



And the public sector can offer the same and more for you. If you choose this path, you will find, as I have done, that the results, and the assistance you offer people all around you, are the best reward of all.

So it was with surprise that I learned about this honorary degree; and it is with deep humility that I accept it today; and with deep gratitude to this wonderful university, my beloved alma mater.

I share this with so many people.

I share this with my colleagues at Vancouver City Hall and around the world; and with my academic colleagues; and with the many citizens I have worked with in this great city; and with an extraordinary community of architects and landscape architects, such as the great Richard Henriquez and, of course, Arthur Erickson, who designed this august edifice we are in today; and with the elected officials that I have been privileged to serve. You know, City Planning is not a solitary pursuit, it is a collective art. All of my accomplishments are their accomplishments.

I also share this with my friends and family – especially my partner of nearly 40 years. The triumphs and tribulations in a career are only meaningful when matched with a solid tranquility at home.

Of course, like others who have received this honour, I've asked myself: "Why me?" And it reminded me of a few simple tenets that were handed down to me and have served me well. Tenets I now want to offer on to you.

-Think no small thoughts and in no small measure pursue what you know you must.

-Support the creative force whenever you see it and especially whenever you feel it.

-Protect those who can not fend for themselves – it is our simple duty to defend the defenseless.

-Rise to the challenge of your time – explore and seek to understand both the physical and intellectual world around you. And take the spiritual view not just the materialistic view.

-Deal from principle, not from expediency – for the big questions, go with your ethics every time.

-Live a loving life with hands and heart reaching out.

-Acknowledge that the more you know, the less you really know.

AND

-Accept nothing as a “given” that you know should not be a “given”.

In the Catholic faith, the patron saint of City Planners is Saint George. It is said of this mystical ancient figure that he “slew the dragon an