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King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie. (1874-1950). Prime
Minister.

Original, 1641, 1703, 1815-1969, 231.650 m. Photocopies,
1908-1950, 7.250 m. Transcripts, 1893-1950, 17.340 m.
Finding Aid No. 502.

1989-03-10
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William Lyon Mackenzie King, a grandson of William Lyon Mackenzie, was born in Kitchener (then Berlin), Ontario, 17 December 1874. He attended the University of Toronto (B.A., LL.B.), the University of Chicago, and Harvard University (M.A., Ph.D.). His field of study was Political Economy, with labour problems as his special interest. In 1900, he was appointed the first Deputy Minister of Labour and editor of the of the Labour Gazette. In 1908, he resigned to enter the House of Commons and in 1909 he entered the cabinet as the first Minister of Labour. He left politics after his defeat in the election of 1911 and from 1914 to 1917, he worked for the Rockefeller Foundation investigating industrial relations. He re-entered politics in 1919 after he was chosen leader of the Liberal Party. At the end of 1921, he became Prime Minister and held the post (with the exception of three months in 1926) until his party's defeat in the election of 1930.

He was Leader of the Opposition until October 1935 when the Liberals came back into power. From that time he was Prime Minister until he retired on 15 November 1948. He died 22 July 1950 at his Kingsmere estate.

The W.L. Mackenzie King Papers were deposited in the Public Archives of Canada by the terms of Mr. King's will. The papers were the property of his literary executors until they became the property of the Crown. The final transfer occurred 30 June 1977.

Access is Restricted.

Some type of finding aid exists for each series in the King Papers. The description of each series includes a note about that series' finding aid(s). Consult the Political and Public Affairs Archives for any possible finding aids in process.

The following portions of the King Papers are available on microform: Primary Series Correspondence (J1), Memoranda and Notes Series (J4), Speeches (J5) 1899-1932, and the Diaries (J13). The finding aid for each of these series includes a microfilm conversion list.