Mr. Chancellor, the name Roméo Dallaire is synonymous with courage in the face of tragedy. A catalyst in the fight for justice, he has expressed with eloquence his passion for truth and captured our collective attention with his message of hope.

Roméo Dallaire has said: "If our vision is our self interest and the advancement of our nations, there should also be a strategic focus on that higher plane called humanity. We are not allowed to abdicate that responsibility."

These words reveal his faith in the worth and dignity of all human beings, and his life is a testament to those same words. A highly decorated Lieutenant General, he served his country nobly for 35 years and earned the Meritorious Service Cross for bringing honour to our armed forces and the Vimy Award for significant contributions to the defence of Canada.

As Force Commander of the United Nations Observer and Assistance Mission in Rwanda, he saw first hand the kind of horror most of us cannot even imagine. Despite the resulting catastrophe and the great personal toll it exacted, Roméo Dallaire emerged out of that dark period to become one of this country’s most acclaimed national figures and a hero to all who stand for justice and decency. Since then he has shared with audiences around the world his grueling experiences of that time. As a lecturer, public speaker, and as the author of *Shake Hands with the Devil*, he has made all of us face our responsibility to our fellow human beings. And he has done so with remarkable forthrightness, grace and compassion.

Roméo Dallaire is a moral exemplar for those who seek freedom and peace. His life is a remarkable example of the triumph of the human spirit. His public deeds have given us something to believe in, and inspired not only the citizens of this country, but also like-minded people the world over. And in private, his bravery and leadership in the fight for freedom and peace in the international arena are matched by his courage and example in battles against the personal demons of post-traumatic stress.

Our government has recognized his selfless contributions by investing him in the Order of Canada, and just recently by appointing him to the Senate. Today, we pay homage to this great leader.

Mr. Chancellor, I am honoured to ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you now confer upon Senator Roméo Dallaire the Degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*. 