



POWER CORPORATION
OF CANADA

THE HONOURABLE PAUL DESMARAIS, P.C., C.C., O.Q.
1927-2013
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

- 1927: Born on January 4, in Sudbury, Ontario, son of the late Jean-Noël Desmarais, Q.C. and Lébéa Laforest.
- 1949: Obtained his Bachelors of Commerce degree from the University of Ottawa, following which he returned to Sudbury, Ontario to manage his father's bus company, Sudbury Bus Lines.
- 1951: Purchased control of Sudbury Coppercliff Street Railway.
- 1953: Married Jacqueline Maranger on September 8; has two sons, Paul and André, and two daughters, Louise and Sophie.
- 1959 to 1968: Developed business holdings in transportation, life insurance and other diversified interests.
- 1968: Acquired control of Power Corporation of Canada*, and became Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.
- 1969: Bought a majority position in The Great-West Life Assurance Company.
- 1970: Increased Power Corporation's direct stake in Investors Group to over 50 per cent.
- 1977 to 1978: Substantially increased Power Corporation's holdings in Investors Group and Great-West Life.
- 1978: Founded Canada China Business Council.
- 1996: Passed the reins of management of Power Corporation to his sons, Paul Jr. and André. Continued as a Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Power Corporation.
- 2013: Died peacefully on October 8, at the age of 86, surrounded by his loved ones at Domaine Laforest in the Charlevoix region, province of Québec, Canada.

*As more fully described on the Corporation's website at:
<http://www.powercorporation.com/en/about/company-history/>



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Decorations

Member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada
Companion of the Order of Canada
Officer of the National Order of Québec
Grand' Croix de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (France)
Commandeur de l'Ordre de Léopold II (Belgium)

Honorary Degrees

LL.D., University of Moncton, Moncton, New Brunswick
LL.D., Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario
D.Adm., University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario
LL.D., St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova-Scotia
LL.D., Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario
LL.D., McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
Doctorate Honoris Causa, University of Montréal, Montréal, Québec
LL.D., Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland
LL.D., Concordia University, Montréal, Québec
LL.D., McGill University, Montréal, Québec
D.Adm., Laval University, Québec, Québec
LL.D., University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
LL.D., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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