

## Urban History Review Revue d'histoire urbaine

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW  
REVUE D'HISTOIRE URBAINE

**Alberta Culture. *The Historical Evolution of the Department of Municipal Affairs*. Edmonton: Alberta Culture, 1984. Pp. 97. Indexed. Free from Provincial Archives of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, T5N 0M6**

John Gilpin

Volume 14, Number 2, October 1985

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1018001ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1018001ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine

ISSN

0703-0428 (print)

1918-5138 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Gilpin, J. (1985). Review of [Alberta Culture. *The Historical Evolution of the Department of Municipal Affairs*. Edmonton: Alberta Culture, 1984. Pp. 97. Indexed. Free from Provincial Archives of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, T5N 0M6]. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, 14(2), 215–215. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1018001ar>

All Rights Reserved © Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine, 1985

This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

<https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/>

érudit

This article is disseminated and preserved by Érudit.

Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

<https://www.erudit.org/en/>

implications of yet another conditional grant in the shaping of local policy, in this case public transportation policy.

This volume is distributed by the Carleton University Bookstore, Carleton University, Ottawa, K1S 5B6.

John H. Taylor  
Department of History  
Carleton University

---

Alberta Culture. *The Historical Evolution of the Department of Municipal Affairs*. Edmonton: Alberta Culture, 1984. Pp. 97. Indexed. Free from Provincial Archives of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, T5N 0M6.

*The Historical Evolution of the Department of Municipal Affairs* is one of two publications in Alberta Culture's Departmental History Series. The other volume in this series, published in 1983, deals with the history of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The intent of this series is not to provide an official history that covers a number of topics and their roles in the development of Alberta, but rather to give a detailed outline of the administrative history of each department. This series has been undertaken in order to fulfill Alberta Culture's mandate as exercised by the Provincial Archives of Alberta to collect, preserve and make available the public records relating to Alberta's history. It is also organized around the archival concept of provenance. This involves the organization of documents in series according to the agency that created them rather than by theme or topic. Such an approach allows documents to be used on an ongoing basis to study a variety of topics. A knowledge of the administrative history of a department can therefore serve as a valuable guide both to the archivist who is organizing the records, and to the historian who needs to utilize the documents. This volume is therefore a sophisticated type of archival finding aid that gives the researcher a head start on understanding and utilizing the records of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

The department's history is described in four major sections. Part Two, which follows introductory comments on the purpose of the series, identifies the Department's current functional components and views them in relation to several time periods. Part Three contains the bulk of the historical information. It begins with a review of the legislative events for the period from 1887, when the Territorial Government passed the Statute Labor Districts Ordinance, to 1912 when the Province of Alberta passed the Department of Municipal Affairs Act. This background information is followed by subsections describing the department's functional development from 1912 to 1983. Part Four provides an analysis of the Department's administrative organization. Each division and the branches within them are listed, and their functions

are outlined in historical perspective. Part Five supplements the historical data with a chronology of major historical developments and a list of ministers and deputy ministers.

In overall terms this book represents a very well organized compendium of administrative history which achieves its goal of introducing historians to the world of provenance.

John Gilpin  
Historic Sites Service  
Alberta Culture

---

Baker, Marilyn. *The Winnipeg School of Art: The Early Years*. Winnipeg: The University of Manitoba Press, 1984. Pp. 135. 10 colour plates; 109 black and white plates. Cloth \$35.00, Paperback \$16.50.

This publication is a sequel to an exhibition aimed at exploring the mode of education at the Winnipeg School of Art from 1913 until 1934. Gallery 1.1.1., which held the exhibition, the anonymous donor, who supplied funding, and Marilyn Baker are all to be commended for a thoroughly researched publication in the history of Canadian art education, a field little explored. The book is well illustrated with art work by both teachers and students, and with numerous interesting photographs, which enhance its documentary and human interest value.<sup>1</sup>

The founders of the Winnipeg School hoped that such an institution would "civilize and refine the West." That the study of art would refine the public and improve its taste, impoverished by the ugliness of early industrial products, is an idea dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. It led to the establishment of the British Design Schools where the curriculum mixed traditional art training with industrial design. The Winnipeg School of Art was modelled after these British Schools. So were the Art Schools in Ontario.

The Winnipeg School of Art was established in 1913 by local businessmen of the Winnipeg Industrial Bureau, using both municipal and private funds. Although the Manitoba Government was approached several times, the Winnipeg School did not receive provincial aid until 1920, and then only intermittently. In contrast, the Ontario School of Art in Toronto was founded by artists, with provincial support.

This original funding/founder difference led to variations in the operations of the two schools. Because of the provincial involvement, the Ontario Art Schools were closely tied to the education system and teacher training received top priority. In contrast, the Winnipeg School was a business proposition. It would "lend eminence to the city and advertise its progressiveness beyond its borders," attracting visitors and thus increasing trade. As a bonus, well-trained commer-