Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

October 3, 2002

Alistair MacLeod

Treasurer, may I present to you and this Convocation Professor Alistair MacLeod, B.A., B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D., LL.D., D.Litt., F.R.S.C. and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Alistair MacLeod was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, but lived most of his early life on the ancestral farm in Inverness County, Cape Breton Island. The sights and sounds of the sea and the land along Canada's eastern coastline made a deep and lasting impression upon the young man growing up there.

Between 1957 and 1960, he earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education degree at St. Francis Xavier University and in 1961 he received his Master of Arts at the University of New Brunswick. Eventually, he left his beloved Cape Breton to take his Ph.D. degree at the University of Notre Dame and then accepted a position at the University of Windsor. He taught with distinction there for over thirty years. Today, he holds the position of professor emeritus at the University of Windsor.

Alistair MacLeod is also one of the world's most revered writers. In 1999, he published No Great Mischief, a sweeping tale of the MacDonald clan set in Cape Breton. No Great Mischief has now been translated into more than fourteen languages and has won many awards, including the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the world's richest literary prize for a single work of fiction. No other Canadian before or since has won this prestigious award.

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