



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

Speaking notes  
Kugluktuk Square Dance Showdown  
Sunday April 10, 2011, 7:00 pm

Before I give you the Commissioner's Waltz, I want to greet you and tell you how much this means to me.

This is so far a weekend many of us looked forward to. Not only for the fun of it but for what it represents.

This is a living proof that when the youth are encouraged and supported in healthy activities, they grow up confident and full of life.

The community is dedicated into convincing the youth that drug and alcohol free family oriented activities builds healthy communities, promotes healthy lifestyle choices for youth and promotes all round wellness spiritual, physical and emotional and mental wellness.

Happy healthy youth with lots to do promotes healthy families and communities.

Everywhere I go, Kugluktuk, I am proud to say, is recognized for their community spirit, energy and goodwill.

When you dance, the spirit of ancestry becomes alive in a way that is rich in culture and heritage. We can see the happy days of our elders,

the smiles upon their faces when they relive their early days and see what came of you. Whether you dance to the music of the accordion, fiddle or the drum, you all give us a piece of happiness.

Dancing is the celebration of life, confirming where we come from and where we are going. The energy is contagious; everyone can feel the depth of commitment and joy. From the eldest to the youngest, you are looked upon as role models. For a moment, everything is forgiven; the road ahead looks bright and welcoming. All of you are capable of maintaining this feeling when you go through life. If you don't dance, replay the energy in your mind and you will feel a smile come to you.

I have clips of square dancing on my computer and sometimes I play them and I can feel my legs wanting to dance, the sun gets brighter and the troubles of the day dissipate.

So I am happy to dedicate this Commissioner's Waltz to people who have taught us how to and to love to dance. There are too many of them to name and many are no longer with us. So after I start the Commissioner's Waltz, please join me in the waltz with someone who taught you to love to dance.

Quana."