

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**Honorary Degree Citations  
The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,  
conferred on Janine Fuller  
Wednesday, June 2, 2004**

Mr. Chancellor, Canadians cherish their right to freedom of expression. Yet, it is a fragile right and often depends for its survival on the courage of the individual. Today, we honour one such person, Janine Fuller, an author and book seller who has courageously fought to ensure that this fundamental freedom is protected for all Canadians.

Janine Fuller once said, "Nothing hard is ever won easily. We must be ever vigilant and inclusive in our struggles." For more than a decade, she has stayed true to her words. As manager of the Little Sister's Book Store and Art Emporium, she has been the catalyst in an historic legal battle against censorship in this country. Since 1990, she has spearheaded successive legal challenges mounted by Little Sister's against Canada Customs and its use of arbitrary standards in prohibiting admission into Canada of materials deemed to be obscene. Indeed, this case has become of paramount importance in the development of Canadian free-speech jurisprudence.

In her sustained effort to end censorship of gay and lesbian literature and thus ensure unfettered access to ideas by all Canadians, Janine Fuller, together with her colleagues at Little Sister's, has taken enormous personal risk. Her struggle has consumed energy, time and resources. Without doubt, there were times when it would have been far easier to quit. Fortunately for all of us, she continued, and continues, to place principle ahead of the bottom