

## THE WAR ORPHANS PROJECT RESEARCH GUIDE

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### INTRODUCTION

The War Orphans Project Research Guide provides an introduction to archival, library, museum and testimony holdings at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre related to the theme of Jewish war orphans immigrating to Canada after the Second World War. This guide features primary and secondary sources from the VHEC's collection and lists recommended resources found in the collections of other organizations. Where possible, resources are linked directly to their catalogue records in the VHEC's collections database: [collections.vhec.org](https://collections.vhec.org).

Research guides are an introduction to a particular topic, theme or collection. They are not exhaustive; independent research is recommended and encouraged.

Researchers wishing to access materials in person on-site are encouraged to review the Plan a Research Visit section of our website: [collections.vhec.org/About/plan](https://collections.vhec.org/About/plan). Materials in the archives, museum and testimony collections are made available to researchers by appointment. The library is open to visitors during the VHEC's hours of operation.

### BACKGROUND

The War Orphans Project was initiated by the Canadian Jewish community with the goal of bringing Jewish orphans to Canada after the end of the Second World War. In 1947, the Government of Canada issued Privy Council Order 1647, which permitted 1,000 Jewish war orphans, all under eighteen years of age, to immigrate to Canada under the auspices of the Canadian Jewish Congress, with the stipulation that full responsibility for the children's welfare would be assumed by the Jewish community.

### Key Dates

- 1938** At the Evian Conference, Canada and 31 other countries refuse to accept Jewish refugees. Fewer than 5,000 Jews were permitted into Canada between 1933 and 1945.
- 1939** The Canadian government denies entry to 907 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany aboard the *St. Louis*, forcing the ship to return to Europe.
- 1947** A federal cabinet order-in-council on the deportation of Japanese Canadians is repealed after protests by churches, academics, journalists and politicians.
- 1948** Canada liberalizes its immigration policies. Almost two million newcomers are admitted within a decade, including thousands of Jewish Holocaust survivors.

**1976** A revised Immigration Act spells out principles of Canadian immigration policy and includes an identifiable category for refugees.

### **ACCESS POINTS**

Access points are key persons and organizations, places and other topics that can be searched in the catalogue to locate records pertaining to those subjects.

### **People**

#### *Fischer, Greta (1909–1988)*

Born and trained as a kindergarten teacher in Czechoslovakia, Fischer fled from Czechoslovakia to London, England in 1939 where she worked with Anna Freud in the Hampstead War Nursery. Fischer joined UNRRA Team 182, a multilingual group of child specialists sent to Germany in 1945 to rescue and care for children. She helped to establish the International Children's Centre in Kloster Indersdorf near Dachau, Germany. Fischer came to Canada with the last group of Jewish war orphans in 1947 and worked as a social worker.

#### *Hayes, Saul (1906–1980)*

Acted as executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress from 1938 to 1974, and director of the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies (UJRA) from 1938 to 1942. Hayes oversaw the revitalization of the Canadian Jewish Congress and lobbied on behalf of Jewish immigrants and refugees.

#### *Levinson, Lottie (d. 1989)*

Worked as a field worker with UNRRA in Europe and helped ensure child refugees had the required documentation to immigrate to Canada as part of the War Orphans Project.

#### *MacKenzie King, William Lyon (1874–1950)*

Served as Prime Minister of Canada from 1921 to 1930 and again from 1935 to 1948. He was concerned about growing French-Canadian nationalism and saw Jewish immigration as a potentially divisive issue in French Canada. He opposed the liberalization of Canadian immigration policy.

#### *Ostry, Ethel*

Director of an UNRRA-run DP camp in Hohenfeld, Germany. She organized and assembled children who met the requirements of the War Orphans Project.

#### *Rose, Jean*

Scottish-Canadian social worker who held leadership roles in the National Council of Jewish Women and the Canadian Jewish Congress. She met and helped many war orphans upon their arrival in Canada.

*Saalheimer, Manfred (1896–1957)*

Jewish Canadian official sent by UJRA to postwar Europe to arrange for the collection and emigration of 1,000 Jewish orphans to Canada under the War Orphans Project.

