

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



Gary Pieters fonds

B1996-0024

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Biographical note

Gary Pieters is an educator and Commissioner at the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Pieters was born in Guyana in 1967, immigrating to Canada in 1987. He received his Bachelor of Arts in African Studies and Political Science in 1993, followed by a Master of Education from OISE in 1996. After graduating, Pieters worked at the Toronto District School Board and throughout his career has been committed to community building, youth engagement, and equity initiatives. He has served on numerous boards and committees including the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, the Minister of Education's Advisory Council on Special Education, the Toronto Islands Residential Trust Corporation and the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

References:

OISE alumnus Gary Pieters appointed to Ontario Human Rights Commission [\[website\]](#)
Gary Pieters: From Complainant to Commissioner - Amplifying a human rights 'system' mindset in how we think, act and treat each other [\[website\]](#)

Scope and content

1989-1996

0.35m (2 boxes) of textual and graphic records

Scope and content

Records document Pieters' activities as a student and alumnus of New College at the University of Toronto. Pieters was an active participant in the development of Caribbean students' activities, including the West Indian Students' Association. As a student teacher at the Faculty of Education, he was active in the Future Teachers Club and other initiatives that worked to encourage post-secondary studies in teaching to African Canadian students. Material includes correspondence, brochures, flyers, clippings, photographs, reports, and notes.

Access: Open

Boxes: B1996-0024/001-/002, /001P

Related material: Selwyn Pieters fonds (B1998-0011)

Finding aid revisions: Edits made to the finding aid to remove unnecessary reference to immigration status, include additional detail to biographical note, and remove outdated term for Indigenous individuals, Daniela Ansovini, 2022.

Series 1: Student activities

1989-1996

0.1m textual and graphic records

Series includes personal correspondence with friends and University officials, brochures, flyers, pamphlets, and reports relating to courses in Caribbean Studies, created and collected during Pieters' undergraduate years at New College. Also included is a file on the New College Alumni Association containing copies of reports and other documents relating to the provostial review of the college in 1996. This series also includes photos documenting his activities as a student such as social events, meetings, dinners, and his graduation.

Access: Open

Boxes: B1996-0024/001(01) – (03), B1996-0024/001P(01)

Series 2: Future Teachers Club

1994-1996

0.1m textual and graphic records

This series consists of correspondence, reports, minutes of meetings, survey forms and results, brochures, and flyers collected by Pieters as an active participant of the Future Teachers Club. The initiative was based at the Faculty of Education (OISE) and aimed to increase the number of practicing African Canadian teachers to numbers that were representative of the racial diversity of the student body. The programme worked to promote the profession directly to elementary and secondary school students. Also included are records relating to the Promoting Equity for the Teachers of Tomorrow (PETT), a program "undertaken to encourage students from African Canadian and Portuguese communities to consider teaching as a career." Included is also a photo album showing Pieters teaching at a local school.

Access: Open

Boxes: B1996-0024/001(04) – (07), B1996-0024/001P(02)

Series 3: Students' Administrative Council

1994

0.05m textual records

This series consists of two files relating to Pieters' participation in the March, 1994 presidential election campaign of SAC. Pieters acted as campaign manager for presidential candidate, Andrea Madho, but withdrew his support when he could no longer support the methods being used in the campaign. Included are correspondence, notes, election materials, and articles. Also included is an unsigned and undated typescript of "*Beyond Ambition: 14 days in March. The scandalous road to win the 1994 University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council Election*".

Access: Open

Boxes: B1996-0024/002(01)- (02)

Series 4: West Indian Students' Association

1994

0.1m textual records

The West Indian Students' Association (WISA) at the University of Toronto was established in the early eighties and aims to unite students through diversity and share Caribbean culture. This goal is realized through a diverse program of social, cultural, and educational activities.

This series consists of correspondence, brochures, flyers, clippings relating to Pieters' involvement as coordinator of Caribbean Rising, one of the social activities of the WISA during 1994 at New College.

Access: Open

Boxes: B1996-0024/002(03)- (04)