# Convocation 2016 - Citation by Dr. Stephen Bocking: Afternoon Ceremony June 7, 2016

2 minutes 08 seconds in length

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>> STEPHEN BOCKING: Mr. Chancellor, today we celebrate making connections between writers and readers, between people and nature, between the twin imperatives of living green and making a living. We celebrate these connections by honouring Michael de Pencier, a publisher entrepreneur, and advocate for the planet.

As chairman of Key Publishers Company, Michael de Pencier helped build the Canadian publishing industry, fostering many of Canada's leading magazines such as Canadian Geographic, Canadian Business, and Toronto Life. Through these publications generations of writers have connected to their readers, helping Canadians to understand their country, their economy, and their communities. Over the last two decades Mr. de Pencier has become -- has also become one of Canada's most effective advocates of environmental stewardship. A strong supporter of World Wildlife Fund Canada he served for many years as its chairman. And above all he has connected as business talents to his concern for nature, demonstrating that entrepreneurialism can be critical to solving our most pressing environmental challenges.

By creating the Green Living Show, which now attracts tens of thousands of people every year, he has connected countless green businesses with their customers. By founding InvestEco Capital Corporation he has connected investors to business opportunities in the environment. InvestEco now focuses on food and sustainable agriculture, thereby helping to connect the food we eat to our concern for the planet.

This successful record of making connections can provide fitting inspiration for our graduates today, many of whom seek to make their own connections between their knowledge of the environment or agriculture and their desire to take action.

Mr. Chancellor I'm honoured to present to you for the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa, Michael de Pencier.

[Applause]

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