



The Law Society  
of Upper Canada

Barreau du  
Haut-Canada

FINDING AID FOR

## Foundation of the Bar of Ontario fonds

PF171

## Summary

The "Foundation of the Bar of Ontario fonds" Fonds contains:

0 Subgroups or Sous-fonds

4 Series

0 Sub-series

0 Sub-sub-series

9 Files

0 File parts

1 Items

0 Components

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**PF171**

## **Foundation of the Bar of Ontario fonds. -- 1938-1984. -- 16.5 cm of textual records**

### **Biographical/Sketch/Administrative History**

The Foundation of the Bar of Ontario was established by Samuel E. Weir, Q.C., an Ontario lawyer, in the early 1950s. Conceived of as a charitable organization and influenced by the work of the Montreal Advocates' Benevolent Association and Law Association for the Benefit of Widows and Families of Solicitors in London, its initial purpose was to provide financial assistance to the families of Ontario lawyers in the event of death or illness. This proposed role later expanded to include issues of jurisprudence and law reform, the awarding of medals, prizes and scholarships, and the general promotion of ethical standards in the legal profession. Membership was to be open to all members of the Bar of Ontario for the annual fee of five dollars, headed by a board of thirty directors.

Though the foundation initially collected fees from members and established a bank account, it never attained charitable organization status, and the monies collected in the late 1950s were not used. This was likely due to the difficulties faced by Weir when attempting to incorporate the foundation in the 1950s and 1960s. Opposition to Weir's foundation by the Law Society of Upper Canada played a role as well, as seen in the formation of a special committee to consider the issue of its incorporation. In addition, the Law Society of Upper Canada created a similar foundation, the Law Society Foundation, in 1962, which fulfilled many of the goals of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These circumstances, and Weir's declining health, ended his pursuit of the incorporation of the organization in the mid-1960s. After Weir's death in 1981, his estate donated the funds gathered for the foundation, a sum of approximately \$1,500, to the Law Society Foundation.

### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of records pertaining to the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario and its founder, Samuel E. Weir, an Ontario lawyer. The records in this fonds document Weir's work to establish an organizational charter, incorporate the foundation, enroll members, and garner support for the foundation from the legal community in Ontario. The records in this fonds include correspondence, memoranda, membership forms, financial records, charters, and petitions.

### **Languages**

Some items pertaining to the Montreal Advocates' Benevolent Society are written in French.

### **Restrictions**

No restrictions on access.

### **Arrangement**

Fonds is arranged in four series: Charters, applications and memoranda; Correspondence; Financial accounts; Membership

### **Title Notes**

Title based on contents of the fonds.

## **PF171-1 Charters, applications and memoranda. -- 1951-1968. -- 2 cm of textual records**

### *Scope and Content*

Series consists of records pertaining to the activities of Samuel E. Weir, an Ontario lawyer, and the establishment of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document Weir's efforts to incorporate the foundation, garner support and membership among legal colleagues, and draft an organizational charter. The records in this series are correspondence, memoranda, charters, drafts, and applications.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

### *Arrangement*

Series is arranged chronologically.

### *Title Notes*

Title based on content of the series.

991009-001 The Foundation of the Bar of Ontario - unincorporated body - 1957. -- 1951-1963. -- 1.5 cm of textual records

### *Scope and Content*

File consists of records pertaining to the creation and promotion of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document Samuel Weir's efforts to incorporate and garner support for the foundation. The records in this file include correspondence, notes, proposals, drafts, petitions, memoranda, and applications.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

991009-002 Foundation of Bar of Ontario. -- 1957-1968. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

### *Scope and Content*

File consists of records pertaining to the creation and promotion of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document Samuel Weir's efforts to incorporate and garner support for the foundation as well as his interaction with the Law Society of Upper Canada regarding this issue. The records in this file include correspondence, memoranda, reports, and charters.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

## **PF171-2 Correspondence. -- 1953-1984. -- 4 cm of textual records**

### *Scope and Content*

Series consists of records pertaining to the management and development of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario by Samuel Weir. These records document Weir's efforts to garner support for the foundation, the level of membership during 1957, and the allotment of foundation money after Weir's 1981 death. The records in this series are correspondence, organizational charters, and memoranda.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

### *Arrangement*

Series is arranged chronologically.

### *Title Notes*

Title based on contents of the series.

991009-003 Correspondence. -- 1953-1960. -- 2 cm of textual records

### *Scope and Content*

File consists of records pertaining to Samuel Weir's work to develop the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document the nature of the foundation, the level of Weir's personal involvement in its promotion, and the interest in the foundation from the Ontario legal community. The records in this file are correspondence.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on contents of the file.

991009-004 Correspondence - 1957. -- 1957. -- 1.5 cm of textual records

*Scope and Content*

File consists of records pertaining to Samuel Weir's work to develop the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document the level of Weir's personal involvement in its promotion and applications for membership from the Ontario legal community. The records in this file are correspondence.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

991009-005 Correspondence, memoranda and charters. -- 1957-1958, 1984. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

*Scope and Content*

File consists of records pertaining to the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario and the estate of Samuel Weir. These records document the proposed objectives and internal structure of the foundation, as well as issues regarding Weir's estate, the Law Society of Upper Canada, and the use of money gathered for the foundation by Weir. The records in this file include correspondence, memoranda, and organizational charters.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on contents of the file.

**PF171-3 Financial accounts. -- 1957. -- 2.5 cm of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of records pertaining to the financial activities of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records primarily document the collection and management of membership fees for the foundation in 1957. The records in this series are bank account statements and a cash book.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Arrangement*

Series is arranged alphabetically.

*Title Notes*

Title based on contents of the series.

991009-006 Account statements. -- 1957. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

*Scope and Content*

File consists of financial records pertaining to the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records are account statements and balance verification for the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario for the months of March, April, May and June 1957, held in care of Samuel Weir at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, London, Ontario.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on contents of the file.

991009-007 Cash book  
. -- 1957. -- 2 cm of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is a cash book used to record the names and payments of members for monies deposited at a Canadian Bank of Commerce, in London, Ontario, from March to July 1957.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title taken from cover of item.

**PF171-4 Membership. -- 1938-1982. -- 8 cm of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of records pertaining to membership in the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario. These records document contact information about 1957 members and their financial contribution to the foundation, as well as, to a lesser degree, the work of Samuel Weir to develop the structure and purpose of the foundation. The records in this series include correspondence, membership forms, lists, receipts, and cheques.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Arrangement*

Series is arranged alphabetically.

*Title Notes*

Title based on contents of the series.

991009-008 Membership application forms - A-K. -- 1957. -- 2.5 cm of textual records

*Scope and Content*

File consists of completed Foundation of the Bar of Ontario membership application forms for the year 1957, organized alphabetically by surname. The forms detail the names, addresses, call dates, and date of the subscription. These forms accompanied the membership fee of \$5.00.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

991009-009 Membership application forms - L-Z. -- 1957. -- 2.5 cm of textual records

*Scope and Content*

File consists of completed Foundation of the Bar of Ontario membership application forms for the year 1957, organized alphabetically by surname. The forms detail names, addresses, call dates, and date of the subscription. These forms accompanied the membership fee of \$5.00.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

991009-010 Subscriptions. -- 1938-1982. -- 3 cm of textual records

*Scope and Content*

File consists of records pertaining to the formation of the Foundation of the Bar of Ontario and its membership. These records document membership fees paid and deposited, and the names and locations of members. The records in this file include cheques, memoranda, correspondence, notes, receipts, and lists.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.