

University of Toronto Archives  
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**Laurel Sefton MacDowell**

**B2015-0002**

Prepared by S. Butterfield  
June 2015

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**Sefton MacDowell, Laurel**

### **Biographical Sketch**

Laurel Sefton MacDowell (1947-) is a Professor of History at the University of Toronto. Her primary research interests are Canadian working class history and labour relations and North American environmental history. She attended U of T as an undergraduate student from 1965-1969 and graduated with honours in History. She then attended the London School of Economics from 1969-1970, studying international history, and graduated with an MSc (Econ). MacDowell returned to U of T in 1972 as a graduate student and studied Canadian History and Industrial Relations, and received her PhD in 1979. She has taught at York, McMaster, and U of T.

In addition to her academic work, MacDowell is also active in labour and environmentally focused initiatives. She was involved in the 1980s with the Policy Committee of the Ontario NDP and is also the project leader of the Nuclear International Research Group (NIRG), which had its first inaugural meeting in 2009.

### **Scope and Content**

**[196-]-2014**

**1.69 m ; 13 boxes**

**Textual; Graphic**

These records document the academic career of Professor Laurel Sefton MacDowell, a labour and environmental historian and professor at the University of Toronto. The records consist of personal and biographical information (including MacDowell's time as an undergraduate and graduate student at the U of T), her lecture notes and syllabi for courses taught at U of T, York, and McMaster, her publications and research, her professional activities (both inside and outside academia), and general correspondence.

**Access:** The following files have been restricted for thirty years after last file activity: /003(04b); /004(01); /009(14); and /011(08). All other records are open. See series descriptions for more information.

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**Series 1: Early education and biographical**

[196-]-2002

0.05 m

Textual; Graphic

This series consists of records pertaining to the education and career of Prof MacDowell. It includes academic work (notes and papers) produced while MacDowell was an undergraduate and graduate student. The series also documents her tenure and promotion at the University of Toronto, annual activity reports, internal memos at U of T, and other activities related directly to her career at U of T.

**Access:** Open

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
/001	(01)	Student essays	[196-]
	(02)	Early thesis notes on C10 movement	n.d.
	(03)	PhD papers and notes	1973
	(04)	University of Toronto History Department memos	1984-1987
	(05)	University of Toronto – tenure	1986
	(06)	University of Toronto – activity reports	1995-2002
	(07)	Newspaper clipping on MacDowell re: <i>Remember Kirkland Lake</i>	2001
	(08)	University of Toronto – promotion	2001-2002
/001P	(01)	Portrait photograph of MacDowell as Associate Chair [photograph removed from /001(07)]	[ca. 1993]

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**Series 2: Teaching**

**1973-2014**

**0.83 m**

**Textual**

This series consists of records in support of Prof MacDowell's teaching activities for undergraduate and graduate history courses taught primarily at the University of Toronto (Erindale/UTM). In some cases, MacDowell served as a TA for a course or contributed to courses but was not the primary instructor, however the majority of the records pertain to courses in which she was the primary instructor or developed the course herself. There are also records pertaining to courses taught at York University and McMaster University, as well as records related to the supervision of students. The courses reflect Prof MacDowell's interests in labour movements, working class history, and environmental history. Some records also contain terms of appointment and correspondence.

**Access:** /003(04b) and /004(01) are restricted for thirty years after last file activity. All other files are open.

**System of arrangement:** The records have been divided into two subseries: Course descriptions and Course lectures. This corresponds with the original order of the records. Records are arranged according to the progression of courses (e.g. 100-level courses followed by 200-level, and so on up to graduate level courses).

When known, the university where the course was taught has been indicated as MacDowell taught at different schools and in different capacities.

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Subseries 1: Course descriptions

1973-2014

0.33 m

Textual

This subseries consists of syllabi and reading lists associated with courses taught by Prof MacDowell.

