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Saskatchewan native named chancellor of Ontario university

Willard Z. Estey, a retired Supreme Court of Canada judge born and educated in Saskatchewan, has been named chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont. The appointment of the university's sixth chancellor was announced by the president today at a regular meeting of the board of governors.

In addition to presiding over ceremonial functions such as convocation, the chancellor is a member of both the board of governors and senate, and a respected adviser to the president.

"Willard Estey is an outstanding Canadian," WLU president John Weir said. "He is a man who has deep concerns about issues and does not hesitate to express his views."

Estey, who will be officially installed as chancellor at Laurier's fall convocation on Oct. 28, will serve for four years.

"I'm interested in education and I get a kick out of going to universities," he said. "This fall will be the first time since the Second World War that I haven't taught in a law school.

"Now I'm interested in the organizational side of university," said Estey, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Laurier in 1977.

Estey, who retired in 1988 from the Supreme Court of Canada after serving 11 years, has the distinction of writing the

Supreme Court's first ruling under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1984.

The former judge has headed four government inquiries dealing with the Gander air crash, Air Canada, banking operations, and the steel industry.

Named a companion to the Order of Canada last week, he is now a special adviser to the chair of the Bank of Nova Scotia and counsel to the McCarthy Tetrault law firm in Toronto.

Born in 1919, Estey obtained law degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and Harvard University. After serving in the Canadian army and the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War, he practised corporate law in Toronto from 1947 to 1973, when he was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal. He became chief justice of the High Court in 1975; chief justice of Ontario in 1976; and was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1977.

Estey has been involved in education in different ways. He was a professor in the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan in 1946-47 and a lecturer at Osgoode Hall Law School from 1947 to 1951. He serves on the board of regents at Athol Murray College of Notre Dame in Wilcox, Saskatchewan, and is presently chair of both the Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies and the Canadian Law Scholarship Foundation.

Founded in 1911, Laurier specializes in business and economics, social work, and music. It has about 5,000 undergraduate and 420 graduate students.