



Robert Burns

When the Québec education system underwent a thorough remodelling in the late 1960s, the demographics of the West Island ensured that there would be an English language CEGEP in our region. The challenge was to build a foundation upon which would be constructed an institution that would meet the pre-university and professional program needs of students seeking an English language education. The newly formed Board of Governors selected Robert Burns as the first Director General in 1970.

JOHN ABBOTT

- Participated in the selection of a site for the new college;
- Was responsible for the hiring process of the College's first administrative and teaching staff;
- Steered a course for John Abbott through the channel between the traditional and highly innovative administrative and academic practices of the new CEGEP system;
- Stepped away from his administrative role to teach in the Humanities department from 1972 - 1996;
- Contributed to the development of Humanities courses which became the foundation for courses still being offered;
- Founded the John Abbott community liaison programs which began with Abbott students participating in programs at the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Veterans Hospital.

QUÉBEC EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Teacher with the Montreal Catholic School Commission;
- *Directeur général des écoles, la Commission des écoles catholique de la cité de Dorval;*
- Québec Ministry of Education: Religion, Publications and Teacher Formation;
- Committees and Superior Council of Education;
- Executive Committee, Association of Canadian Community Colleges;
- Member of the Concordia University Board of Governors.

His concern for the welfare of humanity extended beyond the education system and led him to become the founder of the Ward Enrichment program for Medical and Psychiatric patients at the Sainte-Anne's Veterans Hospital. He also has served as a Tribunal Panel Member with the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

For more than four decades he complemented his contributions to education and the human condition as a free-lance commentator, announcer, writer, actor and education analyst with CBC and CTV.

Bob retired from John Abbott College in 1996.

EMPLOYEE