

PFS Communications

Glendon College

Joan Andrew (Honorary Doctorate—Citation)



Long-Form

Mr. Chancellor, may I now present to this Convocation the candidate for the Doctorate honoris causa, to be conferred by York University:

Joan Andrew

(Candidate for the Honorary Degree as named, will rise. The PLATFORM MARSHAL will rise and stand next to the CANDIDATE with the hood and diploma.)

As a dedicated public servant and tireless champion for all who call Ontario home, Joan Andrew has left an indelible mark on our province and built an irrefutable legacy that will improve the lives of Ontarians for generations to come.

From her time as a student at Glendon and throughout her illustrious 36-year career in public service, Joan Andrew has demonstrated keen leadership, a deep devotion to diversity and inclusion, and an unwavering commitment to advancing the public interest. She has a fundamental understanding of how any government initiative could help or hurt people, using this innate sense to influence those with the power to affect change. No matter which political party she served under, she distinguished herself as a trusted, non-partisan advisor who always had her finger on the public's pulse and whose compassionate insight into their needs helped inform countless programs and policies that will define Ontario's future.

Guided by empathy and a genuine passion for helping others, Joan Andrew has long been a staunch advocate for women and new Canadians in Ontario. She has applied this passion to help our province make substantial strides in education, gender-based violence, workforce training and immigrant settlement. Joan Andrew was instrumental in developing the first-ever integrated strategy to address violence against women in Ontario, and she led the establishment of an agency to oversee access to self-regulated professions for internationally trained newcomers.

Always the voice of reason and a reliable source of sage wisdom, good judgement and broad perspective on emerging public issues, Joan Andrew remains a renowned expert in her field to this day. Her lifelong dedication to public service is unshakable, and she has continued to demonstrate it through her volunteer involvement in the United Way, the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council and the Niagara Parks Commission. She even briefly returned to public service during the Syrian Refugee Crisis, helping guide the Ontario government's approach to welcoming and settling individuals and families escaping the dangers befalling their home country.

Joan Andrew has also imparted her expertise and mentorship to the next generation of public servants as an educator, serving as the Distinguished Public Servant in Residence for Toronto Metropolitan University. Here, she helped prepare tomorrow's leaders—future changemakers just like those of you crossing the stage here today—to follow the trail she blazed and carry on her legacy.

As an alumna and esteemed leader in her field, Joan Andrew represents the best of Glendon College and York University. She embodies our motto of *alteri saeculo* by fostering positive and long-lasting change for the benefit of future generations. She brings a truly global approach to her work and is a shining example of what we can achieve when we commit ourselves to the greater good. It is thus only right that she be chosen as this year's Honorary Doctorate recipient, to further inspire our graduates with her words as they embark on their journeys, poised to create an impact of their own.

I present to you Chancellor, Joan Andrew, candidate for the degree (Doctor of Laws), honoris causa.

Short-Form

This year's honorary doctorate recipient represents the best of Glendon College and York University, and perfectly embodies our motto of *alteri saeculo*—'for future generations.' As a dedicated public servant and tireless champion for all who call Ontario home, Joan Andrew has left an indelible mark on our province and built an irrefutable legacy that will improve the lives of Ontarians for generations to come.

From her time as a student at Glendon and throughout her illustrious 36-year career with the Ontario Public Service, Ms. Andrew has demonstrated keen leadership, a deep devotion to diversity and inclusion, and an unwavering commitment to advancing the public interest. She is a staunch advocate for women and new Canadians in Ontario and has helped our province make substantial strides forward for education, gender-based violence, workforce training and immigrant settlement.

Having distinguished herself as a trusted, non-partisan advisor and renowned expert in her field, Ms. Andrew continues to actively demonstrate her unshakable, lifelong dedication to public service to this day. As a Glendon alumna herself, her words will undoubtedly inspire our graduates as they embark on their own journeys and follow in her footsteps to become the changemakers of tomorrow.