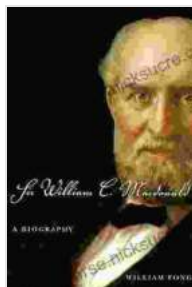


# Sir William Macdonald: A Visionary Philanthropist



Sir William Macdonald (December 18, 1831 – June 9, 1917) was a Canadian tobacco magnate, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He was the founder of the Macdonald Tobacco Company, one of the largest tobacco

companies in the world. He was also a major benefactor of McGill University, donating over \$10 million to the university, which helped to establish the Macdonald Physics Building, Macdonald Engineering Building, and the Macdonald College. Macdonald was also a patron of the arts, and he donated generously to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.



## Sir William C. Macdonald: A Biography

★★★★★ 5 out of 5



### Early life and career

William Macdonald was born in Glengarry County, Ontario, on December 18, 1831. His parents, Alexander and Ann (Macdonell) Macdonald, were Scottish immigrants who had settled in Canada in the early 1800s. Macdonald's father was a farmer and a miller, and he instilled in his son a strong work ethic and a commitment to education. Macdonald attended common schools in Glengarry County, and he later studied at the University of Toronto.

After graduating from university, Macdonald worked as a teacher and a journalist. In 1858, he moved to Montreal and established a tobacco company with his brother, John. The company, Macdonald Tobacco, grew

rapidly, and it soon became one of the largest tobacco companies in Canada. Macdonald was a shrewd businessman, and he used his wealth to support a variety of philanthropic and educational causes.

## **Philanthropy**

William Macdonald was a generous philanthropist, and he donated over \$1 million to various educational and cultural institutions. He was a major benefactor of McGill University, donating over \$10 million to the university. This donation helped to establish the Macdonald Physics Building, Macdonald Engineering Building, and the Macdonald College. Macdonald was also a patron of the arts, and he donated generously to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

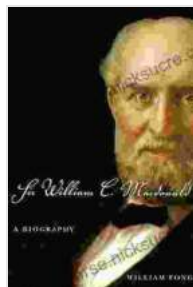
In addition to his donations to educational and cultural institutions, Macdonald also supported a variety of other causes. He was a strong advocate for public health, and he donated money to hospitals and other health care facilities. He was also a supporter of the YMCA and the Salvation Army. Macdonald's philanthropy had a lasting impact on Canadian society, and he is remembered as one of the country's most generous philanthropists.

## **Later life and death**

William Macdonald retired from business in 1907, and he spent the rest of his life traveling and pursuing his philanthropic interests. He died in Montreal on June 9, 1917, at the age of 85. Macdonald was buried in Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal.

## **Legacy**

William Macdonald was a visionary philanthropist who made a significant contribution to Canadian society. His donations to educational and cultural institutions helped to shape the country's landscape, and his legacy continues to benefit Canadians today. Macdonald is remembered as one of Canada's greatest philanthropists, and his name is synonymous with generosity and public service.

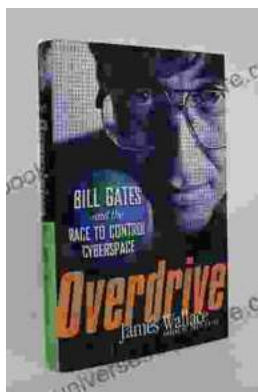


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