

On the occasion of the conferring of
the degree of
Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*
upon

Lloyd Axworthy

An educated citizenry and a functioning democracy go cheek by jowl.

A democratic federal government seeks to develop policies that will ensure the fair treatment of all members of society. At the same time, the nation must recognize its membership in the global community. Whether it be by contributions to foreign, humanitarian aid, or by attempting to generate policies at the international level, the inalienable rights of all people must be protected.

As a former foreign affairs minister of the government of Canada, Lloyd Axworthy implemented an international treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines. He faced the disturbing reality of child soldiers around the world. Developing such policies is not easy. As Lester Pearson said, "politics is the skilled use of blunt objects."

Now, as a university president, he tackles the education side of the equation. Consistent with his beliefs in fair treatment for all, he is actively pursuing the issue of access to university education of our First Nations' population.

Tommy Douglas argued that our graduating students must be "concerned about the welfare of people the wide world over, whose minds are not limited to their own community or just the people with the same colours of skin and who speak the same language as they do." As Edward Levi said, the university "exists to increase the intellectual understanding and powers of mankind."

Eminent Chancellor, I present to you Lloyd Axworthy, indefatigable seeker of justice and peace. Engine of social change and empowerment.

Let us publicly fête this humble man who demonstrates his faith in humanity by his actions.

On behalf of the university and the senate, I invite you to invest Lloyd Norman Axworthy with the degree Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

11 June 2008