# Convocation 2016 - Citation by Dr. Nadine Changfoot: Afternoon Ceremony June 8, 2016

## 4 minutes 38 seconds in length

[Trent University logo]

>> NADINE CHANGFOOT: Mr. Chancellor. Trent's mission includes preparing our students to make significant contributions to an increasingly complex world in interdisciplinary ways, as well as promoting a culture which engages all members of the Trent community, nurturing a sense of belonging. Roy MacGregor is exemplary in the expression of Trent University's mission, in his contribution – in his contributions to Canada's national understanding of culture at the intersection of sport, wilderness, and Canadian art and more.

Roy MacGregor is an award-winning journalist with four national magazine awards and eight national newspaper award nominations. He holds a political science degree from Laurentian University and he has studied journalism at the University of Western Ontario. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada. He is the author of more than 50 books. A Life in the Bush his memoir of his time at Algonquin Park won the US Rutstrum Award for Best Wilderness Book. His novel Canoe Lake was selected as one of the 100 essential – essential books published by McClelland and Stewart in the publisher's 100-year history. His most recent book Canoe Country: The Making of Canada was published recently in September 2015. Roy currently works as a columnist at the Globe and Mail. Right now he's featuring stories of our country's major rivers, coast to coast important symbols and more importantly ongoing life and spiritual sources for Canada's indigenous people as well as non-indigenous and the challenges around human attachments to place.

When Roy MacGregor was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2005, the citation noted and I quote that he is renowned for evoking the subtle nuances of our Canadian identity in his columns and books. Indeed Roy's written work, popular appeal, career as a journalist, and connection to particularly Canadian topics, resonates with Trent's interdisciplinary nature. His publications are almost a directive to the interdisciplinarity within the field of Canadian Studies and they are easily attached to some of Trent's programs and interests, ranging as they do from discussions of ice hockey in popular culture to the Canadian wilderness, Ontario cottage country, even the Group of Seven Tom Thompson's mysterious death, a subject that he's covered invest best-selling works of fiction and nonfiction.

For some local context with Trent, Trent and Roy have been building relationship. In 2014 and 2015 he was esteemed Ashley Fellow. The Ashley Lecture that year

[Nadine Changfoot catches her hat as the wind blows]

[Laughter]

was held at the Canadian Canoe Museum and attracted a standing-room intergenerational crowd attesting to the appeal of Mr. MacGregor's appeal to all ages.

Beyond the awards, Roy has been described as one of our most gifted storytellers. Storytelling of Canada's most celebrated and recognized dimensions and also diverse dimensions including those at the margins who are not heard or invisible of what it means to be Canadian can certainly build and nurture a sense of belonging along the lines of Trent's mission.

Mr. Chancellor, I am honoured to present to you for the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa, Roy MacGregor.

[Applause]

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