

Doctor of LAWS, honoris causa

February 22, 2002 *Irving Abella*

TREASURER, may I present to you and this Convocation Dr. Irving Abella and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Dr. Irving Abella, historian, educator and activist, is widely known for his scholarly works on the history of the Canadian labour movement and the history of Jews in Canada. His contributions to Canadian history have been enormous. Through his writings and his lectures he has helped to promote a richer appreciation of the diverse roots of this nation and to ensure a greater understanding of the contributions made to this country by its immigrant population.

Born in Toronto, he received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D from the University of Toronto. His desire to be an educator then led him to accept a lecturing position at York University. His talent as an educator earned him a full professorship in the Department of History at York University. He is, currently, the J. Richard Schiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry at York University.

In 1993 he became a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his outstanding contribution in a specialized field. The Latin motto of the Order means, "they desire a better country." Dr. Irving Abella not only promotes the principles of these words, he lives by them.

He is deserving of the highest honour this Society can give and I request you, Sir, to confer upon Dr. Irving Abella the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.