



**YORK UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**Inventory of the  
Gerald Caplan fonds**

**Inventory #F0218**

The digitization of this finding aid was made possible - in part or entirely - through the Canadian Culture Online Program of Canadian Heritage, the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

## F0218 - Gerald Caplan fonds

**Fonds/Collection Number:** F0218

**Title:** Gerald Caplan fonds

**Dates:** 1985-2001

**Extent:** 0.6 m of textual records

**Biographical Sketch/  
Administrative History:** Gerald Lewis Caplan, public affairs commentator and consultant, was born on 8 March 1938 and educated at the University of Toronto (B.A., 1960 ; M.A., 1961) and the University of London where he received his PhD in African Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in 1977. In 1965-1966, he lectured at the University College of Rhodesia following which he was an Associate Professor at the Ontario Institute in Studies in Education from 1967 until 1977. From 1970-1977, he was Senior Adviser to and Campaign Manager for the New Democratic Party of Ontario under leader Stephen Lewis. He was Director of the CUSO-Nigeria Program (1977-1979), Canadian Director of CUSO (1979), Director, City of Toronto Health Advocacy Unit (1980-1982), Federal Secretary, New Democratic Party of Canada (1982-1984), National Campaign Manager, NDP General Election (1984), Co-chair, Government of Canada Task Force on Broadcasting Policy (1985-1986), Co-chair, Royal Commission on Learning, Ontario (1993-1995), Director of Research and Strategic Issues, Ontario NDP Party Caucus (1998-1999) and, most recently Visiting Scholar, Economic Commission for Africa and Research Associate, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University (2000). Over the course of his career, Caplan has been a syndicated columnist for the Toronto Star (1984-1993) and television commentator. He is the author of several monographs including 'The Elites of Barotseland, 1878-1969 : A Political History of Zambia's Western Province' (1970), 'The Dilemma of Canadian Socialism : The C.C.F. in Ontario' (1973), 'Just Causes : Notes of an Unrepentant Socialist' (1993), 'Rwanda : The Preventable Genocide' (1994) and principle author of the UNICEF State of the World Report (1996, 1997) in addition to numerous articles, book reviews and reports.

**Scope and Content:** The fonds consists of records which document Caplan's career as a public affairs commentator, consultant and social activist. It has been arranged into the following series:

S00195	Journals, calendars, diaries
S00196	Correspondence and subject files
S00197	New Democratic Party files
S00198	Rwanda report files

**Restrictions on  
Access and Use:** Some restrictions apply. All permission requests must be directed via the University Archivist.

**Finding Aid:** File list available.

**URL of Finding Aid:** <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000218.htm>

**Accruals:** The fonds comprises the following accession: 2001-007. Further accruals may be expected.

**Immediate source of  
acquisition:** Donated by Gerald Caplan in 2001.

**Subject Access Points:** Caplan, Gerald L., 1938-  
New Democratic Party  
New Democratic Party of Ontario

**Provenance Access Points:** Caplan, Gerald L., 1938-