

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

INFORMATION FOR DONORS

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre (VHEC) stewards Western Canada's largest collection of Holocaust-related artefacts, Holocaust testimonies and archival documents. It also holds a comprehensive library of books, films, educational resources, as well as rare books and special collections. The VHEC acquires, preserves and makes available these items as documentary evidence of the Holocaust and its effect on individuals, families and society.

Many survivors and people in the community have Holocaust-related artefacts, even the smallest of which can tell an important story and reach a broad audience for generations to come through the VHEC collections website and the Centre's exhibitions and programs. The VHEC's museum, archival, testimony and library holdings are the result of generous donations from survivors, families of survivors and community members.

We collect materials that are:

- Evidence of the rich pre-war Jewish life in Europe;
- Related to the experience of antisemitism and efforts to leave Europe as the result of the rise of Nazism and increased persecution;
- Related to the Holocaust and the experience of Holocaust survivors;
- Related to the experience of liberation, and the immediate post-war period including the experience of refugees in Displaced Persons camps;
- Related to post-war immigration of Holocaust survivors to Canada;
- Related to the experience of Enemy Alien refugees interned in Canada;
- Nazi-produced propaganda and other documentary evidence of antisemitism;
- Anti-Nazi propaganda produced during the prewar, wartime, and immediate post-war period.

The types of materials in the VHEC's holdings include:

- Albums, diaries and scrapbooks; jewelry, clothing and textiles; correspondence and stamps; currency; medals and insignia; daily life, household and recreational belongings; education and research materials; identity documents; travel documents; maps and plans; propaganda; photographs; publications including rare books; ephemera; religious belongings; and audio-video recordings.
- The library accepts Holocaust-related material such as memoirs, memorial books, works of non-fiction, novels, publications for children and young adults, education resources, rare books and audio-visual recordings.

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We cannot accept the following materials:

- Nazi or Allied military weapons, including (but not limited to) firearms, hand guns, and daggers. VHEC staff can make recommendations about donating these types of materials to appropriate institutions and/or their safe disposal.
- Items in poor condition (as determined by the archivist) that require extensive conservation treatment to store and display;
- Duplicates of items already held in the collection;
- Photocopies or scans of original documents and photographs;
- Large-sized items (as determined by the archivist) that cannot be stored securely and to professional conservation standards due to limitations on storage space at this time;
- Materials with suspicious provenance or authenticity that cannot be verified through additional research.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society was founded in 1983 by survivors of the Holocaust. The founders' goal, realized in 1994 was to leave a permanent legacy in the form of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre devoted to Holocaust based anti-racism education.

The VHEC, an acclaimed teaching museum, has been devoted to Holocaust based anti-racism education. The VHEC's mission is to promote human rights, social justice and genocide awareness through education and remembrance of the Holocaust. The VHEC, a leader in Holocaust education, engages 25,000 students and teachers annually. The VHEC produces thematic exhibits, school programs, teaching materials, online exhibits and has a museum collection and archives, survivor testimony project, library and resource centre. The VHEC presents numerous public cultural and commemorative events and publishes a newsletter, *Zachor*, three times a year.

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INFORMATION FOR DONORS

FAQs

How do I make a donation?

Those wishing to donate items to the archives, museum or library are encouraged to call 604-264-0499 or email collections@vhec.org to schedule an appointment. Unsolicited drop-offs and mailed items are not accepted.

Potential donors to the library are encouraged to visit the library's wish list (amzn.to/vheclibrary-wishlist), which highlights desired items for the library collection.

What happens during an appointment?

Staff will assess whether a potential donation falls under the VHEC's collections policy. Unfortunately, not all material offered to the VHEC can be accepted.

Any background information or context related to the material may be helpful in understanding a potential donation's provenance and connection to the collection policy. Staff may request photographs or an inventory to help assess the material.

Donors of archival and museum items are asked to sign a formal deed of gift. The deed of gift constitutes a legal transfer of ownership from the donor to the VHEC. An item cannot be returned once it has been formally accessioned into the collection. By donating, you are warranting that you are the legal owner of the item and have the right to transfer ownership to the VHEC. Please consult with family members before donating artefacts with sentimental value.

Can I receive a tax receipt for my donation?

Donations to the VHEC can be considered charitable and may be eligible for tax receipts subject to Canada Revenue Agency guidelines based on a fair market valuation of the items donated prepared by an external appraiser.

VHEC staff are not able to appraise donations of archival and museum artefacts. Staff are unable to appraise library donations valued at or above \$1,000. Donors interested in a tax receipt are encouraged to contact a third-party appraiser for the fair market value of material for tax receipt purposes.

We encourage all donors seeking an appraisal and tax receipt to consult the Canada Revenue Agency website regarding gifts and income tax. The VHEC issues tax receipts for all monetary donations.

Can I donate copies or photocopies of originals in my possession?

The VHEC only accepts original artefacts for its archival and museum holdings.

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INFORMATION FOR DONORS

When will my donation be catalogued, digitized or displayed?

We are continually adding catalogue records and digitized items to the online catalogue to increase their accessibility. However, not all items in the collection are suitable for digitization. Processing and digitization is done at the discretion of VHEC staff based on availability of resources, project plans and to meet the needs of researchers and exhibitions.

The VHEC cannot guarantee if and when materials donated to the archives and museum will be exhibited. As a courtesy to donors, the VHEC endeavors to contact families when the material they donated is on display.

Can I loan materials instead of making a donation?

The VHEC accepts short-term loans of materials for planned exhibitions. Loaned materials are treated with the same care and subject to the same policies as materials in the permanent collection.

Can I donate anonymously?

The VHEC will ensure that donor information is kept private and not acknowledged publicly. However, VHEC staff require proof of title, where possible, before an item is accepted into its collection. Documenting the provenance of an object or document is essential to understanding the authenticity and historical value of the item.

Can I include a special dedication or be acknowledged in a specific way?

Yes. During your donation appointment, staff will note how donors prefer to be credited in catalogue records, exhibition captions and publications.

Can I support the collections in ways other than donating materials?

Processing, describing, properly housing and preserving archival records, artefacts and library materials involves significant staff time, space and specialized resources. Donors who wish to support collections work can call the VHEC or donate online. The VHEC is particularly grateful for support in the following areas:

- development funds for the online collections database;
- archival-quality storage supplies;
- staffing hours for cataloguing, research and digitization.