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had fallen in love. But they were separated in space and where their feelings met the earth was created. We're privileged to have these stories.

Some indigenous languages have the past being in front of us since we can see it and the future behind us. So looking forward into my past I see what was important to pay attention to and this is what I want to share with you today. I want to help you pay attention as your story unfolds, to what you're meant to do.

So the first thing is to pay attention to the present moment. There are no accidents. The universe is intelligent. Imagine with me for a minute all the variables that would have had to have happened in your lives and in all of our lives for us to be here today together. Start anywhere; start with your parents meeting or how each of us came to be in Vancouver or the variables that led us to SFU today. Imagine all of us getting dressed to be here with one and another today. In one holy moment we are here, the most primary relationship is the one we have with every moment.

The work I was meant to do found me through a maze of sweet synchronicities. I met Grand Chief George Manuel, who hired me to help the Union of BC Indian Chiefs fight against oil tanker traffic at the West Coast Oil Ports Inquiry. I wasn't looking for a job, I followed a friend to lunch and this was in 1977. With the Northern Gateway Pipeline Proposal, the struggle continues today.

When I met George he was in the neighborhood to fight a speeding ticket. At that time I had the great good fortune of articling with Bill Deverell who is here today and was an honoured doctorate last year. Master story teller, righter of wrongs he taught me to think big. Bill's client was an automobile club who offered defenses to speeding tickets to its members. And as an articling student I defended many. After lunch I went to traffic court for George and raised a constitutional challenge and got all similar tickets thrown out in the Province. George said if I could that for speeding tickets what could I do for Aboriginal rights?

So be on the lookout for what fate is conspiring to hand to you. Go with the opportunities that present themselves. Your intention is more important than the action, since intention carries the seed of the action itself. Intend to meet life as it is, rather than how it should be or wasn't yesterday or will be tomorrow. As we learn to pay attention to your thoughts and actions as you shift from being about yourself to being about others than we can end our suffering and reduce the suffering of the world as we turn to selfless service.

So that's the first thing to pay attention to, pay attention to the moment. But then pay attention to your gifts. We are all born uniquely gifted. Our gifts are what we do well and what we like to do. The presence of joy indicates you found your gift. This is what feeds your spirit, where you lose yourself. Then you have to keep that joy and curiosity alive. Don't be afraid to look around our shared world to see what could or should be different and to do something about it and to fail. Release yourself from the thought of self-judgment, from the fear of failure.

I was fortunate that when I first started practicing law hope had no bounds. The only decided law was against us. There was no hunting rights, there was no fishing rights, there was no rights to land. It was liberating, there was nothing to lose, nothing to fear. I worked at an all-women's law firm at Mandell Pinder for decades. As women we did things differently from men. The law

is often too technical and rule bound to understand relations. We relied on intuition, knowing and not-knowing. We didn't have an idea that stopped us. We went to the bank and opened up a firm. My partners in law, my dear friends, my story is not about being courageous but getting caught in a current of love.

I've tormented myself with thoughts of failure and I hold onto this feeling as I talk to you. When we leap out of life as usual, we imagine, we try, we leap into the unknown and we often fall. Falling is part of the learning. What we call failures is critically important to imagination. We need imagination if we are to develop new wealth. As the computer world has shown us, creative thinking is the primary source of economic recovery. Poet Jack Gilbert expressed how I see trying and failure when he said, "I believe Icarus was not failing as he fell, but just coming to the end of his triumph". William Blake resonates with the Stó:l creation story, making the same point when he said, "if the Sun and Moon should ever doubt, they'd immediately go out".

And so pay attention to your talents and pay attention to your dreams. We are here today because of dreams which were dreamed yesterday. Some were collective dreams, building this University and wearing the big robes we're wearing today. Some are intergenerational dreams, your parents' dreams for your higher education. Some are personal dreams, your dreams to graduate today. Know as a fact, as a law of the universe, that where you will be tomorrow you dream of today. I was honoured to have stumbled into a beautiful dream, which led me to a life of unimagined beauty and personal satisfaction. This was a collective dream for justice, this dream was one of love. My work has been a love story. My love for my clients and there's for me. I have spent my work life in the company of love, with people who love the land. Who lovingly named each bay and inlet, passing stories from generation to generation.

I honour the elders and all of my relations for the wisdom they have shared. The honour you have given to me I share with them today. I honour my family and I share this honour with them, especially my mother who recently passed away. Her belief in me in every way paved the way to this day. Graduates, the world changes one person at a time but that changes becomes increasingly easier the more and more there are who change. And if you want to feel the magic of change in your life in the next argument where you have the choice to be right or a choice to be kind, choose kind.

I know you because you're my kid's generation. You are my teachers. You are the most creative, the most courageous, and the most connected generation. You have tough minds and tender hearts. You have fun, stay in shape, collaborate. You are the change each one of you. Leave here today and change the course of history.

Thank you.