

COVID-19 collection

Fonds No. C4

Physical Description: 1 cm graphic material, 210 JPEG photographs, 2 PDFs, 1 CD

Date Range: 2020-2021

Accession #s: 2020.7, 2021.6, 2021.14

Administrative History/Biographical Sketch

The COVID-19, or coronavirus, pandemic is an ongoing (as of March 2021) global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019. First identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019, the disease soon spread across the globe, being declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 20th 2020, and a pandemic on March 11th 2020, by the World Health Organization. As of March 2021, over 125 million cases and 2.76 million deaths have been confirmed worldwide.

COVID-19 was confirmed to have reached Canada on January 27th 2020, and first appeared in British Columbia on January 28th. As of the time of writing (March 29th 2021) there have been over 950,000 confirmed cases and 22,700 deaths in Canada, and over 95,600 cases and 1,400 deaths in British Columbia.

Custodial History

These records were collected by Bulkley Valley Museum staff throughout 2020 and 2021 in order to document the COVID-19 pandemic as it occurred. Several of them were initially added to other fonds (Discrete Item Collection, Town of Smithers Fonds, Bulkley Valley Folk Music Society Fonds) before the COVID-19 Collection was created on March 26th 2021.

Scope and Content

This collection contains material related to the impact of, and the response to, the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic in Smithers. It includes over 200 photographs by Chris Duncan of the town during the early stages of the pandemic, a CD of the 2020 virtual Canada Day event, and ephemera such as posters, cards, flyers, and digital records relating to COVID-19.

Related material in the Museum's artifact collection includes a refillable hand sanitizer can produced by the Smithers Brewing Co. in response to a shortage of such containers in Smithers.