



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Beverley Ann Busson Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. Chancellor, for more than thirty years, Beverley Busson upheld the finest traditions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In so doing, she served as a role model of integrity not only for the Force but for the country.

She trained initially as a teacher, but found her true calling when she joined the RCMP in 1974 with the first class of female members. This was but the first in a remarkable series of firsts for her. She served with a number of detachments within British Columbia and earned the respect of her superiors for her sound judgment and grace under pressure. Following a posting to Ottawa, she was transferred to North Battleford, Saskatchewan and promoted to Inspector, the first woman to attain this rank.

Several more significant promotions followed. Then, in 1998, she was made Commanding Officer "F" Division, the Province of Saskatchewan, again the first woman to attain such an elevated rank within the Force. She briefly left the RCMP to become the founding head of the Organized Crime Agency of BC, but returned in 2000 as Commanding Officer for British Columbia. Soon after, she was appointed Deputy Commissioner for the entire Pacific Region.

A committed advocate of higher education, she led by example, completing a Certificate in Criminology at this university and later earning her LL.B. at the University of British Columbia. She was instrumental in the evolution of the Pacific Region Training Centre, and played a key role in the development of a Bachelor of General Studies (Police Option) Degree at the University College of the Fraser Valley. Throughout her career, she also promoted community, justice, and student programs in Aboriginal Policing.

In 2006, Prime Minister Harper appointed her Interim Commissioner, thus signaling to all Canadians the government's confidence in her ability to lead during a difficult transition period. She oversaw both the inquiry into RCMP involvement in the Maher Arar case and the investigation of the mismanagement of RCMP pension funds. She met these and other challenges with the same clarity of purpose that was the hallmark of her entire career. For these many reasons, she was invested as a Commander of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces in 2004, the highest honour in her profession. In 2006, she was awarded the Order of British Columbia, the only police officer in British Columbia to receive such an honor from this province.

Mr. Chancellor, in recognition of her great service record in our national police force, her trailblazing leadership in the profession, and her contributions to public policy and education in support of inclusive recruitment, professional standards and integrity in Canadian policing, I ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon Beverley Busson the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.