



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

The degree of Doctor of Laws , honoris causa,
conferred on Dr . barbara findlay
Wednesday, June 7, 2023

barbara findlay describes herself as a fat old white cisgender queer lawyer with disabilities, raised working class and Christian on the prairies. All of those locations have informed her work as a queer lawyer and activist. Her 46-year career has included a decade with legal aid, a stint as faculty at UBC's Allard School of Law, and thirty years of private practice.

As a teenager, findlay was locked up in a mental hospital because she was queer. Being gay or lesbian was by definition a mental illness at the time. As a result, she was the only person to be named in the 1984-85 Orientation and Gender Identity Conference of the Canadian Bar Association. She wrote many papers, did endless community organizing, and gave innumerable press interviews about justice for queer and trans people.

barbara findlay achieved world- first results for her clients in several groundbreaking cases, ranging from the registration of lesbian co-parents on their child's birth certificate, to accommodation of a transgender youth at a Catholic school.

In her non-work life barbara has facilitated community -based unlearning oppression workshops since 1984. She currently focuses on how privilege manifests as internalized dominance, and how to contradict that internalized dominance both individually and systemically.

Madam Chancellor, barbara findlay has been honoured with a Queen's Counsel appointment in 2001 and has been recognized with numerous significant awards for her work in challenging societal norms and repairing systemic oppression. Today I ask that you add yet another laurel to that list by conferring upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honois causa