Honorary Bachelor of Business Administration

Linda Hughes

Throughout her career, Linda Hughes has championed community.

That career began in journalism, a profession that is closely aligned with community service. In 1972, Hughes took a job as a reporter at the Victoria Times. She worked her way up through roles such as legislature bureau chief and reporter and then moved to take up various editorial positions with The Edmonton Journal.

There, Hughes eventually took on the role of editor-in-chief and, later, publisher and president – the first woman in Canada to have that title at a major newspaper. She would hold that job until she left the paper in 2006.

Throughout that time, Hughes was active in supporting a variety of causes. To name but a few, she served on the strategy council for the Mazankowski Heart Institute, was a founding member and chair of the NorQuest College Foundation, and spent nearly a decade as a board member and then board chair for the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.

After Hughes left the Journal, she devoted herself more fully to community service. She contributed to health care during her time with the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation board of directors. Homelessness received her attention through her roles as a board member with the Edmonton Homeless Commission and as chair of the Mayor's Committee to End Homelessness in Edmonton. Hughes fostered community through the Telus Community Board and with the Edmonton Community Foundation. And she boosted research and education by serving on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and, from 2008-2012, as the chancellor of the University of Alberta.

Just as she worked to ensure that journalism improved her community, Hughes has directed her volunteer efforts to have the same effect, whether that was to link people to social resources, improve access to education, or inspire others to give back as well.

Hughes' talents and contributions have been recognized by numerous organizations. She earned a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Victoria, an honorary diploma and Distinguished Citizen award from MacEwan University, and holds honorary doctorate degrees from Athabasca University, University of Alberta and University of Victoria. She has been inducted into the Alberta Business Hall of Fame and the City of Edmonton Hall of Fame. In 2016, Hughes was named to the Alberta Order of Excellence, the highest honour that the province can bestow upon a citizen.

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