

M. Patricia Hardy MA, ACFRE (Advanced Certified Fundraising Executive)

Anser/Ares 2011 Conference

Nonprofits and Charities in a Changing World

Research Results for a History of Philanthropy in Canada: **Extended Abstract**

Patricia Hardy MA, ACFRE  
Box 508, 753 Taylor Road # 91  
Petersfield, Manitoba R0C 2L0

Mobile: 204 793-4759  
Email: pathardy@tunnelwood.com

Patricia Hardy MA, ACFRE  
Research Results for a  
History of Philanthropy in Canada

This paper is the result of research for, *Rationale for the History of Philanthropy in Canada*, a Masters thesis for the Philanthropy and Development program at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. It is the first stage towards a publication on the history of philanthropy in Canada. In recent years, Canadians began to write about modern-day fundraising and fundraising techniques, however no one has written about the history of philanthropy in Canada.

Bremner's American Philanthropy was required reading for one of the July 1998 courses at the St. Mary's Masters Program in Philanthropy and Development. There was no assigned reading of a Canadian Philanthropy book for the four Canadians registered in the program because a survey of Canadian Philanthropy did not exist. It was apparent that Canadian fundraising would not emerge to professional status unless there was a documented body of knowledge and a history of philanthropy in Canada. The purpose of this thesis is to provide the rationale for further research, documentation and publication of the history of Canadian philanthropy.

This thesis examined the current literature and posed challenges about what the published history of philanthropy in Canada could entail. The goal of this thesis was to uncover and collate written information and to investigate what Canadian fundraisers and historians believed to be important philanthropic events, people and organizations.

Bremner's American Philanthropy was required reading for one of the July 1998 courses at the St. Mary's Masters Program in Philanthropy and

Development. There was no assigned reading of a Canadian Philanthropy book for the four Canadians registered in the program because a survey of Canadian Philanthropy did not exist. It was apparent that Canadian fundraising would not emerge to professional status unless there was a documented body of knowledge and a history of philanthropy in Canada. The purpose of this thesis is to provide the rationale for further research, documentation and publication of the history of Canadian philanthropy. The lack of research in this area has left a huge knowledge gap in the Canadian non-profit and voluntary sector.

The use of the word Philanthropy was deliberate as I see it as a broader concept than the commonly used word, Charity, a term which comes out of Christianity. Philanthropy as defined in this paper means all traditions of giving and sharing.

The components of this research project included a review of the literature, surveys of two hundred and fifty-eight Canadian fundraisers and one hundred and thirty-eight Canadian historians, and interviews with five key informants.

There was an expectation at the beginning of the literature search that there would not be a wealth of material related to the history of philanthropy in Canada. This was not the case. The literature search revealed eight hundred documents consisting of meeting minutes, reports, government briefing papers, church activity reports, newsletters, public policy research studies, bylaws of organizations and a handful of books related to more specific areas. The

discovery of these primary documents demonstrates that a history could be researched and written.

There were no comprehensive books about the history of philanthropy in Canada, however two related works were examined. The two works were Samuel Martin's Essential Grace and Poverty, Poorhouses and Private Philanthropy by the Senior Scribes of Nova Scotia. Martin's book focused on government funding of the health, education, social service, culture and religious sectors and on how fundraising activities attempted to fill the gap when there was a shortage of government funding. The Senior Scribes focused on the history of social welfare in Nova Scotia. These two works were major contributions to the body of knowledge surrounding philanthropy in Canada because they both examined the humanistic service sector by investigating the relationships between the governments, the churches and private philanthropy.

While there were few documents that actually discussed the history of philanthropy, there were many reports and newsletters and studies that contained bits and pieces of writings that were pulled out and incorporated into the historical timeline. The events for the historic timeline were gleaned from approximately eighty sources and were weighted heavily toward events in Nova Scotia because of the Senior Scribes book about the history of social welfare in that province.

