

Facts about the Hudson's Bay Company Archives (HBCA), Archives of Manitoba

- For the first 300 years of its history the Hudson's Bay Company cared for its own records at their corporate headquarters in London, England.
- In 1973, following the transfer of HBC's head office to Canada in 1970, HBC agreed to place its records on long term loan with the Archives of Manitoba in Winnipeg in the Manitoba Archives Building (the former Civic Auditorium) which had been renovated to recognized standards for the management and storage of archival records. The agreement was signed by Premier Edward Shreyer and HBC Governor George T. Richardson on July 31, 1973.
- In 1974, 109 metric tons of records were sent to Canada in eight containers carried on four separate ships. The archives were opened to the public the next year. The transfer included 1,308.5 linear metres of records dating from the founding of the HBC in 1670 extending to the HBC's modern records no longer required for their business operations at that time.
- The entire HBCA holdings today are comprised of approximately 3,000 linear metres of textual records, 12,000 maps and architectural records, 120,000 photographs, 1,300 documentary art items and 264 audio visual records (sound recordings and films).
- In 1993, HBC formally donated the archives to the Province of Manitoba. Out of the tax savings generated by this donation the HBC created the Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation. The Foundation funds and supports the operations of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives as a division of the Archives of Manitoba.
- From 1997-1999, improvements were made to the storage facilities to house and protect the records. This included the construction of a three floor vault space with state of the art environmental control equipment, a visual storage area for tours, improved existing storage for documentary art, controlled storage for maps, and a cold vault for film based media.
- In 2000, renovations to the Archives Research Room were made to enhance access to the archival records onsite.
- Approximately 6,000 researchers and other visitors access the HBCA records annually through in person visits, remote inquiry, inter-institutional microfilm loan and tours. Additionally the HBCA website receives more than 300,000 hits annually. HBCA receives from 30-50 publications each year where a component of the published work was based on HBCA records.