

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Laurier appoints Bob Rae sixth chancellor of the university**

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has appointed former Ontario premier The Honourable Robert Keith Rae as Laurier’s sixth chancellor.

The university’s board of governors, with support from the senate, has approved the appointment. It takes effect on September 1, though Rae will not officially be installed as chancellor until fall convocation ceremonies in October.

Rae was appointed from a slate of 43 possible candidates because his unique mix of beliefs and accomplishments closely mirrors what Laurier attempts to instill in its students.

“Laurier has a history of graduating students who are socially aware and significant contributors to their community,” said Robert Rosehart, president and vice-chancellor of the university. “With a background that includes extensive community service, political leadership, international mediation, and personal interests ranging from hockey to piano, Bob Rae is an ideal individual to fill this important post.”

John E. Cleghorn, who leaves the post of chancellor after seven years and has just been recognized as chancellor emeritus, agrees. “I think Mr. Rae is a really outstanding choice.”

Chancellors generally serve for four years and can be appointed to a second term.

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As chancellor, Rae will provide leadership and guidance to the campus community through involvement in various aspects of university life. The chancellor presides over graduation ceremonies and officially bestows all diplomas and degrees. He is a member of the board of governors and the senate, and serves on the senate honorary degree committee.

Rae served as Ontario's 21<sup>st</sup> premier and was elected eight times to federal or provincial parliaments before his retirement from politics in 1996. During his term as premier, his government was responsible for an historic statement of relationship between the government and First Nations people of Ontario. He was also extensively involved in the constitutional discussions leading up to the drafting of the Charlottetown Accord in 1992.

He served as co-chair of the Mont Tremblant Conference on Federalism in 1999. He has also acted as an advisor on federalism and constitutional issues to both the government of Sri Lanka and the rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. These talks are continuing.

He is currently a partner with the Goodmans law firm and chairman and president of the Forum of Federations. He also serves as chairman or director of such organizations as the Canadian Unity Council, the Institute for Research on Public Policy, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Hydro One Inc.

Rae earned a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of laws from the University of Toronto and was a Rhodes Scholar from Ontario in 1969. He obtained a bachelor of philosophy from Oxford in 1971 and was named a Queen's counsel in 1984. He has received honorary doctorates from the Law Society of Upper Canada, the University of Toronto, Assumption University and Huntington University. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto and senior fellow of Massey College.

Rae was appointed to Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada in 1998 and appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000. He's published two books – *From Protest to Power* and *The Three Questions*.

Born in Ottawa in 1948, Rae is married to Arlene Perly Rae and the couple has three daughters. He is fluent in English and French, and speaks some Italian. He enjoys skiing, tennis, golf, hockey and fishing. He plays piano and guitar.