



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

**The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,
conferred on Dr. Joy MacPhail**

Friday, June 9, 2023

Madam Chancellor, it is my honour to present to you today Joy MacPhail—a renowned economist, social activist, politician and entrepreneur who has dedicated her life to promoting social justice and creating a better life for all British Columbians.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario and educated at the University of Western Ontario and the London School of Economics, Ms. MacPhail worked for more than a decade as a union negotiator before becoming the MLA for Vancouver-Hastings in 1991. She served as Deputy Premier and held numerous cabinet portfolios including Finance, Health, Social Services and Education. She helped establish Canada's first provincial child tax benefit; created a Centre of Excellence for addictions research; and reformed B.C.'s outdated child adoption system. As Minister of Health, her vigorous support for HIV-AIDS funding played a major role in developing treatments and reducing mortality rates.

Since leaving public office in 2005, Ms. MacPhail's commitment to social justice and community betterment has not waned. As co-owner of OUTtv—the world's longest-airing LGBT television network—she has been a fierce ally of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. As board chair of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, she has overseen reforms that increased benefits for the seriously injured while making the overall insurance system more financially sustainable. And as a director of the Nch' ay Development Corporation, she has worked with the Squamish Nation in becoming more economically vibrant. Today she heads the board of BC Ferries, with a mand