*Wilson, Cairine (1885–1962)*

The first woman appointed to the senate in Canada, in 1930. As a senator, she spoke about the problem of antisemitism. In 1938, Wilson founded the Canadian National Committee on Refugees and Victims of Political Persecution (CNCR), a non-sectarian organization of Canadian citizens.

**Organizations***American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (“The Joint”; JDC)*

An overseas relief and rehabilitation agency established by American Jews in 1914. It helped Jews from Germany emigrate to the US after 1930. It provided assistance to European Jews during the war and to displaced persons after the war.

*Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC)*

An organization of the Canadian Jewish community, founded in 1919 and dormant until events in Europe initiated its revitalization in 1933. During and after the Second World War, the CJC worked to secure asylum for Jewish refugees in Canada.

*Canadian National Committee on Refugees and Victims of Political Persecution (CNCR)*

An interfaith pro-refugee coalition of 25 Canadian groups, including the CJC, founded in 1938 after *Kristallnacht*. The CNCR lobbied on behalf of greater refugee admissions into Canada and was disbanded in 1948.

*Œuvre de secours aux enfants (OSE)*

A French Jewish children’s aid society, which rescued children from France and other areas of Western Europe during the Second World War and organized immigration after liberation. OSE managed a network of children’s homes and educational facilities known as châteaux or mansions for Jewish children whose parents were in Nazi-run concentration camps or had been killed.

*United Jewish Relief Agencies (UJRA)*

A Canadian organization established in 1938 to first help escapees and interned refugees from England. After the Second World War, UJRA aided Displaced Persons by administering supplies and tracing lost family members. Additionally, UJRA facilitated immigration to Canada through the War Orphans Project and other skilled worker programs.

*United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)*

A multinational organization established in 1943 with operations ending in 1946. UNRRA’s purpose was to administer relief to war victims in areas under control of any of the United

Nations member countries. UNRRA oversaw Displaced Persons Operations in Germany at the end of the Second World War.

## Places

### *Aglasterhausen Children's Centre, Germany*

A home for orphaned and unaccompanied children, many of whom were Jewish, located in Germany.

### *Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, Germany*

Originally a concentration camp established in northern Germany in 1940, Bergen-Belsen was liberated on April 15, 1945 by British forces, who found 60,000 emaciated prisoners. After liberation, Bergen-Belsen became a displaced persons camp for refugees, and was assisted in its administration by Canada's Armed Forces.

### *Feldafing Displaced Persons Camp, Germany*

The first displaced persons camp created exclusively for Jewish concentration camp survivors and Jewish refugees coming from Soviet-controlled areas in Germany.

### *Kloster Indersdorf Orphanage, Germany*

Established by the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration (UNRRA) after the Second World War as a centre to care for orphaned or unaccompanied children. Located in a sixteenth-century monastery near Dachau, Germany.

### *Peterswald Children's Home, Lower Silesia, Poland*

Established after the war by the Jewish committee of Lower Silesia, Poland, to care for displaced and orphaned Jewish children.

### *Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*

Between 1928 and 1971, Pier 21 in Halifax served as the primary entry point for over one million immigrants, wartime evacuees, refugees, troops, war brides and their children arriving in Canada. This number includes over 100,000 refugees and displaced persons. Today, Pier 21 is a Canadian Historic Site and museum.

## Topics

Topics are subject terms from the VHEC's local thesaurus that are used to tag related items in its collections. Searching or browsing by topic can help users find additional materials about a particular topic.

- Aid or relief organizations
- Children
- Displaced Persons
- Displaced Persons camp
- Immigration & emigration
- Liberation & post-war life
- Refugees

The library uses the following **Library of Congress Subject Headings**:

- Canada > Emigration and immigration > History > 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Jewish children > Canada
- Jewish children in the Holocaust
- Holocaust survivors > Canada
- Jewish orphans > Canada > History > 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Jewish refugees > Canada

### HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

Testimony is a first-hand personal account of an event. A Holocaust survivor's testimony is micro-history, one person's story told from a specific and subjective perspective. Since most survivors are not historians, they tell personal stories that can connect to historical details acquired from other sources. Historians listen to testimony in order to understand the personal experiences of people who were involved in an historical event. When historians examine testimony as an historical source, they must carefully consider the challenges and the benefits that accompany the use of such testimonies. It is important to consider why survivors testify and under what circumstances. The following testimonies are delivered by children who immigrated to Canada as war orphans.

