It is my special privilege, Mr. Chancellor, to present Doris Anderson, whose courage, sense of justice, and vision have inspired a generation of Canadian women. As editor, author, journalist, and pioneering feminist she has made a unique and lasting contribution to the cultural and intellectual enrichment of our country.

Doris Anderson grew up during the Great Depression and quickly learned the meaning of hard work and self-sufficiency. After graduating from the University of Alberta, she moved to Toronto where her remarkable career began. Not one to follow convention, she found her own path, initially working as a writer of advertising copy and radio scripts. Later, she travelled abroad to write short fiction. Upon her return to Canada, she took a job with Chatelaine magazine as an editorial assistant. Just seven years later, in 1958, she became editor, a position she held until 1977.

During her tenure, she transformed Chatelaine from a traditional magazine into the leading voice in the women's movement in Canada. Indeed, throughout the 1960s and 1970s Chatelaine's articles and editorials shaped public opinion about many issues of profound importance to women, including Canada's antiquated divorce laws, employment opportunities for women, and the importance of reproductive choice.

In 1979, Doris Anderson entered the national arena as President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. When in 1980 the government of the day tried to cancel the Council's conference on the Charter of Rights, she resigned. This principled decision was the catalyst that eventually led to the inclusion of an entirely new clause in the Charter, one that confirmed the equality of women and men. Doris Anderson continued to champion the rights of women by running for President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, a position she held from 1982 to 1984. She played an instrumental role in bringing about the historic "women's debate" of the national leaders in the 1984 election campaign.

Admired for her willingness to mentor other writers, Doris Anderson has also earned recognition as an author in her own right. She has written three novels, two works of non-fiction and most recently her autobiography, Rebel Daughter, which was published in 1996. For ten years she was a featured columnist for the Toronto Star.

For her exceptional talent and farsighted leadership, she has received many honours, among them the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario, and the YWCAs Women of Distinction Award.
She is a member of the News Hall of Fame and the recipient of honorary degrees from the Universities of Waterloo, Dalhousie, Concordia, and Alberta. From 1994 to 1996, she served as Chancellor of the University of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Chancellor, Doris Anderson has been a guiding light to women from every walk of life. In recognition of her outstanding commitment to public affairs and her achievements as a writer and editor, I ask that you confer upon Doris Anderson the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.