



John Polanyi

Honorary Doctor of Laws

Dr. John Polanyi is one of Canada's preeminent scientists and a Nobel Laureate (Chemistry, 1986). In the late 1950s, when nuclear weaponry brought concerns of human survival to the forefront, Polanyi stood out as a voice of reason—a clear example of science coupled with conscience.

Polanyi became convinced of the need for scientists to involve themselves in public affairs, especially as related to issues of nuclear war. He has written and given lectures extensively on science policy, the control of armaments, and peacekeeping.

Polanyi has called upon his fellow scientists and scholars to stand in opposition to tyranny and to constitute themselves as an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of exceptional authority. "[Moral authority] should be used to support the movement on which all our hopes for the future depend; the movement toward peace based on respect for the individual, whose manifesto is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," he wrote. "The time has come to

underscore the fact that our and others' rights are contingent on our willingness to assert and defend them."

Polanyi has received numerous awards over the course of his remarkable career. He is a Fellow of the Royal Societies of Canada (FRSC), of London (FRS), and of Edinburgh (FRSE), also of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the US National Academy of Sciences, the Pontifical Academy of Rome, and the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, and a Companion of the Order of Canada. Polanyi was awarded the Royal Medal of the Royal Society of London and holds 30 honorary degrees from six countries.

In addition to his distinguished scientific career, Polanyi was a founding member of the Committee on Scholarly Freedom of the Royal Society and of the Canadian Committee for Scientists and Scholars, an international human rights organization of which he is the current president. In 1960, Polanyi was the founding chair of the Canadian Pugwash Group. He is co-editor of a book, *The Dangers of Nuclear War*, and was a participant in the "Canada 21" study of a 21st century defense posture for Canada. Currently, Polanyi is a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto where he conducts research on the molecular motions in chemical reactions in gases and at surfaces.

For his great accomplishments as a scientist, human rights activist, and promoter of peace, The University of Winnipeg is proud to bestow upon Dr. John Polanyi an Honorary Doctor of Science.