

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Allan Wachowich

The Honourable Allan Wachowich, QC, Hon. LLD, was installed as Concordia's first chancellor in 2013, serving a four-year term. As a voting member of Concordia's Board of Governors, he represented the public interest of the university and presided over the annual convocation and degree conferrals.

His Honour's family was one of the first of five Polish families to immigrate to Alberta in the 1940s. They settled in Opal before moving to Edmonton.

He graduated from St. Joseph's High School, where he played for the basketball team and served as class president. He then went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from the University of Alberta.

He was first admitted to the Alberta Bar in 1959 and appointed a Judge of the District Court of Alberta in 1974, before becoming Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta in 1979. His Honour acted as Alberta's Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, beginning in 2000, and tendered his resignation officially on October 1, 2009.

Throughout his legal career, His Honour dealt with most areas of law and received multiple recognitions for his pro bono work. His numerous charity and community involvements include serving as Director for the Task Force on Community Safety, Arbitrator for the Canadian Football League, and Chair of the Singer Memorial Scholarship Fund.

His Honour was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree (LLD) from the University of Alberta in 2012 and is thrilled to be Concordia's recipient of an honorary degree this year. Education has always been an important part of His Honour's life. "The motivation of my parents coming to Canada was to ensure that their children and grandchildren received an education," he explains.

The Honourable Allan Wachowich currently lives in Edmonton with his wife Elizabeth. He is a proud father of four and grandfather of eight.