Janos Benisz

Janos B. testimony 2008 [video recording]. (1h 14m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/523>

Mariette Doduck

Mariette D. testimony 1984 [video recording]. (1h 46m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/209>

Mariette D. testimony 2010 [video recording]. (1h 51m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/215>

David Ehrlich

David E. testimony 1983 [video recording]. (2h 40m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/219>

David E. testimony 2010 [video recording] (1h 52m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/230>

Regina Feldman

Regina F. testimony 1990 [video recording]. (2h 2m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/234>

Larry Flynn

Larry F. testimony 1996 [video recording]. (5h 12m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/663>

**Bill Gluck**

Bill G. testimony 1984 [video recording]. (2h 39m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/821>

**Harry Greenhut**

Harry G. testimony 1984 [video recording]. (2h 2m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1178#>

**Celina Lieberman**

Celina L. testimony 1983 [video recording]. (2h 29m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/98>

**Jack Rozen**

Jack R. testimony 1984 [video recording]. (2h 57m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1383>

**Leslie Spiro**

Leslie S. testimony 1984 [video recording]. (57m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/987>

Leslie S. testimony 2008 [video recording]. (2h 31m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1365>

**Robbie Waisman**

Robbie W. testimony 1984 [video recording]. (3h 2m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/528>

Robbie W. testimony 2010 [video recording]. (2h 5m).

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/541>

**PRIMARY SOURCES**

Primary sources are the raw materials of historical research—original artefacts and documents or first-hand accounts created at or near the time of the event being studied. Primary sources provide direct evidence about the events, practices or conditions during the period in question.

**Archives and Museum**

David and Regina Feldman fonds. RA021. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada. <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/collections/607>.

Fonds consists of identification papers, travel documents, letters of reference, ephemera as well as family photographs and heirlooms. Records document the Feldmans' experience of the Holocaust in Poland, specifically their time in displaced persons camps, in Bergen-

Belsen, as well as their immigration to and life in Canada. Fonds is divided into the following series: Regina Feldman series ([1923?]-[196-]) and David Feldman series ([18--]-1990).

Unprocessed materials donated by Fraidie Martz. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Fraidie Martz donated items used in her book *Open Your Hearts: The Story of the Jewish War Orphans in Canada*. Includes copies of photographs from Kloster Indersdorf Orphanage collected by Greta Fischer. Items donated by Fraidie Martz are not digitally available nor catalogued in the VHEC's database; in-person on site access only until further notice.

Unprocessed materials donated by Shia Moser. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Shia Moser donated photographs, correspondence, written testimony and ephemera documenting his work with Jewish orphans and displaced children at the Peterswald Children's Home. Items donated by Shia Moser are not digitally available nor catalogued in the VHEC's database; in-person on site access only until further notice.

Jean Rose fonds. RA002. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada.  
<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/collections/62/>.

Fonds consists of case files, committee reports and correspondence relating to Rose's work with Jewish immigrants to Canada in the 1940s and 1950s. Also included are a number of commemorative materials including obituaries and tribute articles. Fonds has been arranged into the following series: Immigration case work (1939-1966); Commemorative materials (1939-1959); Audio testimony (1982).

Open Hearts – Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project, exhibition records [1997-1998] (RA000-01-13).

<https://www.memorybc.ca/open-hearts-closed-doors-the-war-orphans-project>

The VHEC's institutional files documenting the organization of its first *Open Hearts – Closed Doors* exhibition include oral history project texts, scrapbooks, promotional materials, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, financial records, a guest book, permission forms, and other items. *Open Hearts - Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project* ran from November 17, 1997, to March 30, 1998. Institutional records are only accessible by prior arrangement and appointment.

Open Hearts – Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project, exhibition records [2016] (RA000-01-55).

<https://www.memorybc.ca/open-hearts-closed-doors-the-war-orphans-project-2016>

The VHEC's institutional files documenting the organization of its second *Open Hearts – Closed Doors* exhibition include school booking forms, scrapbooks, research materials, Oral History Project material, correspondence, publicity, teacher materials, guest books, exhibition texts, rental agreement, exhibition photographs and slides, Canadian Heritage Information Network records and other items. *Open Hearts – Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project* ran from March 1 to July 29, 2016. Institutional records are only accessible by prior arrangement and appointment.

