



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation
The degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*,
conferred on Dr. Andy MacKinnon
Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. President, it is my distinct honour to present to you Mr. Andy MacKinnon. For decades, Mr. MacKinnon has been one of British Columbia's foremost public intellectuals in the realm of natural history, forest sustainability, and conservation.

Andy has a distinguished career in public service in British Columbia and has made significant contributions to forest science and policy. Working for the BC Forest Service, he was the government's advisor on issues related to old-growth forests for much of the last 20 years. Through BC's most turbulent periods of environmental politics, Andy has been a consistent, strong voice within government for conservation and science-based decision-making.

An ardent supporter of higher education, Andy has had a long association with SFU. He has been an Adjunct Professor in the School of Resource and Environmental Management since 1991, where he has mentored generations of graduate students. Andy is a talented and committed teacher and has taught many courses through several universities. He is best known for his courses in temperate rainforest ecology at Bamfield and in Haida Gwaii.

Andy has an outstanding record of scientific publications addressing both fundamental issues and applied problems. However, he is better known to the public for a series of guidebooks to plant ecology and identification. The "Plants of Coastal British Columbia" has become a veritable bible for naturalists from California through Alaska and was a Canadian bestseller in its first year of publication. Plant guides on which Andy is an author have sold more than half a million copies!

Andy is deeply engaged with the public outside the university. He has been a board member and advisor for numerous conservation-oriented community groups and is in great demand as a speaker and field-trip leader. Especially in the fall, he is busy almost every weekend giving talks, leading walks, and being the star guest at mushroom festivals. It is hard to imagine how Andy manages to put so much energy, so effectively, into so many different kinds of activities.

Andy MacKinnon has not only made a difference at the university and in government, but in forest conservation and resource stewardship "on the ground." Naturalists, researchers, students,

resource managers, and activists hold him in awe. Andy personifies SFU's core values of