



For Immediate Release

## **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentation and Commissioner's Awards– Kugluktuk**

**Iqaluit, NU (August 20, 2012)** – On August 11, the Honourable Edna Elias, Commissioner of Nunavut, presented the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Commissioner's Awards in Kugluktuk.

A community ceremony was organized for the Honourable Edna Elias and the Honourable Peter Taptuna, Minister and Member of the Legislative Assembly, to present the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals to 5 deserving recipients: Colin Adjun, Simon and Millie Kuliktana, Barbara Elaine Harvey and Thomas Mark Harvey.

The Commissioner's Awards were also presented to 2 deserving community members. The award for Bravery was given to Donald Havioyak, and the award for Special Skills was given to June Okalik Klengenberg.

Commissioner Elias also recognized Joe and Ada Ogina's 50th wedding anniversary - April 23, 1962.

For more information about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal or the Commissioner's Awards, please visit [www.gov.nu.ca/commissioner](http://www.gov.nu.ca/commissioner).

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Please see the attached backgrounder for more information about the recipients.

### **Contact:**

Marie Fortier  
Assistant to the Commissioner of Nunavut  
Office of the Commissioner  
Tel: (867) 975-5120  
E-mail: [mfortier@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mfortier@gov.nu.ca)

## **Backgrounder:**

### **Commissioner's Award for Bravery recipients**

**Donald Havioyak** – In January 2007, Donald Havioyak noticed a house fire with someone inside. He tried to enter, but found it too hot and full of smoke. He quickly went through the other entrance. Once inside, he noticed Bessie Kuneluk sitting immobile on the kitchen floor. Donald dragged her from the burning house, saving her life.

### **Commissioner's Award for Special Skills**

**June Okalik Klengenber** – June is recognized for a lifetime of passing on skills in sewing, drum dancing, and child-rearing. As the eldest person in Kugluktuk, she demonstrates a healthy lifestyle and inspires others.

**Joe and Ada Ogina 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary - April 23, 1962** – This couple was recognized for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### **Diamond Jubilee medals presented by Commissioner Elias and Minister Peter Taptuna**

**Colin Adjun** – Since Colin was a young man, he gave his music for community celebrations, anniversaries, weddings and charities. His fiddle music has inspired many children and youth to learn dances.

**Simon and Millie Kuliktana** – As a couple, Millie and Simon have opened their home to youth for evening activity choices.

**Simon** has been mentoring, coaching and playing music with youth. During winter, their home is known for hosting spontaneous 'jam sessions' with live music. Simon also plays lead guitar for fiddlers, Colin Adjun and son, Gustin.

**Millie** volunteers for community events, putting family and personal needs aside. She is involved in recreation, social events, and activities that improve the health of the community. She has opened her home to youth as a drop-in centre to provide a safe environment for fun.

**Barbara Elaine Harvey** – Barbara has held several positions within the areas of healthcare, including nurse in charge. She has been dedicated to the health and welfare of Kugluktuk, which makes her a worthy recipient.

**Thomas Mark Harvey** – Sergeant Harvey is a positive role model for young Inuit. He has the Southwestern Asia Service Medal, the ISAF General Campaign Star, the NATO Former Yugoslavia Service Medal, and the Canadian Peacekeeper Medal. He sets an example that young people can strive to follow in their lives.