

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL CONVOCATION
October 6 and 7, 2016

Convocation Address
By Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams

The degree Doctor of Lawshonoris causa, was conferred on Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams during the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Environment ceremony on Friday, October 7, 2016. The following is Dr. Williams' Convocation address:

Madam Chancellor, Mr. President, chiefs, elders, students, families, communities, it is an honor for me to be awarded this honorary degree from this university.

I acknowledge the ancestors and their descendants on whose land we gather today.

K'alan'wi nsukw'nukw'7a, tuxw t'u7 ka amha ensptinusma es t'iq kalha eltsa xuzat kamuxwmin'twal'a.
Entsa s Wanosts'a7, lhk'w Lil'watul es wa7es nsuk'wnuk' w7a a.

This was by way of introducing myself and my family to this land.

First, I would like to say to the graduates, congratulations on your academic achievement, I sat in your place 33 years ago, and was able to walk down those stairs 33 years ago, and my family and my friends in the audience. I don't think I fully understood or appreciated my accomplishment that day and I'm sure that will be the same for many of you. Looking back I thought the degree was a much gained notch but that I would go on. One of my brothers helped me to understand to see that my accomplishment was not mine alone, but that this achievement really belongs to our families and to our communities and all the people who helped us to get where we are today. It's the same for this degree that I have been honored to receive. I receive this honour really for my family, my friends, my colleagues who have helped me to arrive here today.

I am here today, I want you to know, because of a speech that was made 42 years ago at this university.
Dr.

tabled in 1973, which was the official recognition of a document called Indian Control of Indian Education. This was an amazing document that would change education for the indigenous people of this country for the good. And I want you to know that one of the authors of that document sits in the audience today. Also, listening to the president's speech were people in my community. Two people, my sisters, our mother, my sisters' husbands, some of whom are sitting in the audience today, came to challenge the president to say that they could act on her commitment to native education. And thus was born a teacher education program in my community. And it's from that program that I graduated 33 years ago.

SFU was the only university who was willing to engage in a partnership to design a teacher education