



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

**The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa,
conferred on Dr. Sophie Pierre
Thursday, June 11, 2020**

Sophie Pierre, is one of our country's most accomplished and lauded Aboriginal leaders. With a powerful combination of vision, grit and generous spirit, she has worked to strengthen not only her own beloved Ktunaxa Nation, but to advance the entire national discourse around Indigenous rights and reconciliation.

Born Sophie Mae Eustace in 1950, to the St. Mary's band near Cranbrook, BC, Ms. Pierre attended the Kootenay Indian Residential School at the St. Eugene Mission. After completing high school, she moved to Vancouver Island with her two children to earn a business administration diploma from Camosun College, eventually returning home to work in band administration.

She went on to serve her band for 30 years—million-dollar driver of economic growth—once a reminder of a painful past—is now a source of pride and independence to the Ktunaxa nation.

Ms. Pierre has led and served on numerous boards and industry committees relating to economic development, First Nations treaties, and Aboriginal education. In 2009, that broad experience and deep expertise was recognized with her appointment as chief commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission, a role she held for six years.

list of awards for business acumen and leadership

Trudeau Foundation mentor in 2017, the mother
ins actively engaged with her own community as

commitment to First Nations' cultural
re is conferred a degree Doctor of Laws, honoris