



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

**The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,
conferred on Dr. Siila (Sheila) Watt-Cloutier**

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Madam Chancellor, it is my honour to present Siila, better known as Sheila Watt-Cloutier—a respected Inuit leader and one of the world’s most recognized climate change and human rights advocates.

Born in 1953 in Nunavik, Northern Quebec, Ms. Watt-Cloutier was raised traditionally until age 10, when she was sent away by the federal government to study in southern Canada. Returning to the Arctic at 18, she was stunned by the social, economic and health problems that plagued her community as a result of colonization, —ICC Canada—where her

Stockholm Convention eliminating source, which was adopted in 2001.

first international legal action on climate rights, alleging that unchecked greenhouse gas man rights. The petition was the first ognition of collective rights for indigenous ons with a goal to develop On the Land utive Committee member of the Lancet Exchange and as a sought-after public

—indeed, she already holds 21 honorary ar she won the Rachel Carson Prize—and in nland. Most recently, she was named the

between climate change and human rights is ly lives SFU’s values of engagement,