The surveys found that fundraisers and historians were aware of the expansive nature of philanthropic activity but unaware of its historical

significance. It was also apparent that respondents from different regions of the country were aware of current philanthropy in their own regions, but generally did not mention historic or current national philanthropy. These discoveries were reinforced by key informants, who affirmed the lack of recorded history and stressed the need for a consolidation of data leading to a publication about the history of philanthropy in Canada.

Survey respondents indicated that the two most important topics for future research were individual giving and the attitudes and perceptions about philanthropy. The third most important area cited for future research was the need to study everything for a history of philanthropy in Canada. Most respondents who recommended everything be studied did not articulate what they meant by everything, which made this information of little use in the determination of a research agenda. Even the more specific recommendations for research were so broad as to be useless for the determination of research priorities. Despite the dearth of specific information these responses indicated a strong consensus that considerable work needed to be done.

While there are currently no comprehensive written histories, it is apparent from this study that there are philanthropic traditions that are uniquely Canadian. The history of these traditions is scattered amongst the stories of immigrant organizations, religious groups, schools, universities, hospitals, ladies auxiliaries, cultural centers, social service organizations, fraternal societies, trade unions and numerous other benevolent groups. Canadian compliance with the English Poor

Laws early in the development of Canada as a country, was key to the establishment of a nationally ingrained expectation that government would regulate charitable donations and provide, through taxation, services to those unable to provide for themselves. This philosophy of government responsibility continued to grow to prevalence, as political reform movements gave rise to the establishment of universal health, education and social services in Canada. Canadians grew to expect that all their needs would be taken care of, including their children's higher education in government funded universities with subsidized tuition.

Philanthropy in Canada is defined largely by the symbiotic relationships between governments, individuals and religious organizations that morphed into "nonprofits". There is clear evidence that Canada has its own compelling and unique philanthropic history.

The complexity of philanthropy in Canada and the dearth of writing on the subject has led to a lack of understanding of Canadian traditions and stories and a reliance on models from the United States. Canadian traditions were and will continue to be different from those of the United States because of differing political philosophies and public policy. According to Bremner, in the United States philanthropy "has been one of the principle methods of social advance" (1988, p.2), while in Canada, social advance was rooted in complex relationships between governments, churches and civil society.

This research provides a historical umbrella for philanthropic traditions and practices in Canada. This research will contribute to a solid foundation for the discussion of current and emergent issues, debates and challenges in the fields of civil society, social economy, and nonprofit research and practice.

This research will be of interest to staff and volunteers in the Canadian nonprofit sector, as well as practitioners, policymakers, historians, social scientists and community organizations. It will provide a historical perspective for discussion of contemporary nonprofit issues and challenges. The research will enhance understanding of Canadian traditions and practices in the Canadian nonprofit sector. This is important in order to anticipate and help shape future directions in the sector. This work creates new knowledge for the non-profit and voluntary sectors, framing philanthropy in Canada in the context of the social, economic and political issues of the times.

## References

----- (1986) The charter membership of the charitable Irish society. Nova Scotia Historical Review. 6 (1), 8-15.

Adams, M. (1997). Sex in the snow: Canadian social values at the end of the millennium. Toronto: Penguin Books.

American Hospital Association. (1933). American and Canadian hospitals: a reference book. Chicago: American Hospital Association.

Angell, H. M. (1987). Duverger, Epstein and the problem of the mass party: the case of the Parti Quebecois. Canadian Journal of Political Science, 20 (2), 363-378.

Banting, K.G., Ed. (2000). The non-profit sector in Canada: roles and relationships. Kingston: School of Policy Studies.

Belshaw, J. D. (1987). Two Christian denominations and the administration of relief to Vancouver's unemployed, 1929-1939. British Journal of Canadian Studies, 2 (2), 289-303.

Patricia Hardy MA, ACFRE  
Research Results for a  
History of Philanthropy in Canada



Better Business Bureau of Canada. (1981). The charity plea. Toronto:  
Better Business Bureau of Canada, Business Advisory Service.

Bliss, M. (1987). Northern enterprise. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart,  
Inc.

Bremner, R. H. (1988). American philanthropy. Chicago: The University of  
Chicago Press.

