As an eminently public servant and a gentleman in the truest sense of that word, John Roger Meredith has committed a lifetime to public education in this province. During his career, he has provided the strong leadership needed in order to transform curriculum development in the public schools of British Columbia from a centralized function of the Ministry of Education to one in which teacher and scholars have come to play a significant role. In addition, John Meredith actively encouraged and strengthened professional development programs in the field of education so that the teachers of this province could effectively use new curricula; he supported the development of local educational programs which met the highest of standards, he was a strong proponent of the use of Canadian texts and course content, and he supported Canadian authors, long before such practice was recognized as important. His work as a senior official of the Ministry of Education has always been characterized by thoughtfulness, sensitivity, good sound judgment, and the insight necessary to generate practical, widely accepted solutions to the important problems that have faced our public schools.

Beyond his duties in the Ministry of Education, he has been involved in international education through UNESCO, he has served as a member of a Canadian delegation to the Soviet Union and he has represented Canada and British Columbia on a variety of other international groups. John Meredith's important contribution to public education has been recognized by honorary life memberships from the British Columbia Teachers' Federation and from the Canadian Education Association. Within his immediate community he has been an active contributor to a number of groups and organizations, including the Chairmanship of the Victoria Symphony Society.

An inspiring colleague, esteemed and respected by all with whom he worked, John Meredith is an outstanding professional in his field. Given that he is a man who has never sought recognition for his many contributions, Simon Fraser University is particularly proud to honour him today. It is with great pleasure, Mr. Chancellor, that I present to you for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, JOHN ROGER MEREDITH.