



James (Jim) MacDonald

Honorary Doctor of Laws

Today, James (Jim) MacDonald is Vice-President of Canada's RBC Dominion Securities, where he has been an investment advisor for more than 35 years. But back in high school if you'd asked MacDonald, "What are you going to be when you grow up?" he would have struggled for an answer.

"By the end of my second year of Grade 9, not having passed French, I was put in the High School Leaving Program. At the end of Grade 11, I was at home supposedly studying for my finals, when a realization hit me," MacDonald recalled. "School for me was finished. I had no expertise, no training, and no abilities. I suddenly got this awful feeling of anxiety. I still remember that feeling."

MacDonald enrolled at The University of Winnipeg Collegiate, and that feeling of anxiety began to subside. Soon, he began to thrive, then to excel. MacDonald graduated from The Collegiate (1964), earned a B.Sc. in Administrative Studies from the University of North Dakota (1968), and launched a career in finance that he never could have imagined in his early high school days.

Ever since, MacDonald has been a loyal supporter of the University and its Collegiate, "giving back" to the school he credits with turning his life around. He was the founder of The University of Winnipeg Collegiate Alumni Association in the 1970s, and served as its inaugural President for its first five years. MacDonald joined The University of Winnipeg's Board of Regents in 1980. Over the nine years which MacDonald served on the Board, he initiated and chaired the Endowments Investment Review Committee and the Finance Committee, and served as Treasurer.

MacDonald is also a founding director and Vice-Chair of the University of Winnipeg Foundation, and chairs the Foundation's Investment Committee. MacDonald continues to support the mission of The Collegiate, serving as Chair of the Foundation's Collegiate Appeal, an initiative within The University of Winnipeg's Capital Campaign.

In April 2005, MacDonald donated an unparalleled \$1 million dollars to The University of Winnipeg Collegiate for student bursaries, the largest single donation in the University's history. "This gift is my way of saying thank you for all that The Collegiate has done for me," said MacDonald. It is also his way of ensuring that future generations of students have the same opportunities as he did, regardless of financial means.

In addition to his exceptional philanthropy and service to the University, MacDonald's leadership extends beyond UWinnipeg to the wider community. MacDonald has served on the boards of Ducks Unlimited, the United Way of Winnipeg, The Nature Conservancy, and the Manitoba Lung Association.

The University of Winnipeg is proud to call Jim MacDonald a member of its family of alumni, and honoured to present him with an Honorary Doctor of Laws today.