



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, honoris causa,
conferred on Dr. Michael J. Fox
Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Madam Chancellor, it is my honour to present to you one of Burnaby's most famous citizens, Michael J. Fox—an award-winning TV and film star who first charmed us as Alex P. Keaton in *Family Ties*, then as Marty McFly in *Back to the Future* and has continued to thrill fans around the globe. Today, he is also known for another important role: Parkinson's advocate.

It has now been 30 years since Mr. Fox was first diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at the age of 29, and 20 years since he launched his Foundation for Parkinson's Research which has funded almost a billion dollars in drug research and is "the most credible voice on Parkinson's research in the world," according to *The New York Times*.

Mr. Fox is much admired within the scientific community for his commitment to raising awareness about Parkinson's disease, his dedication to scientific freedom, and his desire to translate pure research into practical therapies.

He has received numerous honorary degrees and humanitarian awards, and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2010. A highly respected and accomplished actor, he has also earned several prestigious awards: five Emmys, four Golden Globes, and a Grammy—to name just a few. While entertaining us, he has made us laugh, reflect and helped promote positive images of people living with disability. He is a role model for all of us. His values of excellence, discovery and inclusion. For his worldwide acclaim as a performer and commitment to the pursuit of finding a cure for Parkinson's disease, I ask that you now confer upon Michael J. Fox the degree of