

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Vancouver Senate Tributes Committee  
c/o  
Enrolment Services | Senate & Curriculum Services  
Brock Hall 2016 – 1874 East Mall  
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1  
Tel : (604) 822-8141 | Fax : (604) 822-5945

2 September 2011

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Tributes Committee

Re: Memorial Minute – Dr. Moses Wolfe Steinberg

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The Tributes Committee has prepared a memorial minute for Dr. Moses Wolfe Steinberg.

***Motion:*** *That Senate approve the Memorial Minute for Dr. Moses Wolfe Steinberg, that it be entered into the Minutes of Senate and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sally Thorne, Chair  
Senate Tributes Committee

### **Dr. Moses Wolfe Steinberg**

Dr. Moses Steinberg was a highly respected educator and Jewish community leader. As a UBC professor of English literature for 52 years, he instilled a love of literature in thousands of students, honoured as UBC Master Teacher in 1971 and 1972.

Following completion of a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at Queen's University, Dr. Steinberg enrolled in doctoral studies in English Literature at the University of Toronto. While a doctoral candidate, he was recruited to join UBC's Department of English as an Assistant Professor. He joined the department in 1946 and completed his PhD in 1952.

In 1959, Professor Steinberg co-founded *Prism*, a successful poetry journal currently published as *Prism International*. He also founded and directed the Poetry Centre, bringing to UBC such poets as Dylan Thomas, George Barker, Stephen Spender, Padraic Colum and Langston Hughes. He was also instrumental in the creation of the University's Arts One program. In 1956, the centenary of George Bernard Shaw's birth, Professor Steinberg and Dorothy Somerset founded the Vancouver Shaw Festival.

A deeply religious man, he was instrumental in the founding of three of Vancouver's Jewish day schools: Vancouver Talmud Torah Elementary School, Vancouver Hebrew Academy and Maimonides High School (now King David High School). He was an active member of the Schara Tzedek Synagogue, president of the Pacific Region of Canadian Jewish Congress, and played a leading role in many other Jewish community institutions and organizations.

Professor Steinberg retired from the University in 1983, but his affiliation with and service to the University continued for many years. His service to the University included membership on the Senate (1966-1969 and 1971-1972), the Board of Governors, the Faculty Association and numerous other committees. In 1977, Professor Steinberg was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal.

In his memory, the Professor Mo Steinberg Memorial Award in English Literature will be established and awarded to a student who best exemplifies an amalgam of academic excellence in English literature and the attributes of good citizenship.