Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to introduce Dr. Michael Harcourt, a distinguished British Columbian whose integrity in public service and courage in the face of great personal adversity have earned the admiration of us all.

His exemplary career as a lawyer, community activist, and politician had its roots in the 1960s. After graduating in law, he established the Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society and became Vancouver's first storefront lawyer. A dedicated community activist, he played a key role in convincing the Federal Government that linking waterfront freeways to the Trans-Canada Highway would not be in the best interests of Vancouver. Then, as a Vancouver Alderman for four terms and as Mayor for three, he offered a new concept of urban renewal that involved residential rehabilitation and local area planning. His vision transformed the way residents across Canada looked at their cities. He also led seven trade missions to the Asia Pacific, promoting Vancouver as a gateway to Canada, and was Mayor of Vancouver during the city's staging of Expo '86.

The culmination of his career in politics came when he was elected Premier of British Columbia in 1991. For the next five years, he guided this province through sensitive debates on land use issues and provided vision and leadership on environmental concerns. His government established the Commission on Resources and the Environment. A model of public consultation, this committee formulated new guidelines for forest management, and made a commitment to expand British Columbia's protected areas to 12 percent of the land base. In a full quarter-century of public service as an alderman, mayor, MLA and B.C. Premier, Michael Harcourt's political integrity and enduring commitment to fairness and equity, form his most lasting political legacy.

Today, Michael Harcourt remains a dedicated advocate for sustainable development. As a Senior Associate of both the Liu Centre for the Studies of Global Issues and the Sustainable Development Research Institute at the University of British Columbia, he generously shares his insights with all Canadians. And we at Simon Fraser University have also relied on his wisdom. He was a strong supporter of our desire to build a downtown campus. More recently, he chaired the planning committee for our Cities and Transportation: Choice and Consequences conference.

Michael Harcourt's commitment to society is a testament to his singular devotion to the ideals of his youth. He has never wavered in his conviction that the best solutions to public issues come from people who share their common problems and interests in a spirit of cooperation. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, and in recognition of his service to the people of this province, I ask that you confer upon Michael Harcourt the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.