

## Fr. Roger Guindon 1920 - 2012

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**F**ather Roger Guindon was a priest and administrator who greatly helped transform the University of Ottawa into a world-class public institution. He was also a catalyst behind the University's famed bilingualism. Cumulatively, he spent more than 70 years on the University of Ottawa campus.

He was born in Ville-Marie, in Northern Québec, in 1920. He enrolled at the University of Ottawa to finish his secondary studies in 1933, obtained a Bachelor of Philosophy in 1942 and a Bachelor of Theology in 1945. In 1946, he was ordained a catholic priest, and a year later, he became Dean of the Faculty of Theology while also serving as a lecturer. In 1964, he stepped away from the Faculty of Theology to serve as the University's Rector, a function he occupied until 1984.

His presidency oversaw the construction of 15 new buildings, including the core of the health sciences and medical campus, which was named in his honour in 1985. This project was achieved in partnership with the Government of Ontario, and required a substantial fundraising campaign, something that Guindon achieved with admirability. This project also gave birth to the Ottawa Hospital General Campus, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and the Royal Ottawa Regional Rehabilitation Centre. He named Morisset Hall and Library in tribute to his uncle. Guindon also allowed thousands more students to gain access to the University and ensured that the student body was given seats on the University's Board of Governors and Senate. Overall, he enabled the University to grow in an unprecedented way.

He held 9 honorary doctorates, including one from the University of Ottawa and a Doctor of Laws from Trent University. He was also a fellow at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He was made a



Companion of the Order of Canada in 1973, was awarded the Order of Ontario in 1987 and was made an Officer of the National Order of Quebec in 1996. He died in November 2012 at the age of 92. Although as a Roman Catholic priest he never married and had no children, he did “father” a school.