



The Honourable Edna Ekhivalak Elias
Commissioner of Nunavut
Investiture of Mike Gardner to the Order of Nunavut
29 November 2011
Chamber of the Legislative Assembly

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Respected Elders, distinguished guests, friends and fellow Nunavummiut.

Today is not only an historic occasion for our territory, but a day of great joy and celebration as we gather together to honour one of our own.

As Commissioner of Nunavut and Chancellor of the Order of Nunavut, it is my honour to preside over the investiture of the Reverend Gardener as a member of the Order of Nunavut.

All of us here today know that Reverend Gardener has been a part of this territory and its communities for over 50 years.

During a lifetime of service and dedication, Reverend Mike and his wife, Margaret, have touched the lives of thousands of people.

I would anticipate that most of us in this room today can think of a time when Reverend Gardener made a difference in our own lives.

Whether it was a baptism, a wedding or just a quiet word of comfort, Reverend Gardener's commitment to this land and its people has been deep and profound.

Reverend Gardener is known to all of us as a man of faith and wisdom. He is also known to us as a man who has made our communities a better place in which to live.

In 2007, Reverend Gardener received our nation's highest honour, the Order of Canada. Today we observe two significant facts. One: Mr. Gardner being the first nominated recipient of the Order of Nunavut to receive his medal. Secondly, Mr. Gardner will also be the first Nunavunmiuttag to carry both the Order of Canada and the Order of Nunavut.

The official citation for his investiture notes his work in mobilizing community action on a number of challenging social issues and his service with many community organizations and groups dedicated to the well-being of our people.

Reverend Gardener's investiture today into the Order of Nunavut is a fitting tribute to the place that he holds in our hearts.

I would now like to say a few words about the honour that Reverend Gardener is receiving today.

In accordance with the law, a person who is invested with the Order of Nunavut becomes a member of the Order for life.

A member of the Order is entitled to use the initials "O.Nu" after his or her name, which signifies their membership in the Order.

All members of the Order of Nunavut shall receive a medal. The design for the medal was publicly unveiled by Justice Kilpatrick on Nunavut Day in 2010 and I pay tribute to its artistry.

Finally, all members receive a certificate, which constitutes his or her commission of appointment. This certificate is signed by the Chancellor of the Order of Nunavut and sealed with the Great Seal of the Territory.

I will now ask Reverend Michael Gardener to rise as I present him with the medal. I will then sign the certificate of membership. I ask that you withhold your applause until the certificate of membership has been signed.

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