Mr. Chancellor, it is my great honour to present a British Columbian who embodies the very qualities we associate with heroism: courage, compassion, and dignity. Betty Fox has devoted the past twenty years to raising awareness about the importance of cancer research. As a community leader, she serves as a role model to us all. We pay tribute to her today for her steadfast commitment to the promotion of human health and development through research.

Like many who rise to life's extraordinary challenges, Betty Fox never sought to be in the public eye. Yet, in the face of the greatest of personal losses, she undertook the daunting task of keeping alive her son's dream of a cure for cancer. Thus began her own marathon, one requiring great reserves of strength and courage, qualities she possesses in abundance.

At one time she was the manager of a greeting card store. Today, she inspires thousands with her quiet words of hope, encouraging communities large and small to develop their own events. Humble but determined, she journeys across Canada twice each year, telling her son's story to anyone who will listen, from school children to corporate leaders. All who hear her message are moved by her unwavering sense of purpose.

As Honorary Chairperson of the Terry Fox Foundation, Betty Fox assists in the organization of the annual Terry Fox Runs, ensuring that they remain grassroots events. She believes that ordinary citizens are the ones who make a difference, and each year she unites them in a common cause. The annual Terry Fox Runs now number in the thousands and take place the world over. Together, they have raised close to 300 million dollars for cancer research.

Mr. Chancellor, Betty Fox has said that it is not often that parents get the chance to follow in their children's footsteps. She has done just that, and in so doing she has left an indelible impression on our collective consciousness. In keeping alive her son's dream, she has encouraged each of us to pursue our own. She has our gratitude, affection and respect. I ask that you now confer upon Betty Fox the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.