

CENTRE D'ARCHIVES DE LA GRANDE ZONE ARGILEUSE  
Archival Description

**Title:** Fonds Paroisse Immaculée-Conception de Kapuskasing

**Dates:** 1925-1962.

**Extent of descriptive unit:** 0.25 m of textual documents.

**Administrative history or biography:** The canonical inauguration of the Immaculée-Conception parish was held in June 1921, soon after the incorporation of the town of Kapuskasing. The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate were entrusted with the new parish. In 1921, with the approval of the bishop, the Oblate Fathers purchased a local store named *Chamandy* and converted it into a church and a presbytery. The first parish priest was Oliva Paquette, who was responsible for the sixty catholic families in the area.

Because of the growing number of Catholics moving to Kapuskasing due to the rapid expansion of the forest industry, the parish had to be relocated. The construction of a new church and a new presbytery began in 1923. On June 15, 1924, Bishop Joseph Hallé blessed the church of the parish, which is still operational today.

The parish was initially in charge of French-language education in Kapuskasing. The first primary school was officially opened in 1921 in the original presbytery. It was attended by 18 boys and 20 girls, numbers that doubled the following year. The Sisters of Charity of Ottawa (Grey Nuns) and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart took over the education of students in 1926 and 1944 respectively.

Because of a continued population growth, three new churches were built starting in 1954: Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix, Notre-Dame-des-Victoires and St. Patrick's, for the English-speaking. A primary school was associated with each of the parishes.

In 1988, diocesan clergy took over the parish. Father Jean-Guy Mailloux became the first secular priest of the church. The church underwent major renovations in 1927, 1938, 1949, 1956, 1958 and, finally, in 1993.

**Scope and content:** The fonds contains textual records relating to the Franco-Ontarian community between 1925 and 1962. In addition to a few documents relating to the Immaculée-Conception parish, information on different francophone organizations to which the parish was affiliated can be found. Much of the documents focus on the Association canadienne-française d'éducation d'Ontario (ACFÉO). Among the documents are letters, pamphlets, reports, studies, newspaper clippings, press releases as well as some publications.

The fonds contains three series:

- Église Immaculée-Conception;
- Organismes religieux;
- Association canadienne-française d'éducation d'Ontario.

**Sources of information:** Hearst diocese website ([www.hearstdioocese.com](http://www.hearstdioocese.com)).

**Physical description:** The fonds contains three boxes of textual documents.

**Physical condition:** Some textual documents are damaged.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** The Centre d'archives de la Grande Zone argileuse acquired the fonds from Father Gilles Gosselin in 2008.

**Arrangement:** The archivist organized the records once acquired; the original order was respected.

**Language:** The majority of the documents are written in French.

**Restrictions on access:** No restrictions imposed by the donor.

**Terms governing use and reproduction:** Copyright Act applies. Reproduction permitted depending on the condition of the documents.

**Finding aids:** A research tool exists.

**Accruals:** Further accruals are expected.

**Descriptors:** Paroisse Immaculée-Conception de Kapuskasing  
*see also* Église Immaculée-Conception  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
*see also* OMI  
*see also* Oblates  
Religion – Ontario, Northeastern  
Hearst Diocese  
Kapuskasing (Ont.)  
Franco-Ontarians  
*see also* French Ontario  
Association canadienne-française d'éducation d'Ontario  
*see also* ACFÉO

Last updated February 2013.