

**P140- Archibald and Robin McArthur fonds**

**s.d; 1917-2006**

**53.3 cm of textual, 94 iconographic records, and artefacts**

**Biographical sketch:** Archibald “Archie” McArthur was a miner at Falconbridge Nickel Mines and union activist. In 1944, he served on the first bargaining committee of the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers Local 598 (IUMMSW) which negotiated with the company.

Robin Wayne McArthur (1942 - ) was born to Archibald McArthur and Ruby McArthur (née Coxworth) in Sudbury, Ontario. He is the father of three sons: Brian, Derik, and Wayne.

In 1959, Robin became employed in Neelon and Garson Townships as a road worker and became a member of Mine Mill Local 902, participating in a strike. Subsequently, McArthur would play an important role in the labour movement in Northern Ontario serving in a variety of roles in the IUMMSW, the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Stores Union (RWDSU), Union of Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and Warehousemen, Transportation, and General Workers Union (WTGWU).

In 1960 he secured a job at Falconbridge Nickel Mines and joined Mine Mill Local 598. In Mine Mill, McArthur was elected and served as a captain from 1961-1962, Recording Secretary in 1961 and again from 1963-1965, and Business Agent from 1963-1966. In 1966, he was elected President and served until 1967. That year (1967) McArthur oversaw the merger between the IUMMSW and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). The same year (1967), he joined the Northern Joint Council of RWDSU where he was elected Recording Secretary and Business Agent. He served as International Vice President of the RWDSU from 1982-2005, Director (the title later changed to President) of the Northern Joint Council from 1990-2005, and Canadian Director of RWDSU in 1994. In 1994 McArthur was also elected Vice President of the UFCW. McArthur, a founding organizer of Local 715 of the WTGWU, served as its President until his retirement in 2005.

**Scope and Content:** The Archibald and Robin McArthur fonds attests to the roles played by the McArthurs in mining and the labour movement in Northern Ontario. The fonds consists of correspondence, minutes, and other print materials from Mine Mill Local 598 and other unions. They also contain memorabilia, books, pamphlets, newspapers, articles and clippings, and photographs accumulated by both McArthurs.

More specifically, the Archibald McArthur series provides insight into his role in the Mine Mill Local 598 and its early period of organization, with a focus on early collective agreements between Mine Mill and Falconbridge.

The Robin McArthur series contains specific documentation about elections in Mine Mill Local 598 and McArthur's participation in these elections. The fonds also provide insight into the Mine Mill-Steelworkers dispute and eventual merger, which are significant events in Sudbury's and Ontario's labour history. Finally, his fonds provide information regarding McArthur's involvement in other unions including the RWDSU.

This fonds is arranged into the following series: **series A:** Archibald McArthur;  
**series B:** Robin McArthur.

Note: **Custodial History:** There was no original order

:**Immediate source of acquisition:** The fonds was donated in October 2008 by Robin McArthur

: **Terms governing use and reproduction/publication:** Copyright regulations apply to the records

: **Accruals:** No more accruals expected

: **Finding Aid:** detailed list available in the Archives

: **Related material:** The Mine-Mill Local 598 fonds (P026) ;Mike Solski fonds (P019); Nelson (Nels) Thibault fonds (P035) may contain complementary information.

**P140- Archibald and Robin McArthur fonds  
listing**

**Series A: Archibald McArthur**

**1.6 cm of textual and iconographic records, 4 photographs  
s.d.; 1943-1952**

This series attests to Archibald McArthur's involvement in the early stages of Mine Mill Local 598. Contains the first collective agreement from 1944 between the union and Falconbridge, providing insight into Archibald's role as a member of the bargaining committee.

This series is arranged by alphabetical order

**A, 1- [Archibald McArthur]**

s.d., 1943-1952

0.4 cm of textual and 4 iconographic records

This file contains material of Archibald McArthur. It consists of: 4 photographs; a photocopy of an alien exclusion notice addressed to Robert H. Carlin, dated 1948; IUMMSW memorabilia: 1 ribbon from Kirkland Lake local 240 and 1 Mine-Mill Labour Temple grand opening; documentation of two of the photographs from *Mine Mill : the history of the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers in Canada since 1895* (1984) by Mike Solski and John Smaller.

**A, 2- [Collective Agreements 1944 1948]**

1944-1948

1.2 cm of textual records

This file contains two typed collective agreements between Mine-Mill 598 and Falconbridge Nickle Mining Company.

**Series B: Robin McArthur**

**51.7 cm of textual, 90 iconographic records, and artefacts  
s.d.; 1917-2006**

This series attests to Robin McArthur's involvement, activities, and achievements in the labour movement in Northern Ontario. Focusing on his activities in Mine Mill Local 598 it serves to inform us of the Mine Mill-Steelworkers dispute and subsequent merger. The series contains minutes, news clippings, correspondence, photographs, and print material relating to Mine Mill. The series also contains material relevant to the growth of the Northern Joint Council of RWDSU and Robin McArthur's subsequent career in organized labour.

