Dr. Hugh Ian Macdonald, OC, KLJ, LLD



Born in Toronto, Ontario, Macdonald received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto in 1952. A Rhodes scholar, he received a Master of Arts degree in 1954 and a Bachelor of Philosophy (Economics) degree in 1955. In 1955, he started teaching at the University of Toronto and became an assistant professor of economics in 1962.

In 1965, he became Chief Economist for the Government of Ontario Department of Economics and Development. He later became Deputy Treasurer in 1967, Deputy Minister of Treasury and Economics in 1968,

and Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs in 1972. In 1974, he was named president of York University, a position he held with distinction for more than 10 years. Macdonald is now President Emeritus of York University, as well as a professor of public policy and economics, and director of the Master of Public Administration program. In the community, Macdonald has served several Canadian and international companies and institutions, including: the AGF Companies; McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd.; the Canadian Rhodes Scholars Foundation; the Council of the Royal Commonwealth Society; the International Association of Universities; the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education; the Canadian Hockey Association; and the Empire Club of Canada, among many others.

During his career, Macdonald has received many honours, including the Governor General's Medal; the Centennial Medal; the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal; Officer of the Order of Canada; Citation of Merit, the Court of Canadian Citizenship; the Medal of the Dominican Republic; the Canada 125 Medal; the Award of Merit of the Canadian Bureau for International Education; Honorary Life Member, the Canadian Olympic Association; the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal; and the Vanier Medal, plus many other accolades.

In 2005, he was honoured by the Government of Ontario with the creation of the H. Ian Macdonald Visiting Economist position in the Ministry of Finance and by York University with the George Tatham Award in recognition of a lifetime of teaching excellence.

Honours

- 1977 Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal
- 1978 Knight of the Acadia Commandery, Order of Saint Lazarus Canada
- 1992 Canada 125 Medal
- 2002 Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal
- Governor General's Medal
- Officer of the Order of Canada
- Citation of Merit
- Vanier Medal