Mr. Chancellor, Simon Fraser University has the good fortune to possess many friends. Today, I am honoured to present one of its finest and most loyal supporters, Dr. Jacob Kowarsky.

A survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, Jack Kowarsky is no stranger to hardship and suffering. He and his family came to Vancouver after the Second World War and, like many who endured great difficulty, turned adversity into strength, fashioning a life characterized by hard work and good deeds.

After earning his law degree, Jack Kowarsky founded his practice, and as it grew, so, too, did his involvement in the community. He gave freely of his time to further legal education in this province, sharing his vast experience with many young law students and mid-career professionals. An able and patient mentor, he helped many lawyers and judges establish their careers.

Steeped in a tradition that teaches the paramount importance of giving, he also embraced many charitable causes in the Jewish community. For his service he received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Bar-Ilan University in Israel. He has also extended his support to the broader community, providing assistance and inspiration to many people. One of his great contributions to British Columbians came in 1999 with the founding of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada. Jack Kowarsky was the catalyst who sparked the creation and development of this exceptional institution. Today, he continues to provide exemplary leadership as its Chairman.

This university, too, has benefited from his vision and friendship. Long committed to higher education, Jack has served us generously and well over many years. As a past Chair and Vice Chair of our Board of Governors, he provided wise counsel on important matters of governance. He is also a founding director of the Simon Fraser University Community Development Corporation. And as a trustee of the Lohn Foundation, he has been a major benefactor of Simon Fraser University. The Lohn Foundation is the leader in institutional philanthropy to Simon Fraser University, conferring gifts in excess of $6.5 million. These gifts have supported the Co-operative Education Program, the City Program in Continuing Studies, the Lohn Lab for Distance Education, the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and the TIME Centre at SFU’s Harbour Centre campus. The Foundation’s most recent gifts have established the Lohn Foundation Entrance Awards to assist needy students and will support a Leading Edge Endowment Fund Chair to ensure that the finest teachers and researchers are attracted to and retained in British Columbia.

Mr. Chancellor, for his many contributions to the people of this province and to the Simon Fraser University community, and on behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you now confer upon Dr. Jacob Kowarsky the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*. 