

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



John E. Cleghorn to serve second term as Laurier Chancellor

Renewed appointment recognizes support of postsecondary and liberal-arts education

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WATERLOO –John E. Cleghorn, chairman and CEO of the Royal Bank of Canada, has been appointed to a second four-year term as chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Laurier's Senate and Board of Governors have given unanimous approval to a motion to re-appoint. The University will make official announcements to the university community during convocation ceremonies on June 2 and 3, and the term begins in October. The unanimous support recognizes Cleghorn's long history with Laurier and his willingness to serve well beyond what is normally required in such an honorary position.

"John Cleghorn has proven to be one of the most involved and committed chancellors," said Bob Rosehart, president and vice-chancellor at Wilfrid Laurier University. "He consistently supports an array of events – conferring degrees at every convocation, championing the value of a liberal-arts education and persuading some of the country's most powerful CEOs to participate in Laurier's annual Chancellor's Summit."

Cleghorn succeeded retired Supreme Court Justice Willard Z. Estey as Chancellor in October, 1996. Since then, he has attended every one of Laurier's annual convocations (held over two days in the spring and one in the fall), conferring 80 per cent of the 9200 degrees earned. He also regularly attends events that range from meetings of Laurier's Board of Governors to Golden Hawk football games.

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Cleghorn has also supported a number of initiatives designed to raise Laurier's profile, along with that of a university education in general and a liberal-arts education in particular. He was one of 17 Ontario chancellors who wrote an open letter to the provincial government asking that it not deprive the liberal arts of crucial resources.

Each year, Cleghorn uses his considerable influence to gather together close to 20 of the country's most powerful chief executive officers to discuss how universities and business can better support one another during the annual Chancellor's Summit organized by Laurier. This year he delivered the Visionary Seminar 2000, an educational forum organized by the Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills that is broadcast to university campuses across the country, from Laurier's Waterloo campus.

Cleghorn's links to Laurier predate his term as chancellor by half-a-century. His father, Edward, was bursar and director of visual education in the 1940s when the university was known as Waterloo College. The family lived across the street from campus and the younger Cleghorn has said he developed his love of football watching practices and games.

Born in Montreal on July 7, 1941, Cleghorn graduated from McGill University in 1962 with a bachelor of commerce degree. He joined the Royal Bank in 1974 and held several positions before being named chairman and chief executive officer in 1995. He is chairman of the Conference Board of Canada, chairman of The National Gallery of Canada Foundation, vice-chairman of the Business Council on National Issues, a director of Canadian Special Olympics Foundation, a governor of McGill University and a director of the International Monetary Conference.

Cleghorn holds honorary degrees from Acadia, Bishop's and Wilfrid Laurier universities. He and his wife, Pattie, have three married children and three grandchildren.