



**The Honourable Edna Ekhivalak Elias
Commissioner of Nunavut**

Eastern Arctic Tour

Iqaluit, Nunavut

October 20, 2010

Brigadier-General; Troops, Rangers, Invited Guest; Families and Friends

Unnukkut, good evening.

It is with great pleasure that I join you this evening. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am so privileged to witness and take part in such events that reinforce and strengthen my Canadian-ness and allow me to stand proudly with you.

I cannot help but experience a very special feeling each time I see symbols of Canada. It is hard not to be a truly proud Canadian in your midst. I humbly share your strong patriotism.

Your role in protecting our land and waters and displaying our sovereignty across this vast beautiful Arctic does not go unnoticed.

You, the Rangers are the backbone, the foundation of the Canadian Forces Reserve in the north.

In Nunavut your dedication and knowledge makes it possible to protect Canada's sovereignty in a territory that has 20 per cent of Canada's landmass and 70 percent of Canada's coastline.

As Rangers you are the military's eyes and ears in the north, "The Watchers" as your motto states. Your support for sovereignty and surveillance is very important. You help the Canadian Forces defend our country and protect our national security but you do so much more.

Being a Ranger shows how much you care for others, your community, Nunavut and Canada. You are leaders in your community, always helping in times of need.

By acting as instructors, mentors, and supervisors of the Junior Canadian Rangers you support their learning and encourage sharing of knowledge both traditional and modern. These young people see first hand what teaching and training others can do to improve the quality of life in the north.

On special days such as Canada Day and Remembrance Day and at local community events you are always there helping us show our pride as Canadians and encouraging us to celebrate our unique northern culture.

I am sure I can speak for others when I say that I am extremely proud of you and your devotion to our communities and our country.

Quana.