

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

Lanny McDonald

In our mind's eye we can see the flickering, sepia-toned pictures of the roots of Canada. Children playing shinny on a pond. A lone youngster firing pucks against the wall of a barn. The wide eyes of a nascent fan watching stars on television, or secretly listening to the radio under the bed sheets.

Cut to the digital age of modern-day athletes hoisting championship trophies, and joyously celebrating the successes of a team.

Some individuals are lucky enough to have these two book-end images connected by the dream train of reality. When Lanny McDonald was a lad on his family farm outside of Hanna, he venerated the hockey heroes of the day: Bill Barilko, Johnny Bower, Gordie Howe. Little could he imagine that one day, he would join the ranks of such icons in the National Hockey League. Like Barilko, he scored a Stanley Cup winning goal. Like Howe, he wore the number nine.

And once he reached the pinnacle of his playing days, he turned his energies to fostering the next generation of hockey players through scouting, and involvement in minor hockey. He wanted to ensure that more children had that chance to live their dream.

McDonald has always given back to the community by supporting such important events as the Special Olympics. Individuals and teams are intimately tied to their local environment.

Eminent Chancellor, I present to you Lanny McDonald. Hard-working family man, and exemplary role model for many whether it be for skill, dedication, or facial hair.

Let us take a moment to pay tribute to a Hall of Fame athlete who has influenced the game of hockey around the world, and who calls Alberta home.

On behalf of the university and the senate, I invite you to invest Lanny King McDonald with the degree Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

10 June 2008.