ALAN M. EYRE

Mr. Chancellor, I present to you Alan Murray Eyre, tireless worker on behalf of higher education, dedicated servant of the community and businessman of outstanding accomplishment. "A great society", Alfred North Whitehead once said, "is a society in which men of business think greatly of their functions." The contributions of Alan Eyre to all aspects of community life in Canada epitomize such a member of a great society.

Alan Eyre came to British Columbia from his native Saskatchewan in 1926. He completed a degree in Civil Engineering at The University of British Columbia and lectured there briefly before embarking on a successful business career. He distinguished himself as an extraordinary corporate citizen, demonstrating the drive, intelligence, enthusiasm and skilful management that came to serve so many humanitarian, educational and philanthropic causes.

Alan Eyre was a founding member of Simon Fraser University's Board of Governors and, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, played a crucial role during the University's formative years. In the 1960s he was one of three dedicated persons who directed the successful capital campaign for the three provincial universities and raised an impressive fifteen million dollars. Alan Eyre also served as a member of The University of British Columbia's Senate and Board of Governors and is now contributing his experience to the Universities Council of B.C.

But it is not only higher education that has benefitted from his innovative and practical leadership; many community, athletic and philanthropic causes have done so as well. To mention only a few: Alan Eyre has played a leading role in the Paraplegic Foundation, The University of British Columbia Health Services Centre and Grace Hospital; he has worked with the Salvation Army and with the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews; and he has generously given his time and experience to many professional and commercial associations. His devotion to the ideals of a more humanitarian society has inspired many volunteers to do what he has so long been doing - to help build a better and more caring society.

In writing about Simon Fraser University's early days, first President Patrick McTaggart-Cowan described Alan Eyre as "the right man in the right place at the right time". Mr. Chancellor, it is a rare privilege and a great honour to be able to identify a single individual who has contributed so much to our University and to the community. I therefore take great pride, on behalf of the Senate of this University, in presenting Alan Murray Eyre for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.