Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Firoz Rasul, a corporate leader whose vision is profoundly informed by his social conscience. An exemplary business innovator, Mr. Rasul has been guided by his belief that personal success must be used to better the lives of others.

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, he earned his BSc at the University of Hertfordshire. Subsequently, he obtained an MBA at McGill University. We are indeed fortunate that he chose to make this province his home, for here his talents found their full expression. After holding senior positions with firms such as General Foods Corporation and Mobile Data International, he joined Ballard Power Systems in 1988. It was the perfect match between a creative, environmentally conscious company and an executive respected for his ethics and business acumen.

Today, as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Firoz Rasul is steward of a corporation renowned for its revolutionary fuel cell systems, advanced technology that offers the world new hope for pollution-free transportation. The company has earned the support of major corporations such as Daimler-Chrysler and the Ford Motor Company. British Columbia now stands centre-stage as a leading developer of this technology, and Firoz Rasul's stature in the global business community parallels that of the company's. He was named 2001 National Transportation Person of the Year, and Wilfrid Laurier University's School of Business and Economics recognized him with its Outstanding Business Leader award.

Throughout his stellar career, Firoz Rasul has given freely of his time to our community, his goodwill extending to all British Columbians. He is President of the Ismaili Council for Canada and a member of the University of British Columbia's Board of Governors. He has also served on the National Committee of the Aga Kahn Foundation of Canada and as Chairman of Focus Humanitarian Assistance Canada. This University, too, has received the benefit of his support. With his active participation, the Ismaili community sponsored a highly successful event to raise money for our Knowledge for Youth About Careers program. Recently, in a gesture of extraordinary generosity, he and his wife, Saida, pledged one million dollars to the BC Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Chancellor, Firoz Rasul is a dynamic executive who blends in perfect harmony the demands of business with the needs of society. By doing so, he has set an example for others to emulate. In recognition of his splendid contributions, I ask that you now confer upon him the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.