It is my distinct pleasure, Madam Chancellor, to present to you Barbara Frum, an individual whose nightly appearances in homes across this country make her a fond acquaintance of all Canadians. "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a distant country", runs the Proverb. Although the news conveyed through Barbara Frum’s journalism is not always good, her presentation consistently offers a refreshing draft of clear insight that is finely crafted and adroitly delivered.

Aside from its other attraction, since 1937 Niagara Falls can lay claim to being Barbara Frum’s birthplace and the community in which she spent her childhood years. Graduating from the University of Toronto with a Baccalaureate Degree in Modern History, she set out on her journalistic career in 1959, first as a freelance writer and commentator for Canada’s national radio network and later moving into print with newspaper and magazine articles for publications ranging from The Globe and Mail to Maclean’s and Saturday Night.

From 1967 to 1981, she returned to the airwaves as co-host of a Toronto news and current affairs show; extended her television credits by presenting both local and national programs; continued her work as a columnist; and took part in special events coverage ranging from political conventions and election campaigns to royal tours and royal weddings. As testimony to her amazing stamina and professionalism, over the decade beginning in 1971, she rose to national prominence as host and interviewer on CBC Radio’s As It Happens — miraculously finding time to publish a book on the experience in 1976.

For the past eight years she has been host of CBC Television’s signature current affairs program, The Journal, bringing national and international events to the attention of viewers through her penetrating interviews and articulate analysis. Without doubt one of Canada’s premier journalists, Barbara Frum is a recipient of four ACTRA Awards, the National Press Club of Canada Award for her Outstanding Contribution to Canadian journalism, and the Canadian Press Woman of the Year Award in literature, arts and education. Added to these honours, in 1979 she received the Order of Canada.

Barbara Frum represents all that is best in responsible journalism — the drive to serve the public interest by reporting events fairly, with accuracy and with spirit. When the news is conveyed with integrity, so too is knowledge conveyed and through knowledge, public vigilance is enlarged for our common benefit. Responsible journalism is therefore akin to good scholarship; it puts truth before all else. For these reasons and in recognition of her lasting contribution to Canadian journalism, Madam Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I am privileged to present Barbara Frum for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.