SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations

The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa,
conferred on Dr. Carole Taylor
Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Carole Taylor, a distinguished British Columbian whose singular success in broadcasting, politics, and business has earned her the admiration of people across Canada.

Carole Taylor first came to the public's attention as the teen-age host of After Four. She continued her rise in broadcast journalism, becoming the first host of CTV's Canada AM and later the first female host of W5. As a reporter she gained recognition for her artful and subtle questioning of many of the world’s leading figures and for her coverage of events such as the devastating floods in Honduras, the revolution in Chile, and the Yom Kippur War in Israel. Her unique style caught the attention of major U.S. networks. Fortunately for us, however, she chose to remain in Canada.

In 1975 she moved to British Columbia and we have benefited enormously ever since. Here, Carole Taylor’s achievements in broadcasting have been matched by her contribution to politics, corporate governance, and community. Commited to social and cultural issues, she entered civic politics, serving two terms on Vancouver City Council where she acted both as leader and conciliator, bringing together government and business to serve the best interests of community. A staunch defender of collegiality, she helped diverse stakeholders reach consensus on many controversial issues. And as Chair of the Mayor’s Task Force on Children, she was instrumental in the city's decision to hire a permanent Children’s Advocate.

Indeed, her work on council was so impressive she was subsequently named Chair of the Vancouver Port Authority and later Chair of Canada Ports Corporation. She redesigned the Corporations’s governance structure, revolutionizing the relationship between management and the board. In 2001, she became Chair of the Vancouver Board of Trade and spearheaded the formation of the Spirit of Vancouver Task Force. For her work on this community-wide effort to revitalize the partnership between business and community in Vancouver, she received the Harold J. Merilees Memorial Award.

Carole Taylor’s exemplary record of achievement in broadcasting, public affairs, and business culminated in her appointment as Chair of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. To this national position she brings the same diamond-hard work ethic, sense of fair play, and far-reaching vision that have won her the respect of colleagues, peers, and friends throughout this country.

Carole Taylor has given much of herself for the good of others. In addition to her many other wide-ranging commitments, Carole Taylor has been a member of the SFU President’s Club, and a valued friend and trusted advisor to this University. For her many and varied contributions to this country's political and cultural life, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of Simon Fraser University, we think it fitting that you honour one of this province's leading citizens by conferring upon her the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.