## SECONDARY SOURCES

Secondary sources are created after a historical event and offer a description or interpretation of the event based on analysis of primary sources.

### VHEC Library: Books and Teachers' Guides

	<i>Call Number</i>
<p>Abella, Irving &amp; Harold Troper. <i>None Is too Many</i>. University of Toronto Press, 2012.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3033">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3033</a></p> <p>Examines why Canada was closed to the Jews in Europe between 1933 and 1945. An anonymous senior Canadian official's response to the question of how many Jews would be allowed into Canada provides the title of this important historical work.</p>	971.004 A14n 2012
<p>Applebaum, Molly. <i>Buried Words: The Diary of Molly Applebaum</i>. Azrieli Foundation, 2017.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7566">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7566</a></p> <p>Molly Applebaum's memoir based on a diary she kept as a twelve-year old in hiding. <i>Buried Words</i> is a stark confession of Molly's fears, despair and secrets and, above all, her fervent wish to stay alive.</p>	EDUC AZR Ser. 8 APP
<p>Armstrong-Reid, Susan &amp; David Murray. <i>Armies of Peace: Canada and the UNRRA Years</i>. University of Toronto Press, 2008.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1404">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1404</a></p> <p>The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was the first international organization to be established after the Second World War, and Canada played a key role in its formation... <i>Armies of Peace</i> is the first comprehensive investigation of Canadians' influence on the establishment and operation of this unique organization. By recounting the stories of hundreds of Canadians who served at every level of the organization and in every country where UNRRA established missions, Susan Armstrong-Reid</p>	940.5477 A73a



<p>and David Murray highlight the wider contributions that the nation made. Giving voice to these Canadians' stories also provides a more complete understanding of Canada's role in post-war healing and foreshadows the challenges that Canadians faced in implementing international aid and development initiatives within developing countries during the Cold War.</p>	
<p>Bialystok, Franklin. <i>Delayed Impact: The Holocaust and the Canadian Jewish Community</i>. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6420">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6420</a></p> <p>In <i>Delayed Impact</i> Franklin Bialystok explores the evolution of the legacy of the Holocaust in the collective memory of the post-war Canadian Jewish community.</p>	971.004924 B57d
<p>Boraks-Nemetz, Lillian &amp; Irene N. Watts. <i>Tapestry of Hope: Holocaust Writing for Young People</i>. Tundra Books, 2003.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7</a></p> <p><i>Tapestry of Hope</i> brings together firsthand accounts by survivors, poetry, drama, and selections from novels and short stories about the Holocaust. The contributors include several child survivors and war orphans who immigrated to Canada.</p>	YA 940.5318 B72t
<p>Draper, Paula &amp; Harold Troper. <i>Archives of the Holocaust: Volume 15</i>. Garland Publishing, 1991.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1759">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1759</a></p> <p>This volume contains a collection of Canadian documents dealing with the destruction of the European Jews and related topics from 1933–1950. The original documents are housed in the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa and the National Archives of Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal.</p>	REF 016.9405318 A673 v.15
<p>Ehrlich, David. A-12373. Langara College; Azrieli Foundation; Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, 2018.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7892">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7892</a></p> <p>Memoir of David Ehrlich, produced as part of the Writing Lives project (2017–2018) with the recording, transcribing and editing assistance of Marc Perez, Yukiko Takahashi-Lai, Bonnie Pun and Jesus Vicente Malabrigo.</p>	VHEC Archives & Collection Box 55

