

Alberta Genealogical Society — "*Bringing the past to the present for the future!*"

Who are we?

Since 1973, the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS), a not-for-profit society has promoted the study of genealogy and genealogical research in Alberta. AGS is a trusted source of and supports the accurate, diverse genealogical research that enhances family connections and records family stories using proven ethical genealogical methods. AGS' head office in Edmonton, provides service to over 650 members in ten branches across Alberta (with a regional reach in Brooks, Calgary, Camrose, Drayton Valley, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Wetaskiwin. NOTE: In Edmonton alone, over 3,000 people accessed our programs while another 2,000 visited the Edmonton Library & Resource Centre in 2025.

Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women

The Alberta Genealogical Society is one of six Provincial Heritage Organizations that has received operational funding through the Department of Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women. We have been receiving support since 1994. 2025 funding amounted to \$29,000. On Thursday February 26, 2026, after the UCP budget was presented, we were informed that we will receive **\$00.00 in funding and will no longer be considered Provincial Heritage Organization** under Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

How We've Used Heritage Funding

- The Alberta Culture funding has helped to fund for Educational Programs and Research Services for our members and members of the general public in Alberta. We house a provincial library in Edmonton with 6,000+ heritage holdings, as well as other branch libraries across the province.
- It also helps with the costs associated with publishing *Relatively Speaking*, our international award-winning journal published quarterly.

In addition to the work done at head office, we have an army of dedicated volunteers across the province who reported 29,579 volunteer hours in 2024 and over 31,000 hours (still tabulating annual reports) in 2025. At the suggested cost of \$20.00/hour as per Community Initiatives Program grant guidelines, that **\$29,000 investment** in operational funding by Alberta Culture translates into a much larger return of volunteer efforts:

\$591,580 (2024) and over \$620,000 (2025) in unpaid volunteer work for Alberta.

AGS Volunteers:

- continue to create and add to digital resources that are made available online to the public (Alberta Records Name Index with 1,300,000+, records Alberta Name Index with 850,000+ names, Alberta Homesteads Index 1885-1930, etc.),
- have 11 Special Interest Groups, **including French-Canadian research and offer French resources and translations**, and have a collaboration with Société généalogique du Nord-Ouest to offer in-person workshops and webinars
- have worked weekly since 1989 at the Provincial Archives of Alberta indexing resources which become searchable digital documents available online to the general public.
- digitize and make available online, the information contained in 100 years of Alberta Govt. Telephone books,
- provide instruction on effective methods of researching and recording the family's history and heritage,
- host a conference each year for the benefit of its members and the general public, and
- answer research queries made by the general public (In 2024, the volunteer Research Committee responded to 408 research requests from the general public, including 142 requests for homestead records for those applying for the Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award, and 125-Year Farm Recognition—provincial recognition from the Alberta government for farm families who have continuously owned and actively operated the same land for 100 years or more than 125 years.)

AGS Edmonton Branch has the only working copy of the extensive Charles D. Denney Métis and Red River Settler genealogical collection of historical documents, donated to AGS by the founding member Charles Denney as a condition of his will. The originals were deposited to the Glenbow Museum in Calgary and are currently unavailable for research. We run seminars on how to use this invaluable collection of records for Albertans to **trace and prove Métis heritage from Alberta for Citizenship in the Métis Nation of Alberta.**

The *Youth Workshops for Canada 150: 'In Search of My Family's Past'* won a **Heritage Awareness Award** from the Department of Arts, Culture and Status of Women in 2018. Over the last 11 years, AGS has presented 1,832 students across Alberta with Genealogy4Youth project certificates teaching today's youth to value their heritage. Each year since 2022, in conjunction with Art Gallery of Alberta, student work has been on display. In 2025, 46 student posters featuring 5 First Nations and 21 countries were put on display at the Art Gallery of Alberta "Our Family Roots" exhibition for the month of May 2025. These students will become the stewards of Alberta heritage in the future.