



Madam Chancellor, it is my honour to present the Honourable Wallace Taroo Oppal—or Wally, as he is better known to us: an esteemed lawyer, judge, and public servant whose life's work has made British Columbia a safer, more just, and more inclusive society.

Raised by his widowed mother on Vancouver Island, Mr. Oppal worked at local sawmills and logging camps to pay for his legal education at the University of British Columbia. After graduation, he worked for a decade as a criminal lawyer, eventually being named to the County Court of B.C. in 1981: the first judge of Indian heritage outside of India.

In 1985, he rose to B.C.'s Supreme Court, and then to the B.C. Court of Appeal in 2003. Two years later, he was elected as MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview, and served as Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism. Today, he is a respected arbitrator and mediator.

Throughout his long career, Mr. Oppal has been an engaged leader and a tireless advocate for British Columbia's most vulnerable citizens. He distinguished himself as an expert facilitator of challenging