<p>Freund, John. <i>Spring's End</i>. Azrieli Foundation, 2017.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3076">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3076</a></p> <p>"A young boy who loved soccer as much as he loved to write, John Freund found his joyful childhood shattered by the German invasion of Czechoslovakia. John's family suffered through the systematic erosion of their rights only to be deported to Theresienstadt—en route to the Auschwitz death camp." —Publisher</p>	<p>EDUC AZR Ser. 1 FRE</p> <p>EDUC AZR Ser.1 FREfr</p>
<p>Gerber, Jean Miriam. <i>Immigration and Integration in Post-War Canada: A Case Study of Holocaust Survivors in Vancouver 1947-1970</i>. University of British Columbia, 1989.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6449">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6449</a></p> <p>Using as a sample a group of nearly 400 Jewish survivors of the Holocaust who entered Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, between 1947 and 1970, this thesis discusses themes in the history of an ethnic community.</p>	<p>971.104 G36i</p>
<p>Gilbert, Martin. <i>The Boys</i>. Douglas &amp; McIntyre, 1996.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/5111">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/5111</a></p> <p>True story of the 732 young survivors of the Holocaust who were allowed into Britain following the War. With their families destroyed, these boys and girls had to create a new life among themselves.</p>	<p>940.53161 G466</p>
<p>Goldberg, Adara. <i>Holocaust Survivors in Canada: Exclusion, Inclusion, Transformation, 1947-1955</i>. University of Manitoba Press, 2015.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/176">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/176</a></p> <p>In the decade after the Second World War, 35,000 Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution and their dependants arrived in Canada. This was a watershed moment in Canadian Jewish history. The unprecedented scale of the relief effort required for the survivors, compounded by their unique social, psychological, and emotional needs challenged both the established Jewish community and resettlement agents alike.</p>	<p>971.004924 G61h</p>
<p>Klein, L. Ruth (editor). <i>Nazi Germany, Canadian Responses: Confronting Antisemitism in the Shadow of War</i>. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2012.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1690">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1690</a></p>	<p>971.004924 K64n</p>

<p>Irving Abella and Harold Troper's seminal work, <i>None is Too Many</i>, documented the official barriers that kept Jewish immigrants and refugees out of Canada in the shadow of the Second World War. The book won critical acclaim upon publication in 1982, but a haunting question remained: Why did Canada act as it did in the 1930s and 1940s? Answering this question requires a deeper understanding of the attitudes, ideas, and information that circulated in Canadian society during this period. The contributors to this collection—scholars of international repute—turn to the wider public sphere for answers: the media, the world of literature, the university campus, the realm of international sport, and networks of community activism. Their findings reveal that the persecutions and atrocities taking place in Nazi Germany inspired a range of responses from ordinary Canadians, from indifference to outrage to quiet acquiescence.</p>	
<p>Kuper, Jack. <i>After the Smoke Cleared</i>. Stoddart, 1994.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3052">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3052</a></p> <p>As a little boy of nine, caught up in the ravages of the Second World War, Kuper was separated from his family. For four years he roamed the Polish countryside, lying about his Jewish identity, fleeing Nazi soldiers, and hoping that his father, who had escaped to the Soviet Union, would rescue him. Now, in <i>After the Smoke Cleared</i>, Kuper continues the saga begun in his earlier classic [Child of the Holocaust]. After the war, Kuper came to Canada with other war orphans. Almost three decades later, married, a father of four, and owner of a successful film production house, he was reunited with his father. Father and son confront each other across a chasm of divergent cultures, betrayals, and distorted memory. Gradually it becomes clear what each did to survive, in this moving story of two men whose migrations range from Polish villages to Siberian death camps, to the advertising world of Toronto and Manhattan, to the teeming immigrant neighborhood of Brighton Beach in New York.</p>	940.5315 K96a

<p>Kutz, Michael. <i>If, By Miracle</i>. Azrieli Foundation, 2013.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3078">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3078</a></p> <p>"Nearly buried alive, ten-year-old Michael Kutz narrowly escaped the Nazi death squad that killed 4,000 Jews, including his own family, in his hometown of Nieśwież. Guided by his mother's last words and determined to survive, he became the youngest member of a partisan resistance group in the dense Belorussian forest, and took part in daring operations against the Nazis and their collaborators."  —Publisher</p>	EDUC AZR Ser. 5 KUT
<p>Lappin, Ben. <i>The Redeemed Children</i>. University of Toronto Press, 1963. <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3792">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3792</a></p> <p>Describes the Canadian Jewish Congress Project to permit the entry of Jewish refugees to Canada. How a small community was able to put into practice a plan of rescuing those who had avoided destruction is a remarkable story.</p>	RBSC 940.53161 L31r
<p>Martz, Fraidie. <i>Open Your Hearts</i>. Véhicule Press, 1996.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3056">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3056</a></p> <p>Unique story of the 1,123 Jewish War Orphans brought to Canada between 1947 and 1949. These children and adolescents, traumatized by the Holocaust and deprived of everything considered essential for normal development, amazingly flourished and became productive citizens in the care of a protective community.</p>	971.004924 M38o
<p>Mason, Michael. <i>A Name Unbroken</i>. Azrieli Foundation, 2015.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/4836">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/4836</a></p> <p>"When Germany occupied Hungary in 1944, fifteen-year-old Miklos Friedman drew on his wits to survive. Recruited into forced labour, sent to a ghetto and, ultimately, to the Nazi camps of Auschwitz and Mühldorf, Miklos never stopped fighting to change his fate. After the war, he risked everything in order to leave his past behind. Decades later, a chance meeting in Toronto led Miklos, now Michael Mason, to discover the power of his new name." —Publisher</p>	EDUC AZR Ser. 7 MAS
<p>Miller, Frieda. <i>Journey to Canada: The War Orphans Project 1947-1949: discovery kit</i>. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3343">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3343</a></p>	Discovery Kits

