

Doctor of Laws honoris causa

June 15, 2009



Treasurer, may I present to you and this Convocation Mr. Justice Sidney Linden and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Called to the Bar in 1966, Sydney Linden was in private practice until 1980. From 1980 to 1985, he was the first Police Complaints Commissioner for Metropolitan Toronto and Chair of the Police Complaints Board.

In 1985, he was selected as the first Executive Director of the Canadian Auto Workers Prepaid Legal Service Plan. In 1987 he was appointed as Ontario's first Information and Privacy Commissioner and in 1990, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice.

As Chief Justice, he reformed and modernized the court. From 1999 to 2003, he served as the first Chair of the Board of Legal Ontario.

In 2003, he was appointed Commissioner of the Ipperwash Inquiry and issued his landmark report on May 31, 2007. In 2007, he was appointed Ontario's first Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Mr. Justice Sidney Linden is an innovator and trailblazer. He is most deserving of this honour and I request you, Sir, to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.