

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Members of Academic Council**

**DATE: March 2017**

**FROM: Tim McTiernan, President and Vice-Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Honorary Degree Recipients 2017**

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After reviewing the outstanding nominations recommended by the Honorary Degrees Committee, I am pleased to report that we have confirmed this year's honorary degree recipients. The four candidates to receive honorary degrees at the upcoming Convocation ceremonies to be held on June 8 and 9, 2017 are: Mr. Sarabjit Marwah, Ms. Shirlee Sharkey, Ms. Jeanette Southwood and Ms. Shirley Williams.

#### **The Honourable Sarabjit Marwah - Doctor of Laws, honoris causa**

Born in India, Sarabjit 'Sabi' Marwah was the Vice-Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the Bank of Nova Scotia, better known as Scotiabank, from 2008 until his retirement in 2014. He was recently appointed as an independent Senator by the Governor General on advice of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Mr. Marwah is also currently Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital for Sick Children, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Toronto International Film Festival. He was previously Chair of the Humber River Regional Hospital, a member of the 2008 & 2009 United Way Cabinets, and a member of the Board of Directors of the C.D. Howe Institute, an independent not-for-profit economic policy research organization. He also currently is a member of the Board of Directors of Cineplex Entertainment, Telus, and George Weston Limited.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Economics from Calcutta University, a Master of Arts in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, and a Master in Business Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is credited with having an extraordinary impact on the success and character of Scotiabank and is regarded as a business leader dedicated to excellence. He is known for his refreshing approach to incorporating humor into his management style, which along with his personal approach

in dealing with people, contributed to a successful business career. He received the Queens Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals for his contribution to Canada.

### **Ms. Shirlee Sharkey - Doctor of Laws, honoris causa**

Shirlee Sharkey is a trusted and innovative clinical/health services leader, registered nurse and administrator. She has more than two decades of experience as the President and CEO of Saint Elizabeth, a national not-for-profit healthcare organization providing six million health care visits annually and employs 8,000 people providing nursing, rehabilitation, personal support, research and consulting services.

Ms. Sharkey is an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto's Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. Under Ms. Sharkey's leadership, Saint Elizabeth Health Career College supports providers with the knowledge and skills they need to support an aging population and thrive in the health and wellness workforce through ongoing experiential learning and interprofessional collaboration. Lifelong learning is a value she supports personally, professionally, and through her leadership at Saint Elizabeth.

Ms. Sharkey's commitment to public service is evident in her membership on several health and education boards, including: Chair of the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (a standing committee for Health Quality Ontario), past Chair of George Brown College, and former President of the Canadian Home Care Association. She received the 2012 Diamond Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Excellence from Excellence Canada in organizational innovation, quality and wellness in 2015, and the 2010 Innovation Award for Health Care Leadership from the Canadian College of Health Service Executives.

### **Ms. Jeanette Southwood - Doctor of Laws, honoris causa**

An award-winning engineer and leader, Jeanette Southwood is Vice-President, Strategy & Partnerships, at Engineers Canada, the national organization of the 12 engineering regulators that license Canada's more than 290,000 members of the engineering profession where she leads the team focusing on the future of the profession. Prior to joining Engineers Canada, Jeanette led the largest sector, the Canadian Urban Development & Infrastructure Sector, and the Global Sustainable Cities teams at a large global consulting firm. Additionally, she has spoken at many conferences and workshops, and has authored and contributed to articles, books, peer-reviewed papers, and presentations that detail research and practice, and expand the bank of knowledge around urbanization, urban resilience and sustainable development. She has shared her knowledge and experience with young professionals as an adjunct lecturer developing and presenting courses at the University of Toronto.

In her early career, Jeanette received the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Young Engineer Medal. This medal honours a young engineer who has demonstrated

exceptional achievements and excellence, not only in work but also in service to the community and the profession. She is now a Fellow of Engineers Canada, and a recipient of the Province of Ontario's "Leading Women Building Communities Award". She was honoured in 2014 as one of Canada's Clean50 for her work as an influencer dedicated to sustainable development, leading change, championing innovation and changing our world for the better. In 2014, she was also inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, which recognizes engineers contributing in exemplary ways towards their disciplinary fields and the wider community. A dedicated volunteer with a number of organizations and on several Boards and committees of local, provincial and national organizations over the years, Jeanette received the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards (OPEA) Engineering Excellence Medal in 2015 and was named one of WXN Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women. In 2017, she will be recognized as one of the Women of Innovation.

**Professor Shirley Williams – Doctor of Laws, honoris causa**

Elder Shirley Williams is Professor Emeritus at Trent University, where she has been teaching and researching the Anishinaabek language since 1986. She is a survivor of the residential school system. She has a BA in Indigenous Studies from Trent University, a Native Language Instructors Diploma from Lakehead University and an MES in Environmental Studies from York University. She is the first Indigenous person in Canada to achieve the rank of full professor based on her Traditional knowledge.

Ms. Williams has published several Anishinaabowin language teaching resources involving various methods and topics ranging from animals to hockey to treaties, and has contributed translations for the Ontario Ministry of education, Heritage Canada and several other organizations. She also contributes as an Elder to Trent University, Fleming College, and for the Chiefs of Ontario on health programming. She acts as cultural advisor to Durham College and UOIT. Her most recent award is the 2016 CUPE 3908-1 Award for Excellence in Teaching. Shirley's teaching has been praised as enthusiastic, kind and inspirational, and she believes that language learning should be fun.

**Convocation Ceremonies**

The UOIT Convocation ceremonies are being held on Thursday, June 8 and Friday, June 9, 2017 at the Tribute Communities Centre. The schedule is:

Ceremony Date & Time	Faculty	Honorary Degree Recipient
Thursday, June 8 9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science</li> <li>• Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> </ul>	Ms. Jeanette Southwood

<b>Ceremony Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Honorary Degree Recipient</b>
Thursday, June 8 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Education</li> <li>• Faculty of Health Sciences</li> </ul>	Ms. Shirlee Sharkey
Friday, June 9 9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Faculty of Science</li> </ul>	The Honourable Sarabjit Marwah
Friday, June 9 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Social Science and Humanities</li> </ul>	Professor Shirley Williams

I hope you will all join us in celebrating the achievements of our students and our honorary degree recipients at this year's Convocation ceremonies.

cc: Members, Honorary Degrees Committee