Mr. Chancellor, David McLean is a lawyer and businessman, visionary entrepreneur, committed volunteer, and generous philanthropist. He has contributed much to the economic, cultural, and social well being of this province and this country.

A champion of entrepreneurial spirit, David McLean is the Chair and CEO of the McLean Group, responsible for numerous important real estate developments. It was David McLean who undertook the heritage renovation of The Landing, adding greatly to the character and revitalization of downtown Vancouver. During the 1980s, he foresaw a wonderful opportunity for the film industry in BC and began to develop the Vancouver Film Studios, now Canada's premier motion picture complex. Today, this province enjoys an international reputation as a major center for film and television production in large part because of David McLean's foresight and resourcefulness.

Such achievement inspires confidence in all, and in 1994, the then Prime Minister of Canada asked David McLean to lend his talent and business acumen to the Board of the Canadian National Railway. As its Chairman, he has guided this company to its current position as North America's most profitable and efficient railroad.

David McLean epitomizes the business executive as community leader. His range of interests is broad; his embrace, all encompassing. A concerned environmentalist, he has provided leadership to projects to preserve Canada's wetlands. He has offered counsel as a member of various boards, including that of the Vancouver General Hospital, the Vancouver Board of Trade, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

His advocacy of education is a cornerstone of his community service. He has served as Chairman of the University of British Columbia's Board of Governors, and of the Capital Campaign at St. George's School. A benefactor of numerous charities and universities, David McLean is also a good friend of SFU, who has provided leadership and ensured generous support to our Bridge to the Future Campaign, the Council for North American Business Studies, of which he is a former Chairman, and to the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

Mr. Chancellor, for his singular achievements, David McLean has received many honours, among them the Order of British Columbia and SFU's Distinguished Community Leadership Award. Today, in recognition of his unique contributions to his community, I ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon David G. McLean the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.