**Access:** /003(04b) and /004(01) are restricted for thirty years after last file activity. All other files are open.

Box	File	Description	Dates
		<b>Undergraduate courses</b>	
/001	(09)	HIS102: "An Introduction to History" [U of T]	1997-2002
	(10)	HIS205F: "History of Canada" (TA) [U of T]	1974
	(11)	AK/HIS242: "The History of Canada" [York]	1978-1979
	(12)	HIS261: "Post Confederation Canada" (TA) [U of T]	1975-1977
	(13)	HIS262: "History of Canada" [U of T]	1982-1999
/002	(01)	HIS318: "Canadian Environmental History" [U of T]	1994-2012
	(02)	HIS319: "20th Century Canadian Environmental History" [U of T]	2007-2011
	(03)	HIS359: "History of Women in Canada" [U of T]	1987-1988
	(04)	HIS365: "History of Upper Canada/Ontario" [U of T]	1981-1988
	(05)	HIS367: "Canadian American Relations" [U of T]	1984-1988
	(06)	HIS385F: "History of Upper Canada" [U of T]	1989-1990
	(07)	HIS387S: "The History of Ontario" [U of T]	1990-1992
	(08)	HIS390S: "Canada and the Second World War" [U of T]	1990
	(09)	HIS416H5S: "Canada and the Second World War" [U of T]	2007-2013
	(10)	HIS452H: "The Great Depression in Canada" [U of T]	1991-2010
	(11)	HIS459F: "The History of Women in Canada" [U of T]	1989-1990
	(12)	HIS466F: "Western Canada, 1850's to the Present" [U of T]	1986-1987
	(13)	HIS487Y: "Canadian Social History" [U of T]	1984-1987
		<b>Labour courses</b>	
	(14)	PIR204S: "The Labour Movement in Canada" [Woodsworth College IR, U of T]	1979-1985
	(15)	HIST/POLISCI3900.06: "Canadian Labour and Politics" [York]	1978, 1983
	(16)	Canadian Studies 4C3: "Class & Labour in Canadian Society" [McMaster]	1983
/003	(01)	HIS313: "Canadian Labour and the Left" [U of T]	1975-1992
	(02)	HIS313: "Canadian Labour and the Left" [U of T]	1993-2009
	(03)	HIS314: "20th Century Canadian Working Class History" [U of T]	2010
		<b>Graduate courses</b>	
	(04a)	HIS1111: "Topics in North American Environmental History" [U of T]	2002-2014
	(04b)	HIS1111: "Topics in North American Environmental History" [U of T] - RESTRICTED	[200-]

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<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
	(05)	HIS1152: "Topics in Comparative Labour History" [U of T]	1986-1992
	(06)	IRE1620: "Labour Relations Problems in Historical Perspective"	1997-2010
		<b>Miscellaneous courses</b>	
	(07)	HIS354: "Canada; Studies in Social and Intellectual History" [York]	[1980?]
	(08)	AK/HIS242: "History of Canada" [York]	1973-1980
<b>/003</b>	(09)	HIS353: "History of Upper Canada and Ontario" [York]	1975-1981
	(10)	HIS360S & HIS301E: Canadian politics history courses [U of T]	1973-1974
	(11)	HIS390: "Canadian Labour and Politics" [York]	1978-1983
	(12)	Canadian studies [McMaster]	1983
		<b>Student supervision</b>	
<b>/004</b>	(01)	Graduate students - RESTRICTED	2013-2014

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## Subseries 2: Course lectures

1974-2014

0.5 m

Textual

This subseries consists of notes and material in support of course lectures delivered by Prof MacDowell.

Access: Open

Box	File	Description	Dates
		<b>Course lectures</b>	
	(02)	HIS102: "An Introduction to History"	[1998-2001]
	(03)	HIS102: "An Introduction to History – Environmental History"	[199-?]
	(04)	HIS110	1987
	(05)	HIS256: 200-level survey course lectures	n.d.
	(06)	HIS262 Lectures	1997-1998
	(07)	HIS 262 Lectures [1 of 2]	n.d.
	(08)	HIS 262 Lectures [2 of 2]	n.d.
<b>/005</b>	(01)	HIS313: "Canadian Labour and the Left" Lectures revised	[197-?]
	(02)	HIS313: "Canadian Labour and the Left" Lectures [1 of 2]	1974-2014
	(03)	HIS313: "Canadian Labour and the Left" Lectures [2 of 2]	1974-2014
	(04)	HIS313: Labour lectures	1982-1983
	(05)	HIS318: "Canadian Environmental History" [1 of 2]	n.d.
	(06)	HIS318: "Canadian Environmental History" [1 of 2]	n.d.
	(07)	HIS353: Social history notes	n.d.
	(08)	HIS354: Lecture notes	n.d.
<b>/006</b>	(01)	HIS365: "History of Upper Canada/Ontario" notes	1981
	(02)	HIS367: "Canadian American Relations" lectures	n.d.
	(03)	HIS385: "History of Upper Canada" lectures	n.d.
	(04)	Ontario history: Notes and readings	n.d.
	(05)	First year course: "Headlines and History" lecture	n.d.
	(06)	"Very early lectures": labour movements during WWI	1974
	(07)	Labour history lectures	n.d.
	(08)	Labour lectures	n.d.
<b>/007</b>	(01)	"Working class history: Old lecture notes" [1 of 3]	n.d.
	(02)	"Working class history: Old lecture notes" [2 of 3]	n.d.
	(03)	"Working class history: Old lecture notes" [3 of 3]	n.d.
	(04)	Environmental history lectures [1 of 2]	[ca. 1996]
	(05)	Environmental history lectures [1 of 2]	[ca. 1996]
	(06)	Notes on "Topics in Environmental History"	n.d.



