

**Alice West Fonds**

**An inventory of records held by BC Labour Heritage Centre**

**prepared by Donna Sacuta  
November 2023**

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title:</b>                  | Alice West Fonds   |
| <b>Dates:</b>                  | 1934 - 2013  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>   | <p>Series 1: Alice West<br/>Textual records, certificates, membership card, 94 photographs, ephemera</p> <p>Series 2: Ross Hodges<br/>4 photographs, textual records</p>   |
| <b>Administrative History:</b> | <p>Alice (Pack) West was a BC union pioneer who died on September 17, 2021 at the age of 95. She devoted much of her working life to paving a better path for working women, mostly as a formidable force within the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). She started work at Vancouver Plywood in 1942 and was in the forefront of a drive by the IWA to unionize the large plant. She began work with the federal Unemployment Insurance Commission in 1966, just in time for legislation allowing federal employees to unionize. She was soon elected shop steward, local President and then Regional Treasurer of the new Public Service Alliance of Canada. In 1979, she became the first woman National Director for BC, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. In retirement, she plunged into activism for seniors, co-founding the influential BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM), which staged rallies, organized petitions and wrote briefs on senior's issues. She helped organize a 3-day seniors' summit in 1999 that developed into the activist group, Women Elders in Action (WE*Act). In 2013 she was awarded the Rosemary Brown Award for Women, as someone who had made an outstanding contribution to women in the labour movement.</p> |
| <b>Scope/Content:</b>          | <p>The collection includes records relating to Alice West's union activism and a large collection of photographs stretching from 1942 to 2013. Also included is a remarkable personalized bracelet recognizing her attendance at a union convention in 1943. A series of items donated at the same time by her son-in-law Ross Hodges is included. Four photographs of family members and employee lists of Shop 360 workers at the Boeing Plant on Sea Island during the Second World War are included.</p>   |
| <b>Title Source:</b>           | Title based on the contents of the fonds.  |
| <b>Finding Aid:</b>            | File list and inventory available  |

**Names:**

International Woodworkers of America

I.W.A.

Public Service Alliance of Canada

P.S.A.C.

B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members

BC FORUM

Women Elders in Action

WE\*Act

Rosemary Brown Award

Women war workers

Pay Equity

Alice Pack

**Title: Alice West Fonds**Date: 1934 -  
2013

Physical Description:

File List:

| Ref Code          | Title   | Dates          | Container |
|-------------------|---|----------------|-----------|
| <b>2021.2</b>     | <b>Alice West Fonds</b>   |                |           |
| <b>2021.2.1</b>   | <b>Series: Alice West</b>   |                | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.1        | Correspondence and bulletins - Pay Equity   | 1999           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.2        | Women Elders in Action (WE*ACT)<br>Correspondence and publications - Pension policy                                 | 2003-2005      | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.3        | Advocate - BC Federation of Retired Union Members newsletter, Dec 2009, March 2010, June 2010, Sept 2010, Sept 2013 | 2009-2013      | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.4        | Certificates, membership card, business card  | 1980-2017      | 4         |
| <b>2021.2.1.5</b> | <b>Photographs</b>  |                |           |
| 2021.2.1.5.1      | Norah O'Brien, Alice Pack, Margaret Smith at plywood plant  | c. 1940        | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.2      | Women at plywood plant  | <b>c. 1940</b> | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.3      | MacMillan Industries Plywood Division   |                |           |
| 2021.2.1.5.4      | Federation of Russian Canadians parade banner   | 1943           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.5      | Labour parade   | n.d.           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.6      | Street Railwaymens Union Greets May Day   | n.d.           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.7      | Conference of the North   | 1979           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.8      | National Officers Training  | March 1980     | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.9      | National Officers Training  | March 1980     | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.10     | CEIU Convention Burnaby   | 1981           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.11     | CEIU Convention Burnaby   | 1981           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.12     | CLC Convention Winnipeg   | 1982           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.13     | CLC Convention Winnipeg   | 1982           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.14     | PSAC EO Committee Ottawa  | January 1986   | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.15     | Say NO! to 19   | June 1987      | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.16     | David Rice CLC  | n.d.           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.17     | Dave Barrett  | n.d.           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.18     | Alice West  | n.d.           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.19     | Miscellaneous photos (6)  | n.d.           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.20     | Rosemary Brown Award photos (6)   | 2013           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.21     | Retirement party photos (27)  | 1988           | 4         |
| 2021.2.1.5.22     | PSAC and work photos (37)   | n.d.           | 4         |

|                   |   |      |                    |
|-------------------|---|------|--------------------|
| 2021.2.1.5.23     | Silver bracelet, 'Alice Pack', I.W.A. Convention<br>1943                  | 1943 | OVERSIZE<br>Box #3 |
| 2021.2.1.5.24     | Life membership plaque 1989   | 1989 | OVERSIZE<br>Box #3 |
| 2021.2.1.5.25     | Rosemary Brown Award for Women  | 2013 | OVERSIZE<br>Box #3 |
| 2021.2.1.5.26     | Solidarity Excellence Award   | n.d. | OVERSIZE<br>Box #3 |
| 2021.2.1.5.27     | UNDE Local 1002 Retirement plaque   | n.d. | OVERSIZE<br>Box #3 |
| 2021.2.1.5.28     | Autograph books (2)   | n.d. | OVERSIZE<br>Box #3 |
| <b>2021.2.2</b>   | <b>Series: Ross Hodges</b>  |      | <b>4</b>           |
| 2021.2.2.1        | Addresses and Phone Numbers of Shop 360<br>Employees, (Boeing Sea Island) | 1944 | <b>4</b>           |
| 2021.2.2.2        | Poem: "Build the PBY's"   | 1943 | <b>4</b>           |
| <b>2021.2.2.3</b> | <b>Photographs</b>  |      |                    |
| 2021.2.2.3.1      | Aasta Sjurdal in work clothes   | 1943 | 4                  |
| 2021.2.2.3.2      | Arne Sjurdal skiing   | 1942 | 4                  |
| 2021.2.2.3.3      | Elma Tapp (Ingles) (Forsman)  | n.d. | 4                  |