Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Gordon Robert Diamond, a distinguished corporate executive and philanthropist who has bettered the lives of countless British Columbians through his quiet beneficence. There is a saying in Hebrew, L’

dor v’
dor, which means "from generation to generation." In the Jewish tradition parents teach their children to be generous, and they in turn pass on this teaching to their children. Gordon learned well the lessons taught by his parents Jack and Sadie Diamond. Today, we honour him for his unwavering dedication to British Columbians.

Whatever Gordon Diamond undertakes, he does so with the best interests of people in mind. As a respected business leader, he has earned the admiration and affection of employees, colleagues, and friends. He turned a new company, West Coast Reduction, into one of British Columbia's major industries. The company is well known for its caring attitude toward employees and its commitment to stewardship of the environment.

His success in business is matched only by his commitment to our community, which he has supported generously both personally and through the Diamond Foundation. Indeed, few know the extent of his goodwill. In fact, many of our province's major health, education, social, and cultural institutions have received critical funding from the Diamond family. Significant recent philanthropic grants include a major donation of land to the BC Cancer Agency. Gordon, together with his wife Leslie, also provided key funding to the Diamond Centre for Living, a wellness centre for people with life-threatening diseases. He has continued the family's role as benefactor to the Jewish community here and abroad. He and his wife helped to make possible the Academy-Award winning documentary "The Long Way Home" and a home for disabled children in Israel.

The Diamonds have been close and valued friends of this university for many years. In 1989, Gordon, together with his brother Charles, made a significant contribution toward the construction of the Jack and Sadie Diamond University Centre in honour of their parents. As a member of the Council for the Centre for Dialogue, Gordon brings his wisdom and experience to this exciting initiative.

Mr. Chancellor, throughout his life, Gordon Diamond has been sustained by his love of family and of community. Those who know him admire his openness, his spirit, and his generous heart. I am proud to present Gordon R. Diamond for the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.