<p><i>Journey to Canada</i> explores the aftermath of war, the arrival of Holocaust orphans in Canada and Canada's multicultural immigration history. The kit makes use of primary artefacts such as letters, diaries, newspaper articles, photographs, identification cards and government documents. The seven modules can be set up as stations and used for individual or group work.</p>	
<p>Miller, Frieda. <i>Journey to Canada: The War Orphans Project 1947-1949: teacher's guide</i>. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, 1997. <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3439">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3439</a></p> <p>Teacher's guide to support the use of the Journey to Canada discovery kit in the classroom.</p>	EDUC VHEC Teacher's Guides
<p>Miller, Frieda. <i>Open Hearts – Closed Doors: teacher's guide</i>. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, 1997. <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/2401">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/2401</a> and 2016 addendum <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3438">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3438</a></p> <p>This teacher's guide provides teachers and students with historical background materials in the form of summaries, timelines, glossaries, and bibliographies as well as suggestions for classroom activities. The unique feature of this guide is its artifact driven approach. Teachers will find the kinds of hands-on documentary evidence needed to support student learning about the aftermath of war and Canadian immigration policies, in the form of: photos, orphan identification cards, correspondence from Canadian politicians concerning the immigration of Jews and other ethnic groups, steam ship tickets, a Chinese head tax, and a Japanese internment card.</p>	EDUC VHEC Teacher's Guides
<p>Paperny, Myra. <i>The Greenies</i>. HarperTrophy Canada, 2005. <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3059">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3059</a></p> <p><i>The Greenies</i> is a novel based on the real-life experiences of those "green" newcomers, a group of over one thousand orphaned Jewish children who, with the help of the Canadian Jewish Congress, immigrated to Canada after the Second World War.</p>	YA FIC PAPg
<p>Salsberg, Kitty and Ellen Foster. <i>Never Far Apart</i>. Azrieli Foundation, 2017. <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/4816">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/4816</a></p> <p>"Kati and her younger sister, Ilonka, arrived in Canada with painful memories from the Holocaust, which took both of their parents. Their harrowing time alone in the Budapest ghetto was fresh in their</p>	EDUC AZR Ser. 7 SAL

<p>minds, as were their fragile hopes to be adopted. But their lives in Toronto were far from what they expected, and full of broken promises. As the sisters navigated their new surroundings, they each grew fiercely strong and independent, while holding onto the comfort that they would be Never Far Apart." —Publisher</p>	
<p>Smart, Maxwell. <i>Chaos to Canvas</i>. Azrieli Foundation, 2018.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7563">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7563</a></p> <p>Maxwell Smart's memoir describes his transformation from a boy dependent on his family to a teenager fighting to survive and, ultimately, to a man who finds himself through art in a life beyond the war.</p>	EDUC AZR Ser. 10 SMA
<p>Waisman, Robbie and Susan McClelland. <i>Boy from Buchenwald: the true story of a Holocaust survivor</i>. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2021. <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/9653">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/9653</a></p> <p>"It was 1945 and Romek Wajsman had just been liberated from Buchenwald, a brutal concentration camp where more than 60,000 people were killed. He was starving, tortured, and had no idea where his family was-let alone if they were alive. Along with 472 other boys, including Elie Wiesel, these teens were dubbed 'The Buchenwald Boys.' They were angry at the world for their abuse, and turned to violence: stealing, fighting, and struggling for power. Everything changed for Romek and the other boys when Albert Einstein and Rabbi Herschel Schacter brought them to a home for rehabilitation Romek Wajsman, now Robbie Waisman, humanitarian and Canadian Governor General Award recipient, shares his remarkable story of transforming pain into resiliency and overcoming incredible loss to find incredible joy." —Publisher</p>	J 940.53161 W14b
<p>Whitaker, Reg. <i>Double Standard: The Secret History of Canadian Immigration</i>. Lester &amp; Orpen Dennys Limited, 1987.</p> <p>History of Canada's immigration policies from World War II to the mid-eighties.</p>	325.71 W57d