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## Series 3: Publications and research

1972-2012

0.29 m

Textual

This series consists of the publications and research produced by Professor MacDowell throughout her academic career on the topics of environmental history and labour history, generally within a Canadian context. The series includes manuscripts of refereed articles, unpublished material, collaborative works, contributions to edited volumes, and book reviews. Several of the files also contain relevant correspondence and publishing information regarding articles or monograph projects. The records are arranged chronologically.

**Access:** /009(14) is restricted for thirty years after last file activity. All other files are open.

Box	File	Description	Dates
/007	(07)	Book reviews	1979-1998
	(08)	New Canadian Encyclopedia – article contributions	1982, 1986
	(09)	Publication information re: <i>Loyal She Remains: A Pictorial History of Ontario</i> [The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada]	1983
/008	(01)	Miscellaneous writing	1983-1986
	(02)	Spectator/McMaster Ontario History Series	1984
	(03)	<i>Studies in Ontario Working Class History: Since 1919</i> . Ontario Historical Studies Series	1984-1993
	(04)	<i>Patterns of the Past</i> : Ontario Historical Society	1986-1988
	(05)	Miscellaneous writing	1987-1994
	(06)	<i>A Sourcebook in Canadian Labour</i> drafts	1988-1992
	(07)	“Workers” in <i>New Directions: For the study of Ontario's past</i>	[198-?]
	(08)	“After the Strike – Labour Relations in Oshawa 1937-39” article	1990-1993
	(09)	“J.L. Cohen – Labour Lawyer”	1992
/009	(01)	“Canada’s ‘Gulag’: Project 51 Lac Seul (A Take from the Great Depression)” article	1992-1993
	(02)	“The United Church’s Support for Collective Bargaining in the 1940’s” article	1992-1995
	(03)	<i>Canadian Working Class History: Selected Readings</i> (3 editions)	1992, 2000, 2006
	(04)	“Relief Camp Workers in Ontario during the Great Depression of the 1930’s” article	1994
	(05)	Chapter drafts for <i>Fragments and Patterns: An Environmental History of Canada</i>	[ca. 1994]
	(06)	Chapter notes (likely for <i>Fragments and Patterns</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	[ca. 1994]
	(07)	J.L. Cohen biography – research assistants	1996-1997
	(08)	Proposed Canadian environmental history reader – Killan/ Smith/ MacDowell	1996-1997

<sup>1</sup> Assumed to be for *Fragments and Patterns* based on creator’s arrangement of material and that the outline for the book includes a chapter on cities.

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Box	File	Description	Dates
/009	(09)	Notes, research, and drafts on unions and the environment article	[ca. 1998]
	(10)	Outline for <i>Canadian Working Class History: Selected Readings</i>	1998-2000
	(11)	“Labour Regimes: A Comparative Analysis of the Origins, Development and Divergence of the Canadian and American Labour Relations Systems, 1935-1999.” Organization of American Historians – paper and research	1999
	(12)	J.L. Cohen biography – research, correspondence, contracts	1999-2002
	(13)	“Paul Robeson in Canada: A Border Story” article	2002
	(14)	UBC contract for publication of <i>Fragments and Patterns: An Environmental History of Canada</i> RESTRICTED	2003
	(15)	Research on Hurricane Hazel for Ontario Heritage Foundation Provincial plaque	2004
	(16)	Publishing contract for <i>Canadian Working Class History: Selected Readings</i> 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition	2004
	(17)	“John Henry Billings – Haliburton Stonemason” essay for <i>The Land Between</i>	2012
	(18)	“J.L. Cohen – A Case Study in Masculinity” – incomplete draft	n.d.
	(19)	“Post-War Interregnum: Canadian Society and Culture, 1945-55” ; “‘Winning the Peace:’ Workers in Canada 1945-56”	n.d.

