



The Honourable Edna Elias
Commissioner of Nunavut
Reception for Community Leaders & Volunteers at museum
13 September 2012
Speaking notes

Unnusakkut.

I am very pleased you all could join me at this reception.

This evening I have the honour of welcoming two very special guests to Nunavut's capital city, Iqaluit.

His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Her Royal Highness Princess Sophie, Countess of Wessex have a deep and personal relationship with Canada. They have visited Canada many times and now for the first time Their Royal Highnesses have come to Nunavut. The Earl and Countess of Wessex are here in Iqaluit to build long term patronage relationships with organizations that provide valuable support and services to Nunavummiut.

Prince Edward is the Chairman of the International Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This Award has been active in Canada since 1963 and Inuksuk High School here in Iqaluit is involved in this excellent program that helps young people explore their potential, take on new challenges, develop self-confidence and be active in their community.

A working visit from The Earl and Countess of Wessex brings about great benefits and we are very grateful that they have chosen to come to Iqaluit. Their efforts raise tens of millions of dollars for Canadian charities, raise the profile of Canadian organizations and issues, recognize the efforts of the Canadian Forces and Police units, recognize Canadian volunteers, highlight excellence among our citizens and build bridges between communities.

Please welcome His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Her Royal Highness Princess Sophie, Countess of Wessex. Their Royal Highnesses will now circulate and mingle with you. Enjoy!