

Mr. Chancellor, Martha Piper's remarkable understanding of the role of research universities in the modern world, her inspirational leadership in a number of Canada's leading universities, and her peerless advocacy for the collective interests of universities in this country have placed her in the front rank of national and international leaders in higher education.

After completing her Ph.D. at McGill University, she assumed the post of Director of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy at that institution. In 1985, she joined the University of Alberta as Dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and later became Vice-President Research and External Affairs. Throughout these years, she conducted her own very important investigations into the early detection of mental and physical disabilities in children. Her reputation as an outstanding researcher and an astute administrator soon led to appointments to the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology and to the Board of the Advisory Council on Science and Technology,

In 1997 Martha Piper became President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of British Columbia and this province has been the grateful beneficiary of her vision ever since. Her belief in the vital economic and social benefits that accrue from research and her conviction that knowledge can thrive only in a civil society inspired not only the entire university world but also the broader community we serve. Her compelling leadership succeeded in establishing the University of British Columbia as an international leader in education and research, forged strategic relationships to enhance the university, attracted unprecedented levels of federal and provincial research funding, and established new records in private philanthropic support.

Martha Piper's encompassing vision extended well beyond local and regional boundaries and helped to create a national agenda for innovation. She was a catalyst in establishing the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Canada Research Chairs program. She has also served as a board member for numerous organizations, including the Alberta Research Council, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. In 2005, she was appointed a Public Governor of the Board for the Canadian Academies of Science. That same year, the *Globe and Mail* recognized her as one of five Canadian "Nation Builders."

Several universities have recognized Martha Piper's significant and lasting achievements with honorary degrees. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the Order of British Columbia.

Mr. Chancellor, this university is pleased to recognize an outstanding colleague, and on behalf of the Senate of the University, I ask that you now confer upon Martha Piper the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.