



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

Speaking Notes – Nunavut Day, July 9, 2011

Iqaluit, Nunavut

- **Madame Premier, Madame President, ladies and gentlemen.**
- **Welcome to the Iqaluit Nunavut Day festivities!**
- **I am happy to be spending the day with you in our capital city as the Commissioner of Nunavut.**
- **It gives me such pleasure to see the smiling faces of Nunavummiut gathered here today to celebrate the birthday of Nunavut.**
- **As many of you know, it was the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement that made both the division of the NWT and the creation of Nunavut and the Government of Nunavut possible.**
- **It came into effect 18 years ago on this day, July 9, 1993 when the Royal proclamation was made in Coppermine. I remember that historic day very well.**
- **We have accomplished much in a short time. I encourage you to reflect on the changes of our communities since then as you celebrate.**
- **We have so much more to do, but for now, for today, let's be proud of what we've accomplished so far.**
- **Today is a day to celebrate our lives, our heritage, our culture and our ancestors who guided the process to Nunavut and who gave us the strength to persevere and attain these important goals.**

Quvianaraaluk!