



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

Rick Hansen Visit
25 September 2011
Nakasuk School, Iqaluit

Good evening everyone,

It is with great delight that I meet you, Rick Hansen, in person and welcome you to this beautiful part of our great country, Nunavut.

You are the living proof that sheer determination and faith can lead one anywhere and that one makes the most of what life throws at him/her. We all face challenges, visible or not. You have made it your mandate to overcome yours for the benefit of others.

I encourage all