



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Michael Phelps Friday, June 3, 1994

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Michael Phelps, a man whose vision and whose corporate leadership have secured for British Columbia a prominent place on the national economic map. Creative, intelligent, perceptive, he, like this University's namesake, has explored uncharted territory. His efforts have expanded the economic opportunities for our province, but we honour him equally for his commitment to civic duty and his steadfast support of higher education.

His is a distinguished career, characterized by a remarkable series of transitions, each one more notable than the last. Born in Montreal and raised in Winnipeg, he was a Crown Attorney for the Province of Manitoba and later practised as lawyer and partner in the firm of Christie, DeGraves before moving to Ottawa, where his unique talents were quickly noticed. Always keenly aware of the importance of civic responsibility, Michael Phelps became Special Advisor to the Minister of Justice. Later, he served as Executive Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, a demanding job that won him the respect of even the most severe critics of the National Energy Plan.

In 1982, and to our great good fortune, Michael Phelps moved to British Columbia, assuming a position as Senior Advisor to the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Westcoast Transmission Company, later renamed Westcoast Energy, Inc. When he himself became Chairman and C.E.O. in 1988, Michael Phelps asserted a compelling vision of the company, and through bold leadership has made it a national, and indeed international force with business across Canada and new initiatives in Asia. Reflecting Michael Phelps' commitment to the public good, Westcoast Energy is also a leader in safety, environmental issues and philanthropy.

Michael Phelps brings the same sense of purpose and conviction to the community and to higher education as he does to his business responsibilities. Believing passionately in a united Canada, he co-chaired the YES campaign in British Columbia. A liberal arts graduate who also holds an LL.B. and an LL.M., he gladly lends his wisdom and corporate support to the cause of university advancement. He plays a prominent role both on the Advisory Council of U.B.C.'s Faculty of Commerce and Business Admin0.590257mmolumnessce cn io cac t