

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



**Chandrakant P. Shah fonds**

B2023-0024

B2024-0005

Emily Sommers, February 2025

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## Biographical note

Dr. Chandrakant ("Chan") Padamshi Shah is a physician, public health practitioner, social advocate, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

He was born on 7 April 1936 in Nandurbar, India. He studied at Gujarat University receiving his Bachelor of Medicine (MBBS) in 1961; the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow (Diploma of Child Health, 1964; MRCP, 1965); and the Harvard School of Public Health (Master's in Science (SM), Health Services Administration, 1974).

After receiving his medical degree in 1961, he decided to pursue further training in the United States beginning in 1962. He worked in Cleveland and Chicago before pursuing postgraduate studies in Glasgow, Scotland. In 1965, he immigrated to Vancouver, and his wife Sudha joined him a year later. In 1967, he was hired as a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of British Columbia. While in Vancouver he also served as the Medical Director of the Children's Aid Society from 1970-1972. In 1972, he and his family moved to Toronto as he joined the University of Toronto's Department of Preventative Medicine and Biostatistics as an Assistant Professor. He became an Associate Professor in 1976 and Professor in 1980, with cross-appointments in the Department of Paediatrics, Department of Health Administration, and the Department of Public Health Sciences, amongst others. From 1975-1988, he was also a frequent visitor to Northwestern Ontario as part of the U of T's Sioux Lookout Program, providing health care and conducting research.

In 1990 he helped found the Faculty of Medicine's Visiting Lectureship Program in Native Health (1990-2001), an annual three-week program that featured visiting Indigenous speakers discussing the health issues of Indigenous peoples in Canada, to further educate students, faculty, staff, and the public to these issues. He also played an important role in helping establish in 2000 an endowed Chair in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing at the University of Toronto.

In 1996, he became a Staff Physician at Anishnawbe Health Toronto. He retired from the University of Toronto in 2001, but remained busy as a consultant, researcher, and physician at Anishnawbe Health Toronto.

Dr. Shah's primary areas of research has been about improving the health and well-being of systematically marginalized people in Canada including Indigenous people, the unhoused, and children living in poverty. He has authored and co-authored over xx articles, reviews, chapters, and reports, throughout his academic career.

In addition, his textbook *Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada* (now in its 6th edition) is still widely used in universities across the country. He has also served as a consultant to various branches of government including Peel Public Health, the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the Government of Canada.

In addition to his career as a physician and professor, Dr. Shah is an advocate for social change. Throughout the course of his life he has undertaken numerous causes and campaigns including: a letter writing campaign to urge the federal government to update the citizenship examination booklet and examination to include more content about Indigenous peoples in Canada; advocacy work on employment equity, in particular in the area of Canadian universities' hiring policies with regards to racialized professors; and a letter writing campaign to urge the Canadian Blood Services to improve its policies, goals, and timelines with regards to the hiring of racialized individuals, women, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities, so that its workforce composition is representative of the Canadian population.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the R.D. Defries Award from the Canadian Public Health Association (1999) for outstanding contributions in the broad field of public health; Honorary Life Membership of the Ontario Medical Association (2002); and the Order of Ontario (2005). In addition, in October 1999, he was gifted an eagle feather by elder-in-residence at First Nations House Lillian McGregor, on behalf of U of T's indigenous community, in recognition of his work against injustices in indigenous health care, and in particular the establishment of the Visiting Lectureship on Native Health. In June 2021, he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Toronto for outstanding service for the public good.

He published a memoir, *To Change the World: My Work With Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Canada* (Toronto: Mawenzi House) in 2023.

#### References:

- Curriculum vitae files – B2023-0024/001(01) and B2024-0005\_df001
- Shah, Chandrakant P. *To Change the World : My Work with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Canada*. Toronto: Mawenzi House, 2023.

## Scope and content

1966-2023

0.59 m of textual and graphic records (5 boxes)

3 oversized folders

4 GB of digital files (including 815 email messages)

This fonds documents the life and career of Dr. Chandrakant Shah as a physician, researcher, professor, and advocate for social change. Records primarily focus on his research and writing activities, his work with Indigenous-focused programs and services including the Visiting Lectureship on Native Health and Anishnawbe Health Toronto, and his various advocacy initiatives. Records also document his numerous accomplishments including award nominations, retirement tributes, and publicity files of news stories about him.

Records are arranged into 3 series: 1) Personal and Biographical; 2) Professional Activities; 3) Photographs.

