

INTRODUCTION OF SANTEE SMITH
CHANCELLOR OF MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

to the

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

12:00 O'CLOCK, WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019

CIBC HALL, STUDENTS CENTRE, MCMASTER

Members of the McMaster University Retirees Association, as your Honorary President and as President Emeritus of McMaster, I am pleased to do two things: welcome you to this Christmas Luncheon and introduce to you our new Chancellor.

Among the approximately 16,000 universities around the world, McMaster is being ranked, over and over again in recent years, as one of the best, in our research, in citations of our research, in our educational programs for students, and in the social and economic impact of our work. You and I have all played our parts in helping bring these achievements about. I congratulate you and thank you for what you have done. I also commend you for your ongoing loyalty to McMaster and to your colleagues in MURA.

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you Santee Smith and to welcome her to this holiday gathering. As of 21 November, two weeks ago, she was formally installed as our University's 17th Chancellor at an unusual, colourful, and moving convocation ceremony in the First Ontario Concert Hall (Hamilton Place). Santee Smith is from the Kahnnyen'kehàka (Mohawk) Nation, Turtle Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River.

Our previous Chancellor, Suzanne Labarge, late in her time in office, pointed out that the regalia worn by the Chancellor was in a state of disrepair and needed updating. A new regalia, worn for the first time last month, now has a robe trimmed with gold braid from the previous robe and includes a yoke, cuffs, and Glengarry hat with traditional beading, incorporating the traditions of the McMaster University Chancellor and of our new Chancellor's own Mohawk and Scottish heritage.

Santee Smith is a two-time graduate of McMaster, with degrees in physical education and psychology. She has a master of arts in dance from York University. She is an internationally recognized artist, dancer, and choreographer. Her Haudenosaunee name is Tekaronhlàhkhwa, which has the wonderful meaning 'picking up the sky.' I can't think of a better symbolic metaphor to have attach itself to each of the McMaster students already admitted to their degrees by Chancellor Smith and to the many hundreds more still to be admitted in the years ahead.

As you know, the Chancellor is the honorary head of the University, presiding over all convocations and taking part in many University activities and events. Chancellor Smith took her vow publicly on November 21 to uphold the mission and values of the University, while expanding upon the principles of understanding and cooperation of the Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas, "on whose land we now stand, work, play, learn and share."

Welcome, Chancellor Smith.

Alvin A. Lee, President Emeritus