Canada, Acts of Parliament. (1917). An act relating to war charities.  
Ottawa: Kings Printer.

Canada, Department of Agriculture. (1939). Report on rural relief due to  
drought conditions and crop failures in western Canada 1930 – 1937. Ottawa:  
Kings Printer.

Canada, Department of Labour. (1936). Unemployment and relief in  
Canada. Ottawa: Kings Press.

Canada, Military Hospitals Commission. (1917). Report of the military hospitals commission: Canada, May, 1917. Ottawa: Kings Printer.

Canadian Center for Philanthropy (CCP) (n.d/2001). *Glossary of Terms*. [WWW document]. URL [http// www.ccp](http://www.ccp) [March 27, 2001].

Canadian Fundraiser. (1999). "Definition of charity." Canadian Fundraiser, 9 (10), 4-5.

Canadian Welfare Council. (1959). Allocations to national organizations. Ottawa: Community Funds & Councils Division; The Canadian Welfare Council.

Catholic Charities Council of Canada. (1967). The Bulletin, 5 (3).

Clarke, B. (1996). English speaking Canada from 1854. Murphy & Perin. A concise history of Christianity in Canada. Toronto: Oxford University Press. pages 261 – 359.

Cleghorn, J. (2000) Beyond the bottom line: redefining philanthropy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An unpublished speech, to the Ketchum Leaders in Philanthropy Series, on February 9, 2000. Toronto: Canadian Center for Philanthropy.

Collins, P. (1977). Hart Massey. Don Mills; Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited.

Creighton, D. (1970). Canada's first century. Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada.

Day, K. and Devlin, R. A. (1994). An empirical analysis of corporate giving in Canada. Ottawa: National Library of Canada.

DeLottinville, P. (1992). Joe Beef of Montreal: working-class culture and the tavern, 1869-1889. Sefton MacDowell, L. and Radforth, I. Editors. Canadian working class history. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Deusterhoeft, E., translated by Bauer, A. (1995). Wolhynian Germans in western Canada. Heritage Review, 25 (4), 43-46.

Domingue, R.P. (1996). The charity industry and its tax treatment.  
Ottawa: National Library.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (1936). Quinquennial census: charitable and benevolent institutions in Canada. Ottawa: Kings Printer.

Fizzard, G. (1995). "Newfoundland's first known school." Newfoundland Studies, 2 (2), 19 –198.

Hall, M.H., Knighton, T., Reed, P., Bussiere, D., McRae, D. and Bowen, P. (1998). Caring Canadians, involved Canadians: highlights from the 1997 national survey of giving, volunteering and participating. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Hardy, P. (2000). The social gospel in Canada. Unpublished research paper, Saint Mary's University, Minnesota.

Harvey, R. P. (1986). Black beans, banners and banquets: the charitable Irish society of Halifax at two hundred. Nova Scotia Historical Review (Canada), 6 (1), 16-35.

Haynes, M. C. (1995). The Alex McLeod endowment: a legacy rediscovered at Dalhousie University. Nova Scotia Historical Review, 15 (1), 106 -117.

Hawkins, J. M. and Allen, R. (1991). The oxford encyclopedic English dictionary. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Kitchen, H. and Dalton, R. (1990). Determinants of charitable donations by families in Canada: a regional analysis. Applied Economics, 22 (3), 285-299.

Kitchen, H. (1992). Determinants of charitable donations in Canada: a comparison over time. Applied Economics, 24 (7), 709–713.

Leonoff, C. Editor. (1995). Simon Leiser: principle merchant of Vancouver Island. Western States Jewish History, 27 (4), 231-237.

Levy, B. R., Editor. (1996). The NSFRE fundraising dictionary. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

MacFarlane, M. (1987). A tale of handmaidens: deaconesses in the United Church of Canada 1925 to 1964. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

MacLeod, M. (1982). Helping unheeded: Newfoundland's relief effort and the historiography of the Halifax explosion. Nova Scotia's Historical Review, 2 (2), 65-68.

MacMurchy, H. (1928). Child welfare work and workers in Canada for children not in their own homes. Ottawa: Kings Printer.

