

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

**Honorary Degree Citation
The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,
conferred on the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy
Thursday, October 6, 2016**

Madam Chancellor, I am proud to present the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy, a respected icon of Canadian multiculturalism.

Since she came to Canada on a student visa, Dr. Poy has fully embraced life as a Canadian, while holding on to her proud Chinese roots. After earning an honours bachelor's degree in history from McGill University, she returned to school to study Fashion Arts, and subsequently launched a clothing line that fittingly fused her Asian heritage and her Canadian experience.

But as much as she enjoyed *couture*, her true love was history. So, research for a book about her ancestors led to graduate school, and MA and PhD degrees in history at the University of Toronto, culminating with a thesis on the historical experiences of female Chinese immigrants to Canada.

As it turned out, however, Vivienne Poy would soon be making history herself. In 1998, she became the first Asian Canadian senator. Over her 14 years in the Senate of Canada, she was a passionate voice for multiculturalism, immigration reform, gender issues and human rights. Most notably, she successfully lobbied for the designation of May as Asian Heritage Month across Canada and for the establishment of the Senate's Human Rights Committee.

As Chancellor Emerita of the University of Toronto, she has made significant contributions to community-engaged academia all across Canada, including here at Simon Fraser University. As an honorary patron of the