

Most Reverend Chancellor, it is our distinct honour to present Lee Maracle, Sto:lo woman, mother, grandmother, author, poet, scholar, orator, and activist for Indigenous cultural survival.

Her autobiography *Bobbi Lee, Indian Rebel* was published in 1975 and it exploded onto the national scene alongside the work of Maria Campbell, Harold Cardinal and Rita Joe as part of the first wave of Indigenous writing in Canada. It is a blunt and moving portrayal of the raw and painful details of her life and that of First Nations Peoples across Canada, particularly women. It consciously speaks to those who would blame the victims by depicting these harsh realities as a direct consequence of the theft of Indigenous lands, resources and sovereignty at the hands of colonialism and racism, a theme that runs throughout her work.

Considering the gut-wrenching story of her life--from rebellious teenager and school dropout to the streets of Toronto and Vancouver--her survival and achievements are all the more remarkable. She holds degrees in Sociology, English, Anthropology and Women's Studies and Creative Writing from Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria has published nine more books and one monograph, some of which have been translated into German, Arabic and French. She has collaborated with others to edit four books, has written stories, articles, reviews, and poems that have appeared in thirty-five anthologies and fifteen or more journals and has given scores of guest lectures at universities, conferences, and workshops across Canada and the United States. As well, she has served as Writer in Residence at the En'owkin Center; Distinguished Guest Professor in Women's Studies at the University of Toronto, the Stanley Knowles Guest Professor at the University of Waterloo, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Canadian

Culture at Western Washington University, and Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Aboriginal Studies and English at the University of Toronto. She has served on juries for numerous literary competitions, has worked intensively with elders and other writers in many First Nations for the survival of Indigenous cultures and has been honored with numerous prestigious awards for her writing and work.

For her brilliant achievements and courageous voice from the margins we now present to you, most Reverend Chancellor, Lee Maracle and ask that you award her the degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*.