



1960

c 21 Archives Act

Ontario

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CHAPTER 21

The Archives Act

1. The Department of Public Records and Archives, hereinafter called the "Department", is continued. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 1. Department continued

2.—(1) There shall be an officer in charge of the Department to be known as the Archivist of Ontario, hereinafter referred to as "the Archivist", who shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and who shall hold office during pleasure and be in charge of the administration of this Act under the direction of the member of the Executive Council to whom the charge of the Department is from time to time assigned. Provincial Archivist, appointment of

(2) The Archivist has the rank of a deputy head of a department and in relation to the Department has all the powers and shall perform the duties of a deputy head of a department. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 2. Powers and duties of Archivist

3. Subject to the regulations, all original documents, parchments, manuscripts, papers, records and other matters in the executive and administrative departments of the Government or of the Assembly, or of any commission, office or branch of the public service shall be delivered to the Department for safe keeping and custody within twenty years from the date on which such matters cease to be in current use. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 3. Custody of original documents

4. The Archivist is authorized and directed to receive and grant discharges for all such matters as are transferred to the Department under this Act and the Department is thereafter responsible for the safe keeping of the matters so transferred. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 4. Responsibility of Department

5. The objects of the Department are,

- (a) the classification, safe keeping, indexing and cataloguing of all matters transferred to the Department under section 3;
- (b) the discovery, collection and preservation of material having any bearing upon the history of Ontario;

Objects of Department

- (c) the copying and printing of important public documents relating to the legislative or general history of Ontario;
- (d) the collecting of all documents having in any sense a bearing upon the political or social history of Ontario and upon its agricultural, industrial, commercial and financial development;
- (e) the collecting of municipal, school and church records;
- (f) the collection and preservation of pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, regimental muster rolls and other matters of general or local interest historically in Ontario;
- (g) the collection and preservation of information respecting the early settlers of Ontario, including pioneer experience, customs, mode of living, prices, wages, boundaries, areas cultivated, home and social life;
- (h) the collection and preservation of the correspondence of settlers, documents in private hands relating to public and social affairs and reports of local events of historic interest in domestic and public life;
- (i) the conducting of research with a view to preserving the memory of pioneer settlers in Ontario and of their early exploits and the part taken by them in opening up and developing the Province. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 5.

Preservation
of official
documents

6. Subject to the regulations, no official document, paper, pamphlet or report in the possession of any department or branch of the public service or of the Assembly shall be destroyed or permanently removed without the knowledge and concurrence of the Archivist. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 6.

Certified
copies

7. A copy of any original document in the custody of the Archivist, certified under his hand and seal to be a true copy, is *prima facie* evidence of the authenticity and correctness of such document. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 7.

Regulations

8. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

- (a) respecting the administration of the Department and the duties of the Archivist;

- (b) prescribing the matters that shall be transferred to the Department under this Act and extending or reducing the period that shall elapse before any such matters are transferred to the Department;
- (c) for the classification of archives and other matters in the Department and the preparation of proper calendars, catalogues and indexes for the purpose of making such archives and other matters accessible for purposes of official, scientific and historical research;
- (d) directing the manner in which documents, papers, pamphlets or reports in the office of any member of the Executive Council or in any department or branch of the public service or the Assembly shall be disposed of from time to time and the class of documents, papers, pamphlets or reports that shall be deemed to be public archives. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 8.

9. Nothing in this Act shall be taken or deemed to authorize ^{Effect of} the destruction or other disposition of any official document, _{this Act} paper, map, plan, report, memorandum or other matter in contravention of any order of the Assembly or of any express provision in any general or special Act of the Legislature. R.S.O. 1950, c. 22, s. 9.
