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FINNISH WAR VETERANS IN CANADA
(MONTREAL BRANCH)

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National Ethnic Archives
Section, in 1977

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INTRODUCTION

The Finnish War Veterans in Canada Reg. Assn. traces its origins to March 1935 with the founding in Montreal of Suomen Vapausodan Rintamamiheht Montrealissa (literally translated as "Ex-7 Servicemen - or Veterans - of Finland's War of Independence in Montreal"). Because only the veterans in Montreal of the Finnish "White Guard" who had participated in the 1918 struggle against the Finnish "Red Guard" and Russian Bolsheviks were allowed to belong to the S.V.R.M., its social, benevolent and philanthropic activities were dominated by spirit of intense conservatism and Finnish nationalism. Consequently, the S.V.R.M. became a focal point in the opposition to the "radical" element within the Finnish Canadian community (such as the Finnish Organization of Canada).

Following the Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-1940, the Finnish veterans of that war were quickly admitted into the association. To reflect this change, the reference to the "War of Independence" ("Vapausodan") was dropped from the name which became Suomen Rintamamiheht Montrealissa - or the Finnish War Veterans in Montreal. The conclusion of the Continuation War in 1944 led to the induction of many new veterans in the S.R.M. and to the last change of name in 1955 to the Finnish War Veterans in Canada / Suomen Aseveljet Canadassa. In 1955, it became a "Registered Association" in Quebec. More recently a branch was established in Toronto.

Additional material was received in 1977 but has not yet been fully processed or described in this Finding Aid.

The material in this collection constitutes various records held by the Executive Committee. They have been arranged as follows:

Constitutional and Legal Records. 1959, 1965. 4 pages.
The Constitution and instrument of court registration.

Records of Annual Conventions, General and Committee Meetings. 1935-1976. 7.5 cm.
Agendas; annual reports of the Executive Committee; minute books of annual conventions, general and various committee meetings; and other records related to annual conventions.

Correspondence. 1955-1976. 1 cm.
Correspondence files of the Executive Committee.

Organizational Histories n.d., 1965, 1975. 0.5 cm.
Historical sketches occasioned by various anniversary celebrations of the Finnish War Veterans in Canada.

ABBREVIATIONS

- S.A.C. - Suomen Aseveljet Canadassa / Finnish War Veterans in Canada
- S.R.M. - Suomen Rintamamiehet Montrealissa = Finnish War Veterans [Ex-] Servicemen] in Montreal
- S.V.R.M. - Suomen Vapausodan Rintamamiehet Montrealissa = Finnish Independence War Veterans [(Ex-)] Servicemen in Montreal.

DATE

Constitution and Legal Records

Constitution of the S.A.C.	1959
Court declaration: The registration of the Finnish War Veterans in Canada (S.A.C.) name in the Quebec Superior Court.	1965

Records of Annual Conventions, General Meetings and Committee Meetings

Agendas: Annual Conventions of the S.A.C.	1966-1976
Annual Reports of the S.R.M. Executive Committee	1950-1954
Annual Reports of the S.A.C. Executive Committee	1955, 1958
Draft: Annual Report of the S.A.C. Executive Committee for 1960.	
Draft: Annual Report of S.A.C. Executive Committee for 1961.	
Draft: Annual Report of S.A.C. Executive Committee for 1962.	
Draft: Annual Report of S.A.C. Executive Committee for 1963.	
Draft: Annual Report of S.A.C. Executive Committee for 1965.	
Annual Report of S.A.C. Executive Committee for 1966.	
S.V.R.M. minute book: Annual Convention and General Meetings and Committee Meetings	1935-1943

S.V.R.M. - S.A.C. minute book: Annual Conventions, General Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings	1944-1960
S.A.C. minute book: Annual Conventions, General, Executive and Entertainment Committee Meetings	1960-1969
List of names and addresses of the S.A.C. Executive	1972-1976
Financial statements (drafts): S.A.C.	1973-1974
Newspaper clippings: Reports on S.A.C. Annual Conventions	1974-1976

Correspondence

News release: S.A.C. Report on 20th Anniversary Celebrations	1955
Correspondence from Sotainvaliidien Veljesliitto (Finland)	1958
Circular: Notice of S.A.C. activities	n.d. [1953]
Newsletter: "Aseveljen Joulu 1965" from Finnish War Veterans in America	1965
Circulars: Notices of S.A.C. dues and activities programs for the membership	1970-1976
Circulars: Concerning special S.A.C. Projects	1973-1974

Organizational Histories

Draft: Historical Sketch of the S.A.C.	n.d.
Report: On the operations of the S.A.C.	n.d.
Draft: Historical sketch and program for 30th Anniversary Celebrations	1965
Speech of Miriam Sandberg: "40th Anniversary of the S.A.C."	1975