**VHEC Library: Documentaries**

<p>Harris, Mark Jonathan. <i>The Long Way Home</i>. Post Washington, NY: Koch Entertainment Distribution LLC, 2003.</p>	120 min., colour.
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Examines the post-World War II period between 1945 and 1948 and the plight of tens of thousands of refugees who survived the Holocaust. The documentary looks at their (often illegal) attempts to get to Palestine and explores how much of the world turned its back on the tragedy of these displaced people.	
<p>MacInnes, Teresa. <i>A Rough Crossing</i>. [Montreal]: National Film Board/Starry Night Productions, 1995.  <a href="https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3122">https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3122</a></p> <p>Interviews and documentary film footage are used to chronicle the little-known story of the evacuation of thousands of British school children to Canada during the summer of 1940. A personal examination of eight British child evacuees, their Canadian foster families, and their feelings of abandonment, separation and guilt. Historian Martin Gilbert and authors Jack Granatstein and Irving Abella provide some historical and political background. Raises the question of who was chosen to come to Canada and why were Jewish children not welcome.</p>	60 min., colour.

### Online Exhibition

Miller, Frieda & Roberta Kremer. *Open Hearts – Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project*. Online exhibition, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, 2002.  
[https://www.vhec.org/open\\_hearts\\_closed\\_doors/](https://www.vhec.org/open_hearts_closed_doors/)

Following World War II, a group of young Jewish orphans immigrated to Canada from the devastation of Europe. *Open Hearts - Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project* is an online teaching exhibit that chronicles the lives of these orphans as they emerged from the events of the Holocaust into displaced person camps and eventually to new lives in Canada. This multimedia website uses the orphans' own words and artefacts as well as primary documents and photographs to provide students with a powerful learning experience about the Holocaust and the broader history of Canadian immigration during the 20th Century.

### FURTHER RESOURCES

These resources on the topic of war orphans who immigrated to Canada are not available at the VHEC but were used as source material for the *Open Hearts – Closed Doors* exhibition.

### Publications

Bagnell, K. *Little Immigrants. The Orphans Who Came to Canada*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2001.

Draper, Paula & Richard Menkis (editors). *New Perspectives on Canada, the Holocaust and survivors*. [Montreal, Quebec]: Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, 1996.

Fischer, Greta & Pearl Switzer. "The Refugee Youth Program in Montreal, 1947–1952," MSW thesis, McGill University, 1955.

Fraiman, Michael. "A Fresh Start: The Story of Canada's Postwar Jewish Orphans" *Canadian Jewish News*. March 28, 2018.

<https://www.cjnews.com/perspectives/features/the-story-of-1123-orphans-who-came-to-canada-after-the-holocaust>

Giberovitch, Myra. "The Contributions of Montreal Holocaust Survivor Organizations to Jewish Communal Life," MSW thesis, McGill University, 1988.

Gindin, Matthew. "The Stories of Nine Orphans" *Jewish Independent*. May 27, 2016.

<https://www.jewishindependent.ca/the-stories-of-nine-orphans/>.

Katz, Sidney. "The Redeemed Children," *Maclean's*. February 10, 1962.

<https://archive.macleans.ca/article/1962/2/10/the-story-of-one-of-the-great-humanitarian-acts-of-the-twentieth-century-the-redeemed-children>.

Kelley, Ninette, and Michael J. Trebilcock. *The Making of the Mosaic: A History of Canadian Immigration Policy*, 311–45. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010.

"More Jewish War Orphans Reach Canada from Europe" *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*. May 6, 1948.

