Dr. Robert Gourdeau, MD, FRCPC

CMA President, 1977-78
Laval University, 1944
Pediatrics

Dr. Gourdeau, a professor of pediatrics at Université Laval and Past President of the Quebec Medical Association, served in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War II. He was put through medical school by his parish priest in Quebec City. “He told me that I could pay him back when I got my MD,” he said in a 1986 interview with CMAJ. In the interview he recalled his first practice in New Brunswick, where he was 100 km from the nearest hospital and the pay was $8,000 a year. Dr. Gourdeau was also part of the now-disappearing generation of physicians that practised both before and after the introduction of medicare in Canada.