T, understanding of determinants of health by Director & Deputy Director [article draft and transcripts]	Nov. – Dec. 1997
B2022-0010/001S	Interview with Irv Rootman about determinants of health [sound recording]	Nov. 21, 1997
B2022-0010/002S	Interview with Michael Goodstadt about determinants of health [sound recording]	Nov. 24, 1997
B2022-0010/003S	Interview with Irv Rootman and Michael Goodstadt about determinants of health [sound recording]	Dec. 3, 1997

Series 5: Interactive Domain Model Best Practices (IDM BP)

Textual records

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010/001 (05)	Correspondence IDM BP (Interactive Domain Model Best Practices)	1997-1999, 2001, 2006
B2022-0010/001 (06)	IDM BP – computer program (interactive) & related	1997, 2000, 2004-2006
B2022-0010/001 (07)	Correspondence and research data documenting working relationships at the Centre for Health Promotion [RESTRICED]	1998-2000
B2022-0010/001 (08)	IDM BP loose pages [pamphlets and model illustrations]	[ca. 1998-200-]
B2022-0010/001 (09)	"Working Group on Best Practice in Health Promotion : Report on Activities, October 1997 to March 1998" / Centre for Health Promotion	Mar. 30, 1998
B2022-0010/001 (10)	IDM BP conferences and workshops [1 of 3]	1999
B2022-0010/001 (11)	IDM BP conferences and workshops [2 of 3]	2001-2002, 2008
B2022-0010/002(01)	IDM BP conferences and workshops [3 of 3]	2001-2002, 2004-2005
B2022-0010/002(02)	"Best Practices in Health Promotion : A scan of needs and capacities in Ontario" / Barbara Kahan, Michael Goodstadt, and Elizabeth Rajkumar	Mar. 1999

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010/002(03)	"Pilot Testing the Best Practices in Health Promotion Framework" / Barbara Kahan and Michael Goodstadt	Mar. 2000
B2022-0010/002(04)	BP terminology	2001
B2022-0010/002(05)	IDM BP published papers	1997-2000, 2012
B2022-0010/002(06)	"Best Practices in Health Promotion : Using the Interactive Domain Model (IDM) Approach" / Barbara Kahan and Michael Goodstadt	Mar. 2001
B2022-0010/002(07)	"The Use of Research and Evidence in Promoting the Effectiveness of Health Promotion Practice : Using the Interactive Model of Best Practices in Health Promotion" / Barbara Kahan and Michael Goodstadt [draft]	May 29, 2001
B2022-0010/002(08)	"The IDM Manual for Using the Interactive Domain Model Approach to Best Practices in Health Promotion" / Barbara Kahan and Michael Goodstadt	Apr. 2002
B2022-0010/002(09)	"The IDM Manual for Using the Interactive Domain Model Approach to Best Practices in Health Promotion : Evidence Framework Workbook" / Barbara Kahan and Michael Goodstadt	Apr. 2002
B2022-0010/002(10)	"Best Practices Check-in Forms" / Barbara Kahan and Michael Goodstadt	Dec. 21, 2002
B2022-0010/002(11)	"IDM Best Practices Road Map for Coaches: A guide to using the Interactive Domain Model (IDM) for better health" / Barbara Kahan and Michael Goodstadt	May 2005
B2022-0010/002(12)	"Interactive Domain Model (IDM) Best Practices Approach to Better Health: Follow-up to IDM Use and Impacts" / Barbara Kahan, David Groulx, and Josephine Pui-Hing Wong	Oct. 2007

Sound recordings

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010/004S	Interview with Lisa Brownstone about best practices case study	Feb. 15, 1998
B2022-0010/005S	Interview about Durham pilot testing of IDM BP framework	Mar. 2, 2000
B2022-0010/006S	IDM BP case studies discussion at health promotion strategies class	Feb. 28, 2000

Digital folders

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010_df003	BP admin stuff	1997-2010, 2022
B2022-0010_df004	BP backup disc files July 2005	1996-2005
B2022-0010_df005	BP-CQI-Standards reading class	1996-2000
B2022-0010_df006	BP various	2000-2011, 2022
B2022-0010_df007	followup 07	2006 – 2007
B2022-0010_df008	IDM BP computer program	1999-2004
B2022-0010_df009	IDM BP website	2001, 2004-2014, 2019, 2022
B2022-0010_df010	IDM events	2004-2008
B2022-0010_df011	IDM framework	1999-2004
B2022-0010_df012	IDM manual	1996-2005
B2022-0010_df013	IDM model	2000-2008
B2022-0010_df014	IDM mostly 2002	2001-2005
B2022-0010_df015	Other pdf & Word & ppt documents	1998-2012
B2022-0010_df016	workshops	1998-2005

Digital photographs

File number	File title	Date range
B2022-0010_df017	Photos of Centre for Health Promotion staff	[199-], May-Jun. 2004
B2022-0010_df018	Photos at restaurants June 22 2004 Best Practices colleagues	Jun. 2004
B2022-0010_df019	Photos Barbara Kahan, Rishia Burke, and dilys Haughton at Centre for Health Promotion event Nov 2004	Nov. 8, 2004
B2022-0010_df020	Centre for Health Promotion – Best Practices International Workshop, March 10-12 2005	Mar. 2005
B2022-0010_df021	Centre for Health Promotion - workshop photos March 2008	Mar. 2008
B2022-0010_df022	Centre for Health Promotion think tank event photos March 2008	Mar. - Apr. 2008