**Arrangement:** Analog records were given an imposed order as no consistent original order could be identified.

Digital files and emails were copied from Dr. Shah's personal laptop as well as from 7 CDs, 2 Zip disks, and 6 3.5 inch floppy disks. Files were arranged into series by the digital records archivist with folder titles maintained, when present.

**Note:** Additional email files from Eudora, ca. 2003 were included with accession B2023-0024, but as of 2024-02-11, remain unprocessed as they were unable to be imported into the ePadd software.

**Access:** All files are OPEN, with the exception of:

- Series 2: B2024-0005\_df007: [Letters of recommendation – digital files]  
B2023-0024/004(11): [Letter of complaint about colleague]

These files have been restricted to protect the privacy of third parties. See file-level description or [contact the University Archivist](#) for additional information.

**Boxes:** B2023-0004/001 – /004

B2024-0005/001

B2023-0004/001P – /002P

B2024-0005/001P – /002P

**Digital folders:** B2024-0005\_df001 – df025

## Series 1: Personal and Biographical

1966-2021

0.13 m of textual records

335 digital files (1 GB)

This series gives an overview of Shah's life and career. It includes his curriculum vitae, publicity files of news stories about Shah, tributes from friends and colleagues upon his retirement, and files related to his receipt of numerous awards. Also included are digital drafts of his 2023 memoir *To Change The World: My Work with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Canada*.

**Access:** Open

**Boxes:** B2023-0024/001

B2024-0005/001

**Digital folders:** B2024-0005\_df001 – df004

## Series 2: Professional Activities

[196-]-2023

0.39 m of textual records

4379 digital files (3 GB)

815 email messages

This series includes records that document Dr. Shah's career and professional activities as a physician, researcher, professor, and advocate for social change. Includes files related to his research and writings; professional correspondence; files related to his advocacy work regarding the Canadian citizenship examination, diversity at the University of Toronto, and the Canadian Blood Services; and files related to his work with Anishnawbe Health Toronto and the development of the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Initiative, an initiative to improve the curriculum with regards to Indigenous health content in Ontario's college and university health science programs.

Digital files include drafts of the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth editions of his book *Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada* and further files relating his teachings, research and writings, presentations and talks, the Visiting Lectureship on Native Health, Anishnawbe Health Toronto and the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Initiative, and his advocacy work surrounding diversity at U of T and the Canadian Blood Services.

Also includes 815 emails from 2009-2023 from Dr Shah's UToronto email account. The emails include correspondence with friends and colleagues on topics including the writing of his memoirs, his receipt of an honorary degree, the writing of the sixth edition of *Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada*, his work with Anishnawbe Health Toronto, his advocacy work regarding the Canadian Blood Services.

**Note:** Additional email files from Eudora, ca. 2003 were included with accession B2023-0024, but as of 2024-02-11, remain unprocessed as they were unable to be imported into the ePadd software.

**Access:** All files are OPEN, with the exception of:

- B2024-0005\_df007: [Letters of recommendation – digital files]
  - Restricted 30 years until 2052-01-01 to protect the privacy of third parties.
- B2023-0024/004(11): [Letter of complaint about colleague]
  - Restricted until 2034-01-01 to protect third-party privacy.

**Boxes:** B2023-0024/002 – /004

**Digital folders:** B2024-0005\_df005 – df022

### Series 3: Photographs

1964-2021

0.07 m of graphic records

119 digital files (202 MB; JPEG)

This series includes portraits of Shah, along with photograph of him at professional events, social events, and with his wife Sudha. There are group portraits from his time at the University of Illinois (1963-1964), the Harvard School of Public Health (1973-1974) along with graduating class portraits of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine Division of Community Health (1982-1986). Also included are digital photographs from a 2007 trip of the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, hosted by ITK (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami).

**Access:** Open

**Boxes:** B2023-0024/001P

B2023-0024/002P (oversize)

B2024-0005/001P

B2024-0005/002P (oversize)

