



What is the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Archives?

The Archives is a place where we take care of the documented stories, knowledge, and history of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Government, people and territory. The Archives hold documents, photographs, oral histories, and maps that document the Nation's history, culture, knowledge and governance.

What Stage of Development is the Archives at?

The Archives is in the **very early stages of development**. We are going through the decades of records that have been built up over the years and identifying priority records like Traditional Knowledge research and foundational governance records. It is a long process. A rule of thumb is that each box of records will need to be handled seven times! Every tape and photograph needs to be catalogued, many digitized, and everything needs to be documented along the way.

We want to let the community know about the Archives as much as possible in these early stages to build trust and relationships with staff and community members.

What Does the Archives Collect?

The Archives is different from a library. Instead of books, it holds one-of-a-kind materials, like:

- **Photographs** of Elders, community events, and the land from the past
- **Oral histories**—the voices and stories of those who came before us
- **Maps and land records** that show traditional places
- **Personal letters and family documents** that tell our history
- **Records** of past leaders and CTFN band and government decisions and actions

C/TFN Government and Community Records

The Archives is a “total archives,” which means that it contains records from the C/TFN Government and Band as well as private donations that relate to C/TFN people, history, and culture. There are different processes and procedures in place for managing Government and private records. Government records are transferred to the archives while private records are donated by individuals, clans, or families.

Not everything can be accepted. The Archives follows a collection scope, which means we focus on materials that relate directly to the Nation and its people.

Accepting something into the Archives means that we are making a long-term commitment to investing time and resources into preserving it and making it accessible. We **only** want to keep what has long-term value, and we want to keep **everything** that has long term value.

Archives Library

Part of the long-term plan for the Archives is to develop an on-site reference library that contains publications about C/TFN history, people and Traditional Territory.

Why Give Records to the Archives?

The Archives provides a way to keep documented knowledge, stories and history in the community and care for them in a way that reflects community priorities. Gifting records is **always voluntary**—your materials should only be given if you choose to share them.

1. **So important knowledge is not lost**

The teachings and stories people carry are invaluable. While oral tradition remains a living and essential practice, written and recorded materials can help support and supplement it. The archives helps ensure these teachings are remembered and remain available for future generations.

2. **So young people can learn**

One day, children and grandchildren may want to know more about their history—who they are, where they come from, and the experiences of their families. The archives can help by keeping materials that contribute to those understandings.

3. **So the community decides how its history is cared for**

Keeping records in the community archives means they are looked after in a way that respects local values, rather than being sent far away where others control access and use.

4. **To honour past generations**

Ancestors passed down knowledge, stories, and experiences. Ensuring these are cared for and remembered is one way to respect their contributions and continue their legacy.

Contact the Archives

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