Mr. Chancellor, as President and the guiding intellectual force of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, Dr. John Dixon has been a courageous champion of what we at Simon Fraser University value most highly: the vigorous expression of ideas from a variety of perspectives.

John Dixon is by profession a respected teacher of philosophy at Capilano College, but his classroom extends to the public forum. There, in the noble tradition of the philosopher as public intellectual, he has engaged himself in many of the most important questions of our day. For the past twenty years, as speaker, scholar, and writer, John Dixon has been our public conscience. He has participated in countless interviews and speaking engagements and written eloquently on many topics for leading newspapers such as *The Globe and Mail* and the *Vancouver Sun*. He is the author and coauthor of important books, including *Catastrophic Rights: Experimental Drugs and AIDS*.

His reasoned and cogent arguments have had a profound effect on public opinion across Canada. His defense of our civil liberties has been unrelenting. With neither fear nor favour, he has scrutinized a daunting range of controversial issues, including Native land claims, pornography and the limits of freedom of expression, the concept of individual privacy, and the legitimacy of legislation such as the Anti-terrorism Act. And while many may disagree with his views, none doubt their sincerity or their foundation in scholarly research.

John Dixon also has brought his considerable talent for analysis and explication to bear on social policy. He was, for example, instrumental in helping the AIDS community in British Columbia gain a public voice during the 1980s and 1990s. And as a Senior Policy Advisor to former Prime Minister and Federal Cabinet Minister Kim Campbell, he provided prudent advice in the development of many key legislative and policy proposals.

We are truly fortunate to have John Dixon in our midst, for he is a symbol of intellectual courage and integrity. He is guided by his belief that a genuinely democratic citizenry must have the freedom to communicate about all matters of political consequence, regardless of how controversial and unsettling the ensuing debate may be. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, it is with great pleasure that I ask you now to confer upon Dr. John Dixon the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*. 