**Digital folders:** B2024-0005\_df023 – df025

## Appendix – File lists

### Series 1: Personal and Biographical

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/001 (01)	Curriculum Vitae [CV] and related	1996, 2001, 2010
B2024-0005_df001	[Curriculum Vitae (CVs) – digital files]	1991-2020
B2023-0024/001 (02)	College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario - Certificate of Registration	1972
B2023-0024/001 (03)-(05)	Publicity [newspaper clippings about Shah or mentioning Shah]	1967-[202-]
B2023-0024/001 (06)	[Speaking remarks for event honouring five former Majestic Electronics employees and their Ontario Human Rights Commission settlement]	1989
B2023-0024/001 (07)	Retirement [tributes and letters]	2001
B2023-0024/001 (08)	[Retirement party speech - speaking notes]	2001
B2023-0024/001 (09)	Letters [Personal]	
B2023-0024/001 (10)	Personal	2005-2018
B2024-0005_df002	[Personal and biographical – digital files]	2005-2021
B2023-0024/001 (11)	Hastings Award - Letters of support	1997
B2023-0024/001 (12)	R. D. Defries Award [letters of support]	1991, 1999
B2023-0024/001 (13)	Defries Award speech [handwritten notes & ceremony program]	7 Jun. 1999
B2023-0024/001 (14)	[University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA) Faculty Award - Letters of nomination]	1999
B2023-0024/001 (15)	[Awards - citations, letters of support, news clippings]	1999-2014
B2024-0005_df003	[Awards – digital files]	2003-2020
B2023-0024/001 (16)	30 Years of Excellence: Community Medicine at U of T	2006
B2023-0024/001 (17)	[Certificate - Successful Completion of the Fifth Inuit Arctic Tour]	Apr. 2007
B2023-0024/001 (18)	Acceptance Speech at the CPSO [College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario] Award	26 Jun. 2008
B2024-0005/001 (01)	[Certificates, medical registrations, letters of appointment]	1961-2005
B2024-0005/001 (02)	Receipt of Declaration of Intention [to become a Canadian citizen]	1966



File number	File title	Date range
B2024-0005_df004	[Memoirs - "To Change The World" - digital files]	2014-2021

## Series 2: Professional Activities

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/002(01)	A Study of the Need for Alternative Types of Health Care for Children in Hospital [abstract]	[196-]
B2023-0024/002(02)	[Correspondence and publicity about the Children's Aid Society of Vancouver Medical Clinic]	1971
B2023-0024/002(03)	Shah, C.P., H.E. Reid, and W. Zingg. "A Century of Care: A Future of Caring" (editorial). <i>Canadian Medical Association Journal</i> 113, no. 6 (1975): 485-486	1975
B2023-0024/002(04)	[Professional Correspondence]	1972-2000
B2024-0005_df005	[Outgoing letters - digital files]	1991-2002
B2024-0005_df006	[Email]	2009-2023
B2024-0005_df007	[Letters of recommendation – digital files] <b>*RESTRICTED until 2052-01-01*</b>	1999-2021
B2023-0024/002(05)	Correspondence: Public Health & Preventative Medicine	1989
B2023-0024/002(06)	Correspondence: Book (general)	1981-1990
B2024-0005_df008	[ <i>Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada</i> , 2nd edition]	1994
B2024-0005_df009	[ <i>Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada</i> , 3rd edition]	1993-2000
B2024-0005_df010	[ <i>Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada</i> , 4th edition]	1990-2002
B2024-0005_df011	[ <i>Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada</i> , 5th edition]	2002-2003
B2024-0005_df012	[ <i>Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada</i> , 6th edition]	2008-2021
B2023-0024/002(07)	[Book reviews]	1990-1991, 1999-2000
B2023-0024/002(08)	[Event publicity]	
B2023-0024/002(09)	<i>What Do Doctors Do? A Study of Fee-For-Service Practice in Ontario</i>	Jun. 1978

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/002(10)	Shah, C.P. and John Wilkinson. "Victims of Childhood Violence: Typology of Victims"	[198-]
B2023-0024/002(11)	<i>An Introduction to Canadian Health and the Health Care System</i> , 1st edition	1986
B2023-0024/002(12)	<i>An Introduction to Canadian Health and the Health Care System</i> , 2nd edition	1987
B2023-0024/002(13)	Analysis of the "Health & Activity Limitation Survey": The Sandy Lake and Deer Lake Communities [Survey Report]	[ca. 1987]
B2023-0024/002(14)	"A National Overview of the Health of Native People Living in Canadian Cities", Inner City Health - Needs of Urban Natives Symposium, Edmonton.	Jan. 1988
B2023-0024/002(15)	Bakery Project: Grant Application	1988-1989
B2023-0024/002(16)	Bakery Project: Letters of support [and project proposal]	1988
B2023-0024/002(17)	Bakery Project: Endorsement letters	1988-1989
B2023-0024/003(01)	[Gasoline sniffing]	1990-2001
B2023-0024/003(02)	Visiting Lectureship on Native Health - brochures, posters, and annual reports	1990-2000
B2024-0005_df013	[Visiting Lectureship on Native Health - digital files]	1991-2001
B2023-0024/003(03)	World Health Organization Fellowship Report - Sabbatical	1991
B2023-0024/003(04)	Citizenship Test	1991-1992
B2023-0024/003(05)	"A Contribution to the Social Safety Net Reform Debate"	5 Oct. 1994
B2023-0024/003(06)	Ontario Medical Association Brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources Development - "Unemployment and Health"	29 Nov. 1994
B2023-0024/003(07)	Workshop on Unemployment and Health - Summary of Workshop	24 Jun. 1994
B2023-0024/003(08)	Workshop on Homelessness and Health - Summary of Workshop	29 Mar. 1996
B2023-0024/003(09)	Boehm, L.A., K.W. Glasgow and C.P. Shah. "Historical Impacts on Native and Black Health"	[199-]
B2023-0024/003(10)	Harry Medoway Lecture - University of Manitoba (7 May 1998). Speaking notes	1998

