



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

**Speaking Notes
Nakasuk School Grade Five Graduation
Tuesday 05 June 2012**

Graduates, parents, families, Elders, friends and teaching staff;

Thank you very much for the invitation to speak at your special ceremony which marks your big move to the middle school.

I must say that as Commissioner of Nunavut this is the first graduation speech that I am doing to a graduating class other than a grade 12 or college graduation. This is quite an honour.

As a former teacher and principal I know how exciting it is for students to be moving from an elementary school to a middle or junior/senior high school.

This graduation marks a stepping stone of many in your life-long journey in education. To your young mind, this may seem unreachable or impossible.

But breaking it down into smaller steps makes it all possible and do-able: middle school next; another graduation perhaps to high school; high school; then grade 12 graduation; maybe graduation from Nunavut Sivuniksavut; then college or university graduation. You can do it! Before you know it, it will all happen!

You have strong and caring parents and grandparents to support you and who want to see you go far as you can in learning whatever it takes to become what you want to be.

Grade 9 or 12 is not the end of school; to become teachers, truck drivers, miners, lawyers, pilots, or any other skilled worker, will take more serious learning and dedication on your part. Even in these jobs, teachers, truck drivers, miners, lawyers and pilots have to continue learning. Education continues far beyond grade 12 graduation; it continues through life. Even I am going to take a university course this summer.

As you make the move to middle school and grade 6, enjoy the next phase of your learning, work hard and exercise and sleep well.

Congratulations and I wish you the best!

Quana.

