Mr. Chancellor, I present to you Paul Cote, a man whose energy and generosity of spirit have been inexhaustible in the service of this University. Convocation Founder, Senator, Member and twice Chairman of the Board of Governors, Chancellor for two terms, Alumnus and Sessional Lecturer, he is unique among us. Through Paul Cote's many years of association with our University, much that we honour here today has been marked by his guidance and shaped by his inventiveness. Let us in turn now honour him.

It was Wordsworth who wrote:

"Two voices are there: one is of the sea
One of the mountains; each a mighty voice."

It must be that Paul Cote has heard these voices, for the land and sea both call to him. As an eleventh generation Canadian who traces his ancestry to the founding of New France and whose family once farmed the Plains of Abraham at the battle site now enshrined in history, the ties to the land are strong.

Born a native son of Vancouver in 1921, Paul Cote went on to other lands made terrible by war. After military service in Sicily, Italy, Germany and Holland, he returned to study at The University of British Columbia, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1947 and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering the following year. Two decades after completing his earlier studies, he re-entered academic life and was graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Master of Business Administration degree in 1971.

Heeding the voice of the mountains in his youth, Paul Cote embarked on a distinguished professional career; first as an engineer in the forests of Vancouver Island and later in the construction of the great pipeline through the Alaskan wilderness. At different stages over the years 1955 to 1984, Paul Cote assisted the development of our nation through his contributions as a builder of ports and bridges, steel-fabricator, pipeliner, highway-maker and tunnel-driver -- Paul Cote has done all these things and done them well.

But what of the sea, that other voice? He is a keen and skilled sailor as his record in international competition so clearly reveals. Among his eight children, his sons have gone on under his tutelage in seamanship to win Olympic sailing medals and to reflect the quality of his imparted skills. On the sea, as on the land, Paul Cote is a man of sound accomplishment.

Mr. Chancellor, it is my distinct pleasure, on behalf of the Senate of this University, to present Paul Cote for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.