

Dickason, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta, will receive a Doctor of Laws (LLD) and address convocation.



Olive Patricia Dickason

Instrumental in fostering an understanding among the English, French and Aboriginal cultures of Canada, Dickason has contributed from two directions — as a journalist and editor in several prestigious Canadian newspapers for 25 years, and through her teaching in academia; she has shaped the education of many developing scholars during the last two decades.

Not only did she write and teach, she had a major influence on public perceptions of the day. During the 1970s and 1980s, Dickason wrote and taught about colonial-aboriginal relations; re-evaluating these interactions was instrumental in changing perceptions of the past and the influence this past has on present interactions. She became much in demand as a speaker, writer, reviewer and interviewee, speaking from her background as a Metis, in conjunction with her role as a university professor, and filtered through her experience as a journalist. Her textbook, *Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times*, is widely cited and considered a unique contribution to the understanding of the aboriginal path in North America.

Her scholarly achievements have led to numerous awards and honours, including the Rockefeller Senior Fellowship at the D'Arcy McNickle Centre for the History of the American Indian (Newberry Library in Chicago), the Aboriginal Life Achievement Award of the Canadian Native Arts Foundation, several honorary degrees, and receipt of the Order of Canada.

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