



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation
The degree of Doctor of Science,
conferred on Dr. Nancy Turner
Friday, October 9, 2015

Madam Chancellor, I am privileged to present Dr. Nancy Turner, Distinguished Professor and Hakai Professor in Ethnoecology at the University of Victoria. Dr. Turner is an ethnobotanist who is internationally known for her research into traditional knowledge systems and traditional land and resource management systems of Indigenous Peoples in the northwest.

For over 40 years, Nancy Turner has collaborated with First Nations communities, working closely with elders and cultural specialists to help document, retain and promote their rich heritage of traditional botanical and ecological knowledge. Her work integrates the fields of botany and ecology with anthropology, geography and linguistics to illuminate an intricate tapestry of cedar and salmon, of edible plants and healing herbs, along with their role in language, ceremony and belief over millennia. At the heart of this inquiry reside questions of how this critically important knowledge was discovered, transferred and adapted, and how best to preserve it in a world beset by change and environmental challenge. Her work has redefined our understanding of traditional cultures and resource use in northwestern North America and has profound implications for national policies and First Nation's legal issues.

As author, co-author and co-editor, Dr. Turner has over 25 books and more than 120 book chapters and peer-reviewed publications to her name. Her honours too are legion. She is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a Member of both the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia. She is recipient of prestigious international awards in biodiversity, ethnobotany, genetic resource conservation and economic botany granted by institutions as varied as the University of Bologna and the Healing Forest Conservatory in Washington DC. The Canadian Botanical Association presented her with a medal for lifetime contributions to Canadian Botany and she received the BC Lieutenant Governor's Medal for best historical non-fiction for her 2005 publication, *Plants of Haida Gwaii*. In September she received a prestigious three-year Trudeau Foundation fellowship.

Nancy Turner has also set the standard for collaborative, respectful research with Indigenous Peoples and shown that the First Nations' complex social management strategies, embedded in tradition, offer a guidepost to good stewardship and the sustainability of resources.

In recognition of her distinguished career and contributions to the preservation and advancement of knowledge, Madam Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of Simon Fraser University, I ask that you now confer upon Professor Nancy Turner the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.