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## Series 4: Professional activities

1976-2012

0.26 m

Textual; Graphic

## Scope and Content

This series documents Prof MacDowell's involvement in organizations and associations—primarily those focused on labour relations and the environment. These include the Policy Committee of the Ontario NDP, the Nuclear International Research Group, and the Ontario Historical Society. Also documented here is MacDowell's involvement with the Larry Sefton Memorial Lecture series, for which she delivered the ten year anniversary lecture in 1992. Other conferences attended and presented at are also captured here, including the 1986 North American Labour History conference held at the University of Toronto, which MacDowell organized and which was the only time this conference had been hosted in Canada. This series also includes documentation of roles performed by Prof MacDowell in addition to her regular duties as a professor. These include the 1995 delivery of the citation for the honorary doctorate degree awarded to Lynn Williams; serving as chair of the Canadian History Search Committee (2000); participating in performance reviews; and lectures delivered to classes other than her own.

**Access:** /011(08) is restricted for thirty years after last file activity. All other files are open.

Box	File	Title	Dates
/010	(01)	Canada Department of Labour grant	1976-1979
	(02)	NDP Policy Committee	1981-1983
	(03)	Larry Sefton Memorial Lecture committee	1982-2005
	(04)	New History Society	1985-1987
	(05)	North American Labour History conference – correspondence	1985-1986
	(06)	North American Labour History conference	1986
	(07)	Work as editor of <i>Ontario History</i>	1986
	(08)	NDP – Policy Review Committee	1989
/011	(01)	UTM – International Relations program	1991-2004
	(02)	“Christianizing the Social Order” United Church conference	1992
	(03)	Grant applications	1992-2006
	(04)	Lynn Williams – honorary doctorate	1995
	(05)	“Nonunion Forms of Employee Representation” – Calgary conference	1996
	(06)	Conferences – proposals	1997-1998
	(07)	Search committee – Appointment in Canadian History at UTM	2000
	(08)	Third Year Review committee RESTRICTED	2002
	(09)	“After ‘Silent Spring’: The Modern Environmental Movement in North America.” Invited lecture, Connecticut	2006
	(10)	Nuclear International Research Group (NIRG) – founding	2008
	(11)	NIRG: report on inaugural meeting; inaugural symposium	2009
	(12)	World Congress of Environmental History	2009

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<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
/011	(13)	SSHRC CURA grant application and research overview	2009-2010
	(14)	NIRG workshop: "How we got here"	2012
	(15)	Guest lecture: film studies class – "Salt of the Earth"	n.d.
/001P	(02)	Six photographs from the Larry Sefton Memorial Lecture of Laurel MacDowell, Tim Armstrong, and Desmond Morton. [Photographs removed from /010(03)]	2003

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## Series 5: Correspondence

1978-2014

0.26m

Textual; Graphic

## Scope and Content

Series consists of Laurel MacDowell's correspondence which primarily documents MacDowell's professional activities within universities (the majority of the records pertain to the University of Toronto, however there is also correspondence regarding York and McMaster universities as well). The correspondence documents other aspects of MacDowell's life as well, such as her role as editor of the *Ontario History* journal and as a publishing academic. Additional correspondence can be found throughout other series within this accession as they pertain directly to the content of those files.

Access: Open

Box	File	Title	Dates
/012	(01)	Correspondence – Jobs and C.V.'s	1978-1981
	(02)	Correspondence – Academic work	1982-1983
	(03)	Correspondence – <i>Remember Kirkland Lake</i> [book] (also includes promotional material for MacDowell's book)	1983
	(04)	Correspondence – McMaster University	1983
	(05)	Correspondence – Personal and academic	1983-1984
	(06)	Correspondence – Erindale	1984-1985
	(07)	Correspondence – Peel Summer Academy	1984-1985
	(08)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1985-1986
	(09)	Correspondence – <i>Ontario History</i> [journal]	1986-1988
	(10)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1987-1988
	(11)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic [on leave]	1988-1989
	(12)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1989-1990
	(13)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1990-1991
	(14)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1991-1992
/013	(01)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1992-1993
	(02)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1993-1994
	(03)	Correspondence – CASE Professor of the Year award	1994
	(04)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1994-1995
	(05)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic <sup>2</sup>	1995-1996
	(06)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1996-1998
	(07)	Correspondence – Books	1999-2001
	(08)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	1999-2011
	(09)	Correspondence – Professional/Academic	2002-2003
	(10)	Correspondence – Historical Studies	2006-2014

<sup>2</sup> File contains 2 photographs that were sent to MacDowell in a card. Photographs and card have been placed in a separate folder within this file.