



MG 571: Saskatchewan Indian Agricultural Program: Indian 4-H Program

Dates: [ca. 1977]-1990.

Extent: 1,094 photographs.

Institutional History: Established around 1977, the SIAP offered opportunities for Aboriginal peoples to learn about and gain skills in the agricultural sector. The 4-H program in particular offered these learning experiences to aboriginal youth on reserves, making Saskatchewan the only Canadian province to have a separate 4-H program for aboriginal youth. Donor Les Ferguson acted for a long period as the full-time 4-H coordinator, supported by eight Agriculture Extension staff. Common youth projects included woodwork, foods, clothing, traditional arts and crafts, and firearm safety. The 4-H Garden Project, the 4-H Poultry Project, and the 4-H swine project were particularly popular. Approximately 100 4H leaders would work with the program each year. Costs would be shared equally between the Indian 4-H Program and the families involved. The SIAP was also a major organizer of the Saskatchewan Indian Youth Conference.

Custodial History: Materials were donated by Linda and Les Ferguson to the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre. The SICC then brought the materials to the University of Saskatchewan University Archives and Special Collections in April, 2016.

Scope and Content: These photographs capture the activities of the Indian 4-H program in a number of locations around Saskatchewan. Most photographs are in albums, although some arrived mounted on foamcore.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access. Copyright restrictions apply.

Finding aid by Stevie Horn, 2016.

Box 1

1. Album 1. – 1985-1986. – 140 photographs. - 2 folders.

Includes images of Nut Lake duck day, SIYC Heritage Days, 4-H camp featuring air guitar competitions and (sometimes cross-dressing) costumes, a poker rally, the Chagdness poultry project, work done on the Kinistino Indian Reserve; Garden project achievement day at the P.A. Queen Elizabeth School with crafts; the Indian Economic Development Conference in Saskatoon.

2. Album 2. – [ca. 1977] – 1992. – 218 photographs. - 2 folders.

Black and white images of various 4-H groups; colour images of lake trips, meetings, traditional crafts, “1000th Camper Vanissa Bear, Little Pine”, clothing drive, baking, 4-H kids being interviewed for television, dancing, music, mimes, horses, hoop dancing, “Shantelle Watson, Jr. Counsellor, Mistawasis”, camping, bannock, martial arts, target practice.

3. Album 3. – [ca. 1977]-1986. – 246 photographs. - 2 folders.

Black and white images of various 4-H clubs; colour images of canoe trips, gardens, the Prince Albert 4-H Workshop, the Don Nielson Indian 4H Garden Club Achievement Day, poultry, shooting, computing, archery, sailing, volleyball, horseback riding, macramé, woodworking.

4. Album 4. – 1987. – 130 photographs.

Awards presentations: Walter L. Bear; various 4H groups and leaders, SIAP meetings, dinners, welding, wagons.

Box 2

5. Album 5. – 1988-1990. – 184 photographs. - 2 folders.

Camping, sailing, canoeing, firearm safety, archery, spear throwing. Indian Youth Business Conference: Elder Pauline Pelly, Constable Rod Ash, Chief Roland Crowe, Mike Nikolaichuk of the Federal Business Development Bank, Morley Watson and Maria Adam of Tootoosis. Curling, awards ceremonies, urban garden competition, Wahpeton Band School Display, sewing, arts and crafts.

6. Album 6. – nd. – 163 photographs. - 2 folders.

Gardens, pumpkin carving, aboriginal/ non-aboriginal gardening partnerships in schools.

7. Foamcore. – 13 photographs.

Material used in a display explaining the Indian 4H club. List of Saskatoon schools participating in container gardens. Images of cattle, poultry, traditional dances, kayaking, etc.