



**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL CONVOCATION
October 4 and 5, 2018**

**Convocation Address
By Dr. Alison Gopnik**

The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, was conferred on Dr. Alison Gopnik during the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Environment ceremony on Friday, October 5, 2018. The following is Dr. Gopnik's Convocation address:

Well let me begin by thanking you all so much for this very great and profound honour. I'm so happy to be here today, partly because today's event puts together three things that I love dearly, and I think probably all of you in this room love dearly. Canada and everything that Canada stands for, the Pacific Coast, the beautiful place where we are now, and most of all, young children and the remarkable and largely unsung people who care for them.

I actually grew up in Canada. I went to university at McGill and I was a faculty member at the University of Toronto before I moved to the university we think of as "Simon Fraser South," namely the University of California at Berkeley. And the values of Canadian culture and Canadian universities in particular like Simon Fraser have really shaped both my career and my life. And I think those values which have shaped the lives of all the graduates here and many of their friends and family are more important now than they've ever been before.

And one of the things that I hope all the graduates sitting here will do is take those values and bring them to the rest of the world, which could use some Canadian kindness, decency and humour, that distinctive Canadian sense of social responsibility, that sense of a welcoming community that integrates people from different traditions, from different backgrounds, a genuine global community that welcomes and includes everyone. That's something that comes from Canada. That's something that all of you who are in this room, the graduates here, can have imbibed in your time at Simon Fraser. Simon Fraser's a wonderful example of exactly that Canadian nurturance and inclusion and I very much hope... [inaudible] through not only in Canada, but to the rest of the world.

Now, in addition to those Canadian values, I should mention other profound, important Canadian values that should be spread to the world, namely hockey, smoked meat, poutine and Smarties. And you may not know that I have actually been doing my bit to spread these to the rest of the world. In fact, this year, my son opened Augie's Montreal Deli, which is actually run by the entire family in Berkeley, where we brought smoked meat and poutine at least, as well as Smarties, to California for the first time. Not to mention hockey. Our slogan for the restaurant is, "We're Canadian eh?" So our hope is that if you bring smoked meat to benighted countries, then the rest of Canadian values will follow.

childhood of any species. Chimps are producing as much food as they're consuming by the time they're seven. Even in forager communities, human children aren't doing that until they're 15. My son is 30 and I imagine some of the parents in the audience will also have a sense of the fact that we're still paying tuition and taking care of our children for an even longer time. But there's a reason for that. And that reason is that childhood gives human beings a protected space in which they can explore and innovate, think of new ideas and create without the immediate pressures of survival, without having to deal with the everyday world around them.

So young children – pre-schoolers – are the best example of that. Pthl9270.04n)02c 0.002w 0.21 0 Td(p)drint