



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

**The degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*,
conferred on Dr. Penny Ballem**

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Madam Chancellor, it is in no small part due to the outstanding contributions of today's honorary degree recipient that we are able to gather here in person once again. Dr. Penny Ballem currently leads B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization program—one of the most successful vaccination campaigns in the world—but that is only the most recent highlight of her long and accomplished career in health care and public service.

Born in Montreal, Dr. Ballem earned her medical degree from UBC in 1978. A much-lauded hematologist, teacher, researcher and women's health advocate, Dr. Ballem now serves as a Clinical Professor of Medicine at UBC, a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and a senior fellow of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Beyond the academy, Dr. Ballem has distinguished herself as a public servant, generating a legacy of programs and policies that continue to benefit our province. She was a driving force behind the founding of B.C. Women's Hospital, and was our longest-serving deputy minister of health, overseeing the creation of the province's current structure of health authorities while managing serious public health threats, including SARS and avian flu.

Later, during her seven years as Vancouver's city manager, Dr. Ballem advanced initiatives to secure more supportive and affordable rental housing, strengthen reconciliation and me9ud.C.'s

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