

Dr Martha Piper

Martha Piper graduated BSc from the University of Michigan in 1967 and MA (in Child Development) from the University of Connecticut in 1970 before moving to Canada with her husband and taking her PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University in 1979. She served as Director of McGill's School of Physical and Occupational Therapy and Dean of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

In 1997, she was recruited from her position of Vice-President of Research and External Affairs at the University of Alberta in Edmonton to become the first woman President of the University of British Columbia.

Martha Piper's research interests have focused on early detection of mental and physical disabilities in children which would enable effective early intervention. In 1993, with Johanna Darrah, she published *Motor Assessment of the Developing Infant*.

She has been a leader in research administration, serving organisations as varied as the Alberta Research Council, the Canada Israel Industrial Research Foundation, the Centre for Frontier Engineering Research and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. She was appointed to the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology in 1994, the Canada Foundation for Innovation in 1997 and the Board of Directors of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada the following year. In 2001 she was appointed by the Premier of British Columbia to the British Columbia Progress Board.

Martha Piper's involvement with the wider community was recognised by the award of British Columbia Business Communicator of the Year in 1998. The Martha C. Piper Research Prize is awarded annually to a faculty member at the University of Alberta to commemorate the highly significant contribution Dr Piper made to that University before taking up her appointment at the University of British Columbia.

Martha Piper holds two honorary DSc degrees from McGill University (1998) and the University of Western Ontario (2002), and was awarded the honorary degree of LLD from Dalhousie University (1999) and the University of Toronto (2001).