No layman has done more for public education in British Columbia than Frank Beinder. For thirty years he has demonstrated an extraordinary social commitment to the people of our Province. He is an energetic activist, passionate in his support of improved learning opportunities for youth, and relentless in his opposition to those who would limit them.

He served as Chairman of the Trail School Board and was elected President of the British Columbia School Trustees Association. In this latter capacity, he took a leading role in establishing the Educational Research Institute of British Columbia and the Teacher Qualification Board, two bodies which continue to provide important services. In addition, he was Chairman of the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Frank Beinder's unique and signal contribution, however, has been to the development of the College and Institute system of British Columbia. He assisted in the creation of Selkirk College in Castlegar, serving as Chairman of its Council during the formative years. He was appointed by the government to the Community Colleges Task Force and later became President of the British Columbia Association of Colleges. He is currently the active and selfless Executive Director of that Association.

But a mere recitation of achievements and offices held, significant as these are, fails to do justice to Frank Beinder, the man. Blessed with a magnificent speaking voice and a commanding platform presence he has argued the case for education in general, and community colleges in particular, in every corner of the Province and across Canada and the United States.

One of his friends has remarked that when Frank speaks everyone listens. Among his listeners have been Premiers, Ministers and Deputy Ministers. They have not always liked what they heard because Frank Beinder has made no secret of his belief that colleges must be nourished by and responsive to their local communities and must not become pale creatures of bureaucratic control.

A man of personal courage, warmth and charm, Frank Beinder's contribution is the embodiment of the advice he received as a boy from his father, "The joy of life is in the struggle".

Mr. Chancellor, I present to you the man known throughout British Columbia as "Mr. College", Frank Beinder, and now ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.