Palevsky, Mary. "Report on Survey of Jewish Refugee Resettlement in Canada for the Canadian Jewish Congress," Montreal: CJC, October 1949.

Sheftel, A. & Zembrzycki, S. "We Started Over Again, We Were Young": Postwar Social Worlds of Child Holocaust Survivors in Montreal. *Urban History Review*, 39(1), 2010.

### **Archival and Museum Collections**

Ethel Ostry fonds. Mss Sc 44 (A.79-55). University of Manitoba Library.

[http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/collections/rad/ostry\\_e.html](http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/collections/rad/ostry_e.html)

Greta Fischer papers. 1993.23.553. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn78879>

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) fonds. I0037. Canadian Jewish Archives. Montreal, Quebec.

<http://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn16328>



National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) fonds. I0048. Canadian Jewish Archives. Montreal, Quebec. <http://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn50>

Ostry, Ethel (Kleinstein) fonds. PC 0119. Canadian Jewish Archives. Montreal, Quebec. <http://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn225>

United Jewish Relief Agencies (UJRA) fonds, 1930-1978. I0062. Canadian Jewish Archives. Montreal, Quebec. <http://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn64>

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) (1943-1946). AG-018. United Nations Archives. New York, New York. [united-nations-relief-and-rehabilitation-administration-unrra-1943-1946.pdf](#)

## Repositories

The Canadian Jewish Heritage Network <http://www.cjhn.ca/en>

The site brings together the databases and digitized archival material of the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives (formerly Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives), the Jewish Public Library Archives of Montreal, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, the Ottawa Jewish Archives, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim Museum and Archives and the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue Archives.

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 <https://pier21.ca/home>

The purpose of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is to explore the theme of immigration to Canada in order to enhance public understanding of the experiences of immigrants as they arrived in Canada, of the vital role immigration has played in the building of Canada and of the contributions of immigrants to Canada's culture, economy and way of life.

International Tracing Agency. <https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/>

The ITS in Bad Arolsen, Germany serves the victims of Nazi persecution and their families by documenting their fate through the archives it manages. The ITS provides information about displaced persons who, after World War II, were under the care of international relief organisations and children (i.e. under 18 years of age at the end of World War II) of persons belonging to victims of the Holocaust and displaced or separated from their parents as a result of the war.

Library and Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada collection is the shared documentary heritage of all Canadians and spans the entire history of the country. The collection includes 250 linear kilometres of government and private textual records including immigration records and textual archives for various individuals and groups who have contributed to Canada's cultural, social,

economic and political development such as the Canadian National Committee on Refugees (1934-1948).

Research guide to Jewish immigration history:

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/history-ethnic-cultural/Pages/jewish.aspx>

Research guide to Holocaust-related holdings:

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/holocaust/Pages/holocaust-research-guide.aspx#ij>

## Exhibitions

CJC War Orphans Project Virtual Exhibit

[http://www.cjhn.ca/en/experience/image-galleries/cjc-war-orphans-project.aspx?q=&topic=war+orphans&sort=title\\_sort+asc&onlineMediaType\\_facet=Image](http://www.cjhn.ca/en/experience/image-galleries/cjc-war-orphans-project.aspx?q=&topic=war+orphans&sort=title_sort+asc&onlineMediaType_facet=Image)

In the early days of World War II representatives from Canadian Jewish Congress lobbied the Canadian government in vain to allow the rescue of a group of young Jewish orphans then living precariously in France. Due to Canada's restrictive immigration policies of the time, permission was refused. Two years after the war ended, an order in Council was finally passed which allowed CJC to arrange for the immigration of over 1000 Jewish orphaned youths under the age of 18 from the war-torn nations of Europe. The first group arrived in Canada in September 1947. The project continued until March 1952.

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 Online Story Collection: Jewish War Orphans

<https://pier21.ca/research/collections/online-story-collection/jewish-war-orphans>

The museum has collected and preserved written memories shared primarily by newcomers to Canada including several from Jewish war orphans.

My Name Is...The Lost Children of Kloster Indersdorf. Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York.

January 18, 2017 – January 12, 2018.

<https://mjhnyc.org/exhibitions/my-name-is/>

The exhibition displays a selection of photographs taken of displaced children housed at Kloster Indersdorf at the end of the Second World War.