



Statement

Tragedy in Resolute Bay on Saturday 20 August

August 22, 2011
Iqaluit, NU

Statement from the Honourable Edna Elias, Commissioner of Nunavut

It is with great distress and sadness that I learned about the crash in Resolute Bay on Saturday.

The Community of Resolute Bay has grown dear to my heart during my past three visits throughout my first year as Commissioner of Nunavut. I can't help but feel for all the people.

They survived relocation, isolation, social struggles and influences, yet grew to be a strong tight knit community. This tragedy is another blow, however they all pull together to help and be there for one another and for the people who travel through their community.

My prayers and thoughts are with all those who lost loved one. I wish them courage and the ability to grieve. To the survivors and their families and friends, I wish you a full recovery and the support you need to process this horrific tragedy.

To the military and Rangers, many of who I have met in previous exercises, I commend you for your quick and efficient response. Even with the shock of seeing part of your exercise turn into such a reality, your training directs you into an automatic mode to deal with this catastrophe. My heart goes out to you.

It is unfortunate that our Governor General David Johnston's first visit ended in such a heartbreaking way. As Commander in Chief, he was in Resolute to participate in the exercises. He and Mrs. Johnston have safely returned to Ottawa.

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For more information, contact:

Marie Fortier
Executive assistant to the Commissioner of Nunavut
Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tel 867 975 5120
mfortier@gov.nu.ca