This series is organised into 3 sub-series: 1/: Mine Mill; 2/ RWDSU; 3/USWA  
Each sub-series is arranged by alphabetical order

**Sub-Series/1 – Mine Mill**

**s.d; 1917-2006**

**48.7 cm of textual, 89 iconographic records, and artefacts**

/B/1, 1- [“A Study in Sham Abuse and Fraud”]  
1963

0.5 cm of textual records

This file consists of one booklet Malcolm Robb, Q.C. with the subheading “application for reconsideration and to revoke and set aside a certificate as bargaining agent.” Contains a presentation given to the Ontario Labour Relations Board regarding Mine-Mill concerns with ongoing Mine-Mill Steelworkers dispute.

/B/1, 2- [Collective Agreements]  
1944-1972

8.0 cm of textual records

This file contains 17 collective agreements between Mine Mill Local 598 and Falconbridge, as well as INCO. Some of the agreements are annotated.

/B/1, 3- [“Collective vs. Individual Bargaining”]  
c.a. 1960

0.6 cm of textual records

This file contains one booklet on an education course issued by Mine-Mill explaining specific aspects of union's bargaining and steward/officer conduct and protocol.

/B/1, 4- [“Constitution of the IUMMSW”]  
1962

0.6 cm of textual records

This file contains one copy of the 1962 constitution of the I.U.M.M.S.W. as adopted and voted on by referendum in 1962.

/B/1, 5- [Institute of Northern Ontario Research and Development 4<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Conference]  
1993

0.1 cm of textual record

This file contains one pamphlet promoting the 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the I.N.O.R.D. marking the centennial of the International Union of Mine Mill & Smelter Workers.

/B/1, 6- [Membership cards and business cards]

s.d., 1953-1995

0.5 cm, 13 artefacts

This file contains 6 Local 598 membership cards, a blank application for membership to I.U.M.M.S.W., various certifications from Mine-Mill, a delegate sticker for the 1995 R.W.D.S.U. Northern Convention, and two business cards.

/B/1, 7- [Mine-Mill Canadian Constitution]

1959

0.5 cm of textual records

This file contains the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Canadian Constitution.

/B/1, 8- [Mine-Mill Elections]

s.d., 1964-1967

1.5cm of textual records

This file contains one folder with posters, letters, notes, voting list, and other materials relating to Mine Mill 598 elections involving Robin McArthur.

/B/1, 9- [Mine-Mill Local 598 Photographs]

s.d., 1963-1967

2.0 cm of iconographic records and 79 photographs

This file consists of original and reproduction photographs relating to Mine-Mill Local 598: 78 black&white and 1 colour. Individuals in the photographs include: Robin McArthur, Nels Thibeault. Mike McCormack, Ken Smith, Howard Asbury, Bill Hall.

Note: Most photographs are not dated, most individuals are not identified.

/B/1, 10- [Mine-Mill Local 902 Photographs]

s.d..

3 photographs

This file contains three photographs of Mine Mill Local 902 members. Two are of strikes, one is of a convention.

/B/1, 11- [Mine-Mill Meeting Minutes]  
s.d., 1964-1967  
5.0 cm of textual records

This file of two folders contains handwritten and typed minutes from Local 598: Executive Board and membership meetings, annotations, and reports.

/B/1, 12- [Mine-Mill Organizers' Guide]  
1964  
0.4 cm of textual records

This file consists of assembled organizers material related to Mine Mill organizing drive at INCO: letters marked confidential, pamphlets and Mine Mill bulletins.

/B/1, 13- [Mine-Mill-Steelworkers Merger]  
s.d., 1965-2006  
3.0 cm of textual records

This file contains two folders concerning the Mine-Mill Steelworkers dispute. File contains correspondence, speeches, legal summaries, newspaper clippings, posters, memorandums, agreements and other documentation.

/B/1, 14- [Mine-Mill, Steelworkers, and RWDSU artefacts]  
s.d.; 1917-1970  
21 ephemera

This file contains one hat with 12 buttons and 9 more items of Robin McArthur's collection of ephemera relating to the labour movement: buttons and badges from Mine-Mill Local 598, Western Miners Federation (Port Colborne), Mine-Mill Local 902, United Steelworkers of America, and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Stores Union.

/B/1, 15- [ Miscellaneous Mine-Mill Print Material]  
s.d.; 1963-1966  
0.3cm of textual records

This file consists of 4 print items: 58<sup>th</sup> (1963) Convention Programme (I.U.M.M.S.W.), a typed leaflet titled "CAN IT HAPPEN HERE," "What future will unfold for the children of nickle workers," a pamphlet titled

“Students! Here are five good reasons why you should join 598,” and  
“Around the Bridge with Mine Mill.”

/B/1, 16- [Newspaper Clippings]  
1945-2002  
4.0 cm of textual records

This file contains various newspaper clippings concerning the mining industry in Sudbury.

