

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: ORT Calgary fonds

No.: ORT

DATE RANGE: 1933-1938, 1971-1981, 1995, 2005

EXTENT: .5cm of textual records. 1 object

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

ORT Calgary was a regional branch of ORT Canada, itself a branch of an international organization founded in Russia in 1880. Formerly known as the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (an acronym for the Russian "Society for Manual Work"), its goal was to provide training in essential trades, through workshops, schools and model farms. ORT officially became an international organization in the 1920s, and the first Calgary group began meeting in 1933 as part of the American ORT Federation.

Under the leadership of Leo Paperny, Benjamin Ginsberg, Max Fratkin and Al Shumiatcher, ORT Calgary was primarily a men's group that raised funds in support of the parent organization. In 1937, Calgary was an included stop on a tour of western Canada by the Right Honourable Lord Marley, then-head of the British Parliamentary Advisory council of ORT.

Sometime after 1940 ORT Calgary's activities subsided, but the organization was re-established in the early 1970s, with Percy Genser and Gordon Signer on the executive. Gertie Lerner and Miriam (Mim) Diamond were among the founders of Calgary Women's ORT, which was formed in 1972. This branch of Women's Canadian ORT soon became the only ORT group in Calgary. Its activities ranged from cook book sales to an annual scholarship tea (inaugurated in 1982), and supported not just the international efforts of the larger organization, but local causes such as the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of meeting minutes and memoranda; local and organizational publicity material; a copy of the 90th Anniversary ORT *Bulletin*, published by the Canadian ORT Federation in February 1971; a Women's Canadian ORT Life Member card for Gertie Belkin; two organizational descriptions, one handwritten, one on local letterhead. The material includes photocopies, date of copying unknown. Also included is an ORT membership pin.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Naomi Kerr; unknown donor

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ASSOCIATED MATERIAL: Glenbow Archives

ACCRUALS: no further accruals expected

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA photo collection