

**Number and name of element of description**

**Description**

**Name of element in the language of description**

**Corporate body fonds: description of the fonds, and one of its series, sub-series, sub-sub-series, files and items.**  
**Language of description: English (Canada)**

**Fonds level**

**3.1.1 Reference code(s)** CA OONAD R610-0-3-E  
Former Archival Reference number: RG43.

**3.1.2 Title** Department of Railways and Canals fonds [multiple media]

**3.1.3 Date(s)** 1791-1964, predominant 1879-1936.

**3.1.4 Level of description** Fonds

**3.1.5 Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size)** 326.18 m of textual records. – ca. 8,500 photographs. – 1000 maps. – 58 technical drawings.

**3.2.1 Name of creator(s)** Canada. Dept. of Railways and Canals

**3.2.2 Administrative history**

The Department of Railways and Canals existed from 1879 to 1936. It was established on May 15, 1879 (42 Vict. c. 7, s. 4-5), when it assumed responsibilities formerly under the direction of the Department of Public Works. It was dissolved on November 2, 1936 (1 Edw. VIII, c. 34), when its functions were incorporated in the newly created Department of Transport to group together all the federal government's transport related activities. A Minister of the crown headed the Department, with a Deputy Minister as the chief administrative officer. Initially, it had two branches, the Railway Branch and the Canal Branch, each directed by a Chief Engineer, with the assistance of an accountant and a secretary responsible for record keeping, contracts, and reports. The Railway Branch was responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of government-owned railways and telegraph networks such as the Intercolonial Railway, and the Prince Edward Island Railway and with railway companies with which it had major contracts such as the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The Canal Branch was responsible for construction, operation, and maintenance of canals and navigation systems on the Great Lakes and along the St. Lawrence, Ottawa, Trent, and Richelieu Rivers, as well as for the St. Peter's and Rideau Canals. In addition to its central offices in Ottawa, the Department had a large field service to operate railways and canals. In 1906, a Statistical Branch, which reported to the Comptroller, was created to gather and compile data on canals and railways. Three years later, the department reorganized into five branches, the Secretary's, Legal, Statistical, Accountant's, and two Chief Engineers Branches. In 1912, the Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister was created to oversee general administration.

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<b>3.3.1 Scope and content</b>	Consists of records created by the Department and received from its predecessor, the Department of Public Works. Includes correspondence, contracts, financial and administrative, and other textual records; engineer's drawings and specifications for construction of rail lines, stations, canals, telegraph lines; photographs, maps and plans of properties and construction sites.	
<b>3.3.3 Accruals</b>	No further accruals are expected.	
<b>3.3.4 System of arrangement</b>	The fonds is arranged into nine series: Railway Branch, Canal Branch, Legal records, Rideau Canal, Trent Canal, St. Peter's Canal, St. Lawrence Canals, Welland Canal, and Comptroller's Branch.	
<b>3.4.5 Finding aids</b>	An inventory to the former RG 43 (July 1998) is available. File lists to some sub-series are available.	
<b>3.6.1 Note(s)</b>	Title is based on the name of the department in its enabling legislation (42 Vict., c. 7, s. 4-5).	
<b>3.7.2 Rules or convention</b>	<i>Rules for Archival Description</i> (RAD), Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 1990.	
<b>3.7.3 Date(s) of descriptions</b>	September 11, 1999	

### **Series level**

<b>3.1.1 Reference code(s)</b>	CA OONAD R610-134-2-E Former Archival Reference number: RG43-A
<b>3.1.2 Title</b>	Railway Branch correspondence, contracts, specifications, maps, plans and technical drawings and other miscellaneous records [textual record, cartographic material]
<b>3.1.3 Date(s)</b>	1867-1936
<b>3.1.4 Level of description</b>	Series
<b>3.1.5 Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size)</b>	123.75 m of textual records. – ca. 1000 maps

