



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Stewart Blusson Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. Chancellor, at the heart of Stewart Blusson's life and career lies the sheer joy of discovery. A renowned geologist, intrepid prospector, and visionary philanthropist, he has made lasting contributions to his discipline and to higher education.

After earning his B.Sc. at the University of British and Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, he undertook a journey of exploration that has lasted nearly a half century. He first applied his exceptional skills in field work with the Geological Survey of Canada and provided leadership for regional mapping and research programs for fifteen years. Subsequently, he began to explore modes of mineral formation from Mexico to the Arctic and discovered several major occurrences of gold, copper and other metals in North America. In 1981, he, together with a fellow geologist, began to explore areas of the Northwest Territories in the belief that conditions there were favourable for the occurrence of diamonds. Drawing on his extensive knowledge of Canadian geology, he traced a 700 kilometer path etched millennia ago by glaciers and eventually discovered a diamond deposit. Today, the Ekati Diamond Mine is the foundation of Canada's growing diamond industry.

That same spirit of discovery informs his philanthropy, for Stewart Blusson believes wholeheartedly in the value of higher education and in the paramount importance of basic scientific research. In support of both, he has shared his great good fortune most generously. In 1998, he bestowed a multi-million dollar gift on the University of British Columbia for genetic research. A few years later, he made another significant donation to Quest University Canada. He has also made major contributions in support of the Vancouver Aquarium and spinal cord research. In 2006, he donated significant funding to the Archon X PRIZE to develop a quick way to sequence the human genome. We too have been the beneficiaries of his exceptional generosity. Together with his wife Marilyn, he has made a singularly magnificent gift in support of our Faculty of Health Sciences—the largest private gift in our history.

Stewart Blusson is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the Logan Medal from the Geological Association of Canada. In September 2008, we named our new Faculty of Health Sciences building Blusson Hall in honour of this outstanding British Columbian and steadfast friend of higher education.

Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this university, I ask that you now confer upon Stewart Blusson, path-breaking geo-scientist, brilliant entrepreneur, and extraordinary philanthropist, the degree Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.