

Allan Rock: Coming Full Circle

Native of Ottawa, Allan Rock is a University of Ottawa alumnus who graduated from the University of Ottawa High School before completing a Baccalaureate in Arts in 1968 and a law degree in 1971. Displaying an interest in politics as a student, he was elected president of the Student Federation in 1969. In this role, one of his major accomplishments was hosting John Lennon and Yoko Ono for a peace conference.

For twenty years, Allan Rock conducted a varied practice in civil, commercial and administrative litigation. Nonetheless, he became renowned on the federal political scene, quickly emerging as a prominent personality on Parliament Hill. In 1993, he was elected as the Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Centre and then appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. In this role, he introduced significant improvements to the Criminal Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act. Allan Rock became Minister of Health in 1997, where he spearheaded the creation of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Appointed Minister of Industry in 2002, he was responsible for Canada's main research granting councils and for many initiatives involving the future of Canadian universities.

In 2003, Allan Rock was appointed Ambassador of Canada to the United Nations (UN) where he was an outspoken advocate for human rights, human security and UN reform. At the 2005 UN World Summit, he led the Canadian effort to secure the adoption by world leaders of the *Responsibility to Protect* doctrine, which protects populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. His other roles at the UN included chairing a working group on obstacles to long-term development in Haiti, participating in efforts to end the conflict in Uganda, and taking part in peace negotiations in Darfur.

Throughout his career, Allan Rock has received a number of awards, including two honorary degrees and the 2007 Meritas-Tabaret Award, conferred by the University of Ottawa to graduates who have made a significant contribution on the national scene. On July 15, 2008, Allan Rock became University of Ottawa's 29th President and Vice-Chancellor, marking a career that has come full circle.