Mr. Chancellor, I am honoured to present Milton K. Wong, a brilliant corporate leader and committed humanitarian whose vision and courage have benefitted all British Columbians.

The eighth of nine children of a Chinese immigrant, Milton Wong was born in Vancouver and attended the University of British Columbia. After graduation, he embarked on a remarkable journey in the corporate world, one that culminated with his founding of M. K. Wong & Associates, an investment firm of international stature. As its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, he has earned the respect and admiration of the entire business community not only for his astute business sense, but also for his grace, modesty, compassion, and integrity.

These are also the qualities that characterize Milton Wong the citizen. Well known for his community involvement, Milton Wong exemplifies the businessman as social activist; his sense of fairness and justice inform everything he does. An advocate for multiculturalism, he founded the Laurier Institution, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the economic and social implications of cultural diversity. He was the catalyst for the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival, an event that has built bridges between Vancouver’s many ethnic communities, and has garnered world-wide acclaim for B.C. and its citizens. He was the driving force behind the fund raising campaign for Science World. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army and of the Dean’s Advisory Council, Faculty of Commerce, U.B.C. And Milton Wong generously offered his invaluable advice to this University during the planning of our Centre for Dialogue.

Milton Wong has received many honours for his contributions to his community, among them the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Civic Merit Award from the City of Vancouver, and the Medal of Merit from the Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club. He is a recipient of Simon Fraser University’s Distinguished Leadership Award and the University of British Columbia’s Alumni Award of Distinction. Recently, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Chancellor, Milton K. Wong is a man of principle who is committed to family and community, an individual who translates his philosophy into action. We are the better for it. I am proud to present Milton K. Wong for the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.