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Office of the Commissioner of Nunavut
Affassikavian Kamissinam Nunavunmi
Bureau de la Commissaire du Nunavut

Speech to Canadian Rangers and JTFN

Cambridge Bay, NU

Sunday, Feb 10, 2013

Elders, Commissioner Phillips of the Yukon, Commissioner Tuccaro of the NWT, Mayor or Deputy Mayor, Members of the Joint Task Force North.

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome and to host my colleagues; Commissioners Tuccaro and Phillips to Nunavut. This being Commissioner Phillips' first trip to Nunavut; it will certainly be a memorable one having camped out on the frozen tundra of Victoria Island, Nunavut. He owns and operates to this day a trapline in the Whitehorse area so being out on the land is not new to him. He may have missed the trees for shelter and windbreak. Welcome!

This is also a landmark for the JTFN that the three territorial Commissioners have participated and witnessed firsthand training exercises of the Rangers and camped out in mid winter. A first! We could not have felt more secure and safe camping out amongst skilled and knowledgeable personnel.



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Also welcome to the Canadian Rangers from the neighboring territories! Without the collaboration, cooperation and joint efforts, Arctic sovereignty and security would be impossible in this vast Arctic we call home. Observing your demonstrations and skills demonstrates your capabilities and hospitalities as the first responders to any activity that may jeopardize our sovereignty and security. As you have heard time and time again, the eyes and ears for our country.

The new and evolving Canadian Junior Ranger program is in excellent hands. Subsequently the Canadian Ranger program's future is reassuring.

We have much to be proud of knowing that you are taking your roles and responsibilities seriously. Canadians thank you for your service. Stand proud for what you do for your separate territories but as a whole for Canada.

Thank you very much.

Honourable Edna Ekhivalak Elias, O.Nu.
Commissioner of Nunavut