



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

The degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*,

conferred on Dr. Alan Twigg

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Madam Chancellor, I present to you a champion of our province's literary world, Alan Twigg, who has made an immense contribution to the promotion of B.C. literature and authors.

A fifth-generation British Columbian, Mr. Twigg dropped out of SFU with high marks, after two semesters, in order to concentrate on writing, while working as a garbage truck driver in the early seventies. As "a man of free intelligence," he proceeded to write and publish his own free and widely-read newspaper *BC BookWorld* in 1987—and its later online companion publications *BC BookLook* and *ABC BookWorld*. That latter, initially hosted by SFU Library, is for and about more than 12,500 B.C. authors.

Mr. Twigg has also created or co-created most of the province's major literary awards, such as the BC Book Prizes and the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award. All his creations continue to flourish.

In his spare time, he has written 20 books, including his latest title, *Out of Hiding: Holocaust Literature of British Columbia*. He also produced ten documentaries and made websites for four friends—Leonard Cohen, War World Two hero Rudolf Vrba, an African priest in Tanzania and the great Vancouver