

Patricia Carney
SFU Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

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By Professor Judith Osborne
Vice-President, Legal Affairs and University Secretary
Simon Fraser University

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present a remarkable Canadian, the Honourable Patricia Carney. Her contributions to our economic, political, and social well-being have left an indelible mark on this country.

Born in Shanghai, China and educated at the University of British Columbia, she has been a role model of integrity throughout a varied and distinguished career. Curious, fearless, and independent, she was the first female business columnist to write for major Canadian newspapers, and received numerous awards for excellence in business writing. These same qualities led to her success as an economic consultant and eventually to her election in 1980 as the first female Conservative Member of Parliament from British Columbia.

In Pat Carney, Canada found a great asset; in politics, she discovered her “professional passion.” No request was too humble, no question too trivial, no task too daunting for the Member from Vancouver Centre. She was the first woman to hold three senior economic cabinet posts. As Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, she was responsible for negotiating the Principles of the Atlantic Accord and for dismantling the National Energy Program. During her tenure as Minister of International Trade, she was the Minister responsible for the Canada-US Free Trade negotiations. Her exceptional work on this portfolio was recognized with an award from the New York Bar Association. And in her capacity as President of the Treasury Board, she initiated the ground-breaking Task Force on Barriers to Women in the Public Service. She was also the Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Initiative and a member of the Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning.

Summoned to the Senate in 1990, she served on several committees, including the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, where she furthered the cause of aboriginal women. She championed the preservation of Canada’s lighthouses and maritime history, her efforts culminating with the passage of *An Act to Preserve Heritage Lighthouses*. In recognition of her extraordinary dedication, the Heritage Canada Foundation created a new Governors’ Award. She, together with her colleague Barry Macdonald, was its first recipient. Her generous spirit has also touched other causes. She has sat on the boards of major corporations, her cogent opinions valued by all and her presence an inspiration to other women. No stranger to the often debilitating effects of arthritis, she is a founding director of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada and a tireless advocate for arthritis research.

A Fellow of the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada, Pat Carney has received many honours, including the Canadian Arthritis Network Award of Merit.

Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I now ask that you confer upon Patricia Carney the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.