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/003(11)	Ontario Graduate Scholarships in Science & Technology (OGSST)	1999-2000
B2023-0024/003(12)	[Letter and deputation speaking notes to the Toronto Committee on Community, Race and Ethnic Relations (North York Division) about the hiring of ethnic minority as faculty members at the University of Toronto]	1999
B2023-0024/003(13)	Bulletin article ["A Question of Fairness"]	2000-2002
B2023-0024/003(14)	[Hate Mail] [CONTENT WARNING]	12 Jan. 2000
B2024-0005_df014	Diversity [digital files]	1999-2001
B2024-0005_df015	Diversity Celebration [digital files]	2001
B2023-0024/003(15)	[University of Toronto Governing Council - Photo Sheet and meeting schedule]	Mar. 2001
B2023-0024/003(16)	Shah, C.P., Brent W. Moloughney, and Vinita Dubey. "Spirituality: It's Potential Impact on Population Health"	[ca. 2000]
B2023-0024/003(17)	"Spirituality: It's Potential Impact on Population Health"	[ca. 2000-2001]
B2023-0024/003(18)	"Impact of Spirituality on Health of Individuals" [slides]	[ca. 2000-2001]
B2023-0024/003(19)	"Moving Beyond Hopelessness and Helplessness in Front Line Community Care" [lecture speaking notes]	[200-?]
B2023-0024/003(20)	"Population Health: Moving Beyond Analysis and Interaction", Aventis-Pasteur Lecture, 91st Annual Meeting of Canadian Public Health Association and Ontario Public Health Association, Ottawa	Oct. 2000
B2023-0024/004(01)	Shah, C.P. and B. Moloughney. <i>Strategic Review of the Community Health Centre (CHC) Program in Ontario.</i>	May 2001
B2023-0024/004(02)	[Professional Correspondence]	2001-2013
B2023-0024/004(03)	[Expert Advisory Panel - First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada. Correspondence and contract]	2002
B2023-0024/004(04)	"Places of Workshop in Multicultural Settings" [presentation speaking notes]	[ca. 2002]
B2023-0024/004(05)	"Defining the Role of Community Medicine Specialists in Clinical Prevention" - Interim Report	31 Mar. 2003

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/004(06)	Shah, C.P. and R. Musto. "Health Care System Reform and Primary Health Care Renewal: The Contribution of the Community Medicine Specialist"	[ca. 2003]
B2023-0024/004(07)	[Canadian Blood Services Board of Directors]	2005
B2023-0024/004(08)	Shah, C. P. and F. Ramji. <i>Health Status Report of Aboriginal People in Ontario</i> . Report prepared for Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Government of Ontario.	Oct. 2005
B2023-0024/004(09)	[Contract - Special Advisor to Assistant Deputy Minister on Public Health, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada]	2006-2007
B2023-0024/004(10)	Public Forum in Celebration of the United Nation's International Day of Non-Violence [speaking notes]	Oct. 2007
B2023-0024/004(11)	[Letter of complaint about colleague] <b>*RESTRICTED until 2034-01-01*</b>	3 Apr. 2008
B2023-0024/004(12)	CPSO [College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario] Educational Peer Assessment	Dec. 2011
B2023-0024/004(13)	[Slides: "Moving Beyond Good Intentions: Reducing Social Inequality, a Fireside Chat with Dr. CP Shah", PHPM (Public Health & Preventive Medicine) Rounds]	7 Sep. 2018
B2023-0024/004(14)	Canadian Blood Services Petition [about the lack of diversity in executive team members]	2019
B2024-0005_df016	[Canada Blood Services – digital files]	2016-2021
B2023-0024/004(15)	"Health & Well-Being of South East Asians: Issues & Challenges" [speaking notes]	[201-]
B2024-0005_df017	[Anishnawbe Health Toronto – digital files]	2007-2020
B2023-0024/004(16)	[Slides about Anishnawbe Health Toronto]	[200-?]
B2023-0024/004(17)	Anishnawbe Health Toronto. Aboriginal Mental Health Strategy	[ca. 2005]
B2023-0024/004(18)	Public Forum: National Aboriginal Day of Action, June 27, 2007 [publicity, correspondence, speaking notes]	Jun. 2007
B2023-0024/004(19)	Anishnawbe Health Toronto. "Promoting Aboriginal Cultural Safety: Efficacy of Volunteer Aboriginal Instructors in Training Health Sciences Students in Ontario's Colleges and Universities" [project report]	Jan. 2014