/B/1, 17- [Opening of the Mine-Mill Union Hall]  
1949  
0.3 cm of textual records

This file contains one copy of the programme for the grand opening of the Local 598 Union Hall.

/B/1, 18- [“Red Bait! Struggles of a Mine-Mill Local”]  
1998  
1.0 cm of textual records

King, Al and Kate Braid. *Red Bait! Struggles of a Mine Mill Local*.  
Vancouver: Kingbird Publishing, 1998.

**Note:** title page has apology from Al King to Robin McArthur concerning comments made about Robin McArthur with regards to the USWA-Mine Mill merger dispute.

/B/1, 19- [Reproduction - Mine Mill Meeting]  
s.d.  
1 photograph

This file contains 1 enlarged photograph of a Mine-Mill meeting, including Ken Smith, Nels Thibeault and Robin McArthur.

/B/1, 20- [Reproduction – Porcupine Miners Hall]  
s.d. (original 1903?)  
1 photograph

This file contains 1 enlarged photograph of the Western Miners Federation no. 145 Union Hall in Porcupine, Ontario.

/B/1, 21- [Rituals of the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers]  
1964  
0.2 cm of textual records

This file contains one booklet on the rituals for meetings, initiations and funeral arrangements for I.U.M.M.S.W.

/B/1, 22- [Robin McArthur Correspondence]  
s.d.; 1967-2000  
0.1cm of textual record

This file contains correspondence written to Robin McArthur by various individuals and organizations, as well as a sheet Abraham Lincoln speech excerpts.

/B/1, 23- [Scrapbooks]  
s.d.1965-1979  
11.0 cm of textual records

This file contains five scrapbooks with material relating to Robin Wayne McArthur's union activities. Predominately focused on 1965-1967 Mine-Mill 598 and Steelworkers disputes it includes pamphlets, newspaper clippings, posters, photographs and letters, as well as Robin McArthur's union membership cards and credentials from both International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers (I.U.M.M.S.W.) and Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (R.W.D.S.U.).

/B/1, 24- [“The Shaping of Sudbury: A Labour View”]  
1980  
0.2 cm of textual records

This file consists of one booklet, a transcription of an address given by Jim Tester to the Sudbury & District Historical Society concerning labour and union history in Sudbury.

/B/1, 25- [Union Steward Certification]  
1962  
2.0 cm

This file contains a framed original of the recommendation and authorization certificate for Robin McArthur's election to position of union steward in Mine-Mill Local 598, dated January 18, 1962.



/B/1, 26- [Framed Memorabilia]  
s.d.; 1910-1967  
6 iconographic records

This file consists of 4 framed displays featuring memorabilia with photographs relating to different Mine Mill locals, and 2 photographs. Owned by Robin McArthur, 3 of them relate to Archibald McArthur, amongst those are two displays with photographs and memorabilia from 1944, and one 1945 photograph of Archibald McArthur speaking at a political rally. Of those relating to Robin McArthur is one framed display of Mine Mill memorabilia, one framed display of the 1967 Mine Mill-Steelworkers merging convention, and 1 undated photograph of Robin McArthur and other Mine Mill members.

/B/1, 27- [Reproduction – 15th Annual Convention, Western District Union  
I.U.M.M.S.W.]  
1958  
1 photograph

This file consists of 1 photograph of delegates to the 1958 Mine Mill Canadian convention in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Sub-Series B/2 – RWDSU**  
**S.d.; 1955-2005**  
**2 cm of textual and 1 iconographic record**

/B/2, 1- [“A Tribute to Robin Wayne McArthur”]  
2005  
0.8 cm of textual records

This file contains one copy of the programme to Robin Wayne McArthur's retirement in 2005. Consists of a biography, advertisements and congratulatory notes from colleagues.

/B/2, 2- [Memorandum of Agreement – RWDSU]  
1955  
0.4 cm of textual records

This file contains the memorandum of agreement between R.W.D.S.U. Local 414 and Dominion Stores Limited.

/B/2, 3- [Reproduction – RWDSU Convention]  
c.a., 1967  
1 photograph.

This file contains 1 enlarged photograph of a convention of the Retail Wholesale and Department Stores Union Northern Ontario and Quebec Joint Board, circa 1967.

/B/2, 4- [Retail, Wholesale, and Department Stores Union Constitution]  
1982  
0.5 cm of textual records

This file contains a copy of the R.W.D.S.U. constitution, as amended in 1982.

/B/2, 5- [RWDSU Materials]  
s.d., 1967-1998  
0.2 cm of textual records.

This file contains materials of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. Includes minutes, an election poster for Robin McArthur running as President of Local 715, and a Convention Report from 1998.

**Sub-series B/3 – USWA**  
**1974**  
**1 cm of textual records**

/B/3, 1- [USWA Bylaws Local 6500]  
1974  
0.4cm of textual records

This file contains the by-laws of the United Steelworkers of America Local 6500.

/B/3, 2- [USWA “Constitution of International Union”]  
1974  
0.6 cm of textual records

This file contains the Constitution of International Union for the United Steelworkers of America.