

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



a place of mind

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

8 March 2013

To: Vancouver Senate
From: Tributes Committee
Re: Memorial Minute

The Tributes Committee has prepared a memorial minute for the following individual:

The Honourable Alfred John Scow

Motion: *That Senate approve the Memorial Minute for the Honourable Alfred John Scow, 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

The Honourable Alfred John Scow

The Honourable Alfred Scow was considered a trailblazer by many. A member of the Kwicksutaineuk-ah-kwa-mish First Nation on Vancouver Island, Scow was the first person of aboriginal descent to graduate from a BC law school and to be called to the British Columbia bar. He completed his Bachelor of Laws from UBC in 1961 and was called to the bar the following year. In 1971, he became a Provincial Court Justice, serving in this capacity until 1992. After leaving the Provincial Court, Mr. Scow worked on behalf of the Musqueam, Fraser Valley and Penticton Indian bands.

He was a tireless supporter of UBC and was instrumental in establishing the University's First Nations Studies program. His commitment and dedication to the University was evident in his service in many capacities, including service to Senate as a Convocation senator (1990-1993), membership on the President's Advisory Committee, the Faculty of Law First Nations Advisory Committee and the Alumni Association Board. He was a founding member of the Elders Committee for the First Nations House of Learning, served on the management council for First Nations House of Learning and was the founder and lifetime member of the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society. Mr. Scow received the University's Great Trekker Award in 1995 and was further recognized with an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1997.

Outside of the University, Mr. Scow's community service included work for the John Howard Society, the United Good Neighbour Fund and Credit Union, the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities, the Aboriginal Justice Centre, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the YVR Art Foundation and the Institute of Indigenous Government.

Alfred Scow was an inspiring figure, both within and outside the Aboriginal community. In 2001, he founded the Scow Institute, which works to promote greater understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments and community service, Mr. Scow co-authored a children's book entitled 'Secret of the Dance.' Published in 2006, 'Secret of the Dance' tells the true story of then nine-year-old Scow, who unbeknownst to his parents, sneaked in to watch his father dance at a potlatch, an activity then prohibited under the Indian Act.

His professional and community efforts have been recognized with many awards, including the Canada 125 Medal, the Centennial Medal of Canada and the Canadian Indian Arts Foundation Aboriginal Achievement Award. Mr. Scow was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2000 and the Order of British Columbia in 2004.

Throughout his career, Alfred Scow demonstrated vision, integrity and a dedication to social justice. He was an inspirational figure and will be missed by many. The Senate offers its deepest condolences to his family and friends.