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/004(20)	2015 Aboriginal Mental Health & Wellness Conference [Conference Programme]	Oct. 2015
B2023-0024/004(21)	Cultural Safety: IPEC [Indigenous Peoples Education Circle] agreement	2010-2014
B2023-0024/004(22)	Cultural Safety Initiative	2008-2012
B2023-0024/004(23)	Cultural Safety Initiative [final report and slides]	2015-2016
B2023-0024/004(24)	[Aboriginal Cultural Safety - slides]	[ca. 2015-2016]
B2024-0005_df018	[Aboriginal Cultural Safety – digital files]	2008-2021
B2024-0005_df019	[Professional activities – digital files]	1994-2021
B2024-0005_df020	[Teaching - digital files]	1991-2000
B2024-0005_df021	[Research and Writings – digital files]	1993-2021
B2024-0005_df022	[Presentations – digital files]	1993-2022

### Series 3: Photographs

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/001P(01)	C.P. Shah with wife Sudha	[199-]
B2023-0024/001P(02)	C.P. Shah in Reykjavik	1993
B2023-0024/001P(03)	C.P. Shah with wife Sudha at Ontario Society for Services to the Indo-Caribbean Community [OSSICC] awards	1994
B2023-0024/001P(04)	C.P. Shah with wife Sudha and friends on trip to Russia	1999
B2023-0024/001P(05)	University of Illinois - Research and Educational Hospital, House Staff, 1963-1964	1964
B2023-0024/002P(01)	Harvard School of Public Health, Class of 1974 - Class Portrait	1974
B2023-0024/002P(02)	University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, Division of Community Health - Graduating Class Portraits	1982-1986
B2023-0024/001P(06)	Dr. Mary Jane Ashley's birthday celebrations	[198-]
B2023-0024/001P(07)	1989 Shah Awards	1989
B2023-0024/001P(08)	Shah Awards	n.d.
B2023-0024/001P(09)	C.P. Shah with Dr. Perry Kendall, Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto	Oct. 1991
B2023-0024/001P(10)	1992 Visiting Lectureship on Native Health	1992
B2023-0024/001P(11)	1993 Visiting Lectureship on Native Health	1993

File number	File title	Date range
B2023-0024/001P(12)	1995 Visiting Lectureship on Native Health	1995
B2023-0024/001P(13)	1997 Visiting Lectureship on Native Health	1997
B2023-0024/001P(14)	C.P. Shah with Surendra Mehta at the reception for the 1997 Visiting Lectureship on Native Health	1997
B2023-0024/001P(15)	C.P. Shah with Alexa McDonough	Apr. 2001
B2024-0005/001P(01)	C.P. Shah - portrait	[198-]
B2024-0005/001P(02)	1992 Visiting Lectureship on Native Health [photo album part 1]	
B2024-0005/001P(03)	Departure Party 1986 [photo album part 2]	1986
B2024-0005/001P(04)	1989 Shah Awards [photo album part 3]	1989
B2024-0005/001P(05)	[Community Health] Departmental Party [photo album part 4]	[198-?]
B2024-0005/001P(06)	OISE Board of Directors Annual Reception	1993
B2024-0005/002P	Harvard School of Public Health 1973-1974 [group portrait]	1973-1974
B2024-0005_df023	[Digital photographs - portraits]	2005-2021
B2024-0005_df024	2007 Inuit Arctic Tour Photographs	Apr. 2007
B2024-0005_df025	Event photos [Digital photographs CD]	2009