<b>Number and name of element of description</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Name of element in the language of description</b>
<b>3.2.2 Administrative history</b>	<p>When the Department of Railways and Canals was created in 1879, the Railway Branch of the Department of Public Works was transferred to the new department. The Railway Branch was responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of government-owned railways, which in 1879 included the Intercolonial Railway, the Prince Edward Island Railway and a planned transcontinental railway to British Columbia. The branch was also responsible for the administration of federal government aid to railways, designed to encourage the development and construction of new lines. Government assistance took many forms and at various times included land grants, cash subsidies, loans, debentures and the guarantee of bonds or interest. By 1879, steam railways had assumed a significant role in Canadian economic development and were expanding very rapidly. The plan to construct a railroad to the Pacific Coast in the early 1870s was only one factor affecting the decision to create a separate Department of Railways and Canals. Since 1850, close to 6,800 miles of track had been laid in Canada, seventy percent in the twelve years since Confederation. During the lifetime of the Department of Railways and Canals, not one but three trans-continental railways were constructed, and thousands of miles of new lines were laid in all regions of Canada. Between 1900 and 1915 alone, railway mileage doubled from 17,657 to 34,882. This over extension of railway development immediately prior to World War I eventually led to the amalgamation of the Canadian Northern Railway, the Grand Trunk Railways and the Canadian Government Railways system to form Canadian National Railways (CNR). By the end of 1936, Canada had over 42,000 miles of railway track, most of which was operated by CNR and the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). The Dominion Government had granted 31,881,643 acres of land to steam railway companies as bonus grants or grants for rights of way, stations or townsites, and over 72,000,000 had been disbursed to railway companies. The Department of Railways and Canals, through its Railway Branch, was intimately associated with this great era of railway development in Canada from 1879 until 1936.</p>	
<b>3.3.1 Scope and content</b>	<p>Series consists of records acquired and accumulated by the Railway Branch of the Department of Railways and Canals between 1867 and 1936. The series includes correspondence records, records from the Office of the Chief Engineer, records relating to subsidies to Railways and to the Quebec Bridge and Railroad Company.</p>	
<b>3.3.4 System of arrangement</b>	<p>The series is arranged into three sub-series: Correspondence received; Subject files; and Quebec Bridge.</p>	
<b>3.4.2 Conditions governing reproduction</b>	<p>Copyright belongs to the Crown.</p>	
<b>3.6.1 Note</b>	<p>Title is based on the contents of the series.</p>	
<b>3.7.2 Rules or convention</b>	<p><i>Rules for Archival Description</i> (RAD), Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 1990.</p>	
<b>3.7.3 Date(s) of descriptions</b>	<p>August 11, 1999</p>	
<b><u>Sub-series level</u></b>		

<b><i>Number and name of element of description</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Name of element in the language of description</i></b>
<b>3.1.1 Reference code(s)</b>	CA OONAD R610-135-4 Former Archival Reference number: RG43-A-I	
<b>3.1.2 Title</b>	Correspondence received and miscellaneous records [textual record, cartographic material]	
<b>3.1.3 Date(s)</b>	1867-1936	
<b>3.1.4 Level of description</b>	Sub-series	
<b>3.1.5 Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size)</b>	117.3 m of textual records. – ca. 1000 maps	
<b>3.3.1 Scope and content</b>	Sub-series consists of correspondence acquired and accumulated by the Railway Branch. It includes Correspondence received, Subject files, Journals, Registers of letters received, General and special Indexes, and Papers filed.	
<b>3.3.4 System of arrangement</b>	All incoming correspondence was registered with a consecutive letter/ number and subject number. The letters were arranged and maintained by subject. A vast portion of the registered correspondence created between 1879 and 1901 was brought forward in 1901 and was included in a new system of subject files.	
<b>3.5.2 Existence and location of copies</b>	Microfilm copies produced by the National Archives of Canada of many records in this sub-series may be found on reels T-7351 to T-7380, T-7319 to T-7324. Further finding aids may be consulted under the reference numbers 43-1, 43-33, 43-34 and 43-35.	
<b>3.6.1 Note</b>	Title is based on the contents of the sub-series.	
<b>3.7.2 Rules or convention</b>	<i>Rules for Archival Description</i> (RAD), Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 1990.	
<b>3.7.3 Date(s) of descriptions</b>	October 20, 1999	

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**File level**

**3.1.1 Reference code(s)**

CA OONAD R610-136-7-E  
File number: 5722.  
Parts: 1=1875, 1906-1908; 2=1910-1914.  
Former reference number: RG43-A-I-2.

**3.1.2 Title**

Canadian Northern Railway Co. - Route Map - Sudbury to Port Arthur [cartographic material]

**3.1.3 Date(s)**

1875, 1906-1914

**3.1.4 Level of description**

File

**3.1.5 Extent and medium  
of the unit of description  
(quantity, bulk, or size)**

46 maps

**3.4.1 Conditions  
governing access**

Records are available for consultation without restriction.

**3.4.5 Finding aids**

Finding aid number: 43-50. The finding aid is a computer generated list sorted alphabetically.  
Listed are volume number, file number, file title and inclusive dates of the file.

**3.7.2 Rules or convention**

*Rules for Archival Description* (RAD), Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 1990.

**3.7.3 Date(s) of  
descriptions**

October 20, 1999

**Item level**

**3.1.1 Reference code(s)**

CA OONAD R610-137-2-E  
Former reference number: RG43-A-I-2.

**3.1.2 Title**

Camp plan from 185+12 Carden's exploration, Windicoostigan to Sturgeon Falls to  
Kashaboie River at station 1562+73

**3.1.3 Date(s)**

1875

**3.1.4 Level of description**

Item

**3.1.5 Extent and medium  
of the unit of description  
(quantity, bulk, or size)**

1 map

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[Scale]

1:25 000

**3.2.3 Archival history**

Internal (National Archives of Canada) transfer from Government Archives Division (RG 43 Canada, Dept. of Railways and Canals, vol. 347, file 5722, Part 1) to the Visual and Sound Archives Division.

**3.4.1 Conditions  
governing access**

No restriction on access or reproduction.

**3.7.2 Rules or convention**

*Rules for Archival Description* (RAD), Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 1990.  
*Cartographic materials : A Manual of interpretation for AACR2*, Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials (Hugo L.P. Stibbe, ed.), 1982.

**3.7.3 Date(s) of  
descriptions**

October 20, 1999