McKeown, L. (2001, Winter). Canadian Center for Philanthropy Research Bulletin, 8 (1).

McCormick, P. (1995). Regulation of charities in Alberta: summary report. Toronto: Canadian Center for Philanthropy.

McPherson, M. Head, Heart and Purse: the Presbyterian women's missionary society in Canada, 1876-1925. Butcher, D. L., MacDonald, C.,

McPherson, M., Smith, R. ; Raymond R; McKibbin Watts, A. Editors. (1985).  
Prairie Spirit. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.

McQueen, R. (1998). The Eatons: the rise and fall of Canada's royal family. Toronto: Stoddard Publishing Co. Ltd.

Martin, S.A. (1985). An essential grace: funding Canada's health care, education, welfare, religion and culture. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart.

Michalos, B. L. (1981). Canadian corporate charitable contributions: trends and policies. Social Indicators Research, 9 (2),127-153.

Minnesota Council on Foundations. (1986) Minnesota philanthropy: reshaping the vision. [videocassette]. Schwartz & Associates. 1986.

Mount, J. (1996). Why donors give. Non-profit management and leadership, 7 (1), 3-14.

Muller, T. E. and Sepehr, V. (1988). Corporate support of higher education: trends in Canada and the United States. Research in higher education, 28 (2), 160-179.

Murphy, T. and Perin, R. (1996). A concise history of Christianity in Canada. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

National Council of Women of Canada. (1900). Women of Canada: their life and work. Ottawa: Minister of Agriculture.

Nowell, Iris. (1996). Women who give away millions: portraits of Canadian philanthropists. Toronto: Hounslow Press.

Optima Consultants. (1991). Canadian perceptions of social welfare. Ottawa: National Library of Canada.

Paquin, Y. (1986). La charite a traverse un siecle (1886-1955). Les Cahiers Nicoletains: La Societe D'Histoire Regionale De Nicolet, 8 (2), 75-89.



- Picard, A. (1997). A call to alms: the new face of charities in Canada. Toronto: The Atkinson Charitable Foundation.
- Polyzoi, E. (1989). Greek immigrant women from Asia Minor: philoptoho and language schools. Polyphony, 11, 28-35 .
- Rawlyk, G. A. Editor. (1990). The Canadian Protestant experience: 1790 to 1990. Burlington: Welch Publishing Company.
- Reid, D. (1988). A concise history of Canadian painting. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
- Rochester, M.K. (1996). American philanthropy abroad: library program support from the Carnegie corporation. Libraries and Culture, 31 (2), 342-363.
- Ross, D. (1983) Some financial and economic dimensions of registered charities. Ottawa: Secretary of State.
- Rubin, K. (1975). Brief to the minister of finance and the charities study group. Ottawa: Ken Rubin.

Saint George's Society of Toronto. (1858). Charter and by-laws: with the report of the committee for 1858. Toronto: St. Georges Society.

Scobie, C. H.H. and Grant, J. W. Editors. (1992). The contribution of Methodism to Atlantic Canada. Montreal and Kingston: McGill – Queens University Press.

Senior Scribes of Nova Scotia. (1996). Poverty, poor houses and private philanthropy. Halifax: Queen's Printer, Communications Nova Scotia.

Sharpe, D. (1994). A portrait of Canada's charities: the size, scope and financing of registered charities. Toronto: Canadian Center for Philanthropy.

Small, J. M. (1995). Reform in higher education in Canada. Higher Education Quarterly, 49 (2), 113-127.

Smandych, R. C. (1991). Upper Canada considerations about rejecting the English Poor Law, 1817-1837. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba.

Solomon, S. M. (1996/1997). Leonard's legacy: innovative ventures in serving Jews with disabilities. Journal of Jewish Communal Service, 73, (1996 Spring), 181-187.

Touchette, P. (1983). The contribution of the voluntary sector to the Canadian economy. Ottawa: Library of Parliament.

Tzuk, Y. (1983). Challenge and response: Jewish communal welfare in Montreal. Contemporary Jewry, 6 (2), 43-52.