

## **The Honorands of The 2009 Commencement**

### **Sheila Watt-Cloutier Doctor of Humane Letters**

Environmentalist Sheila Watt-Cloutier has been a powerful voice in the international discussion of global climate change, human rights, and political and economic policies. Born in Kuujjuag, Nunavik, she is the past chair of Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the organization that represents internationally the 155,000 Inuit of Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Chukotka in the far east of Russia. She represented a coalition of northern indigenous Peoples in the global negotiations that led to the 2001 Stockholm Convention banning the generation and use of persistent organic pollutants that contaminate the arctic food web. She contributed markedly to ICC Canada's Institution-Building for Northern Russian Indigenous People's Project, and has worked through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to defend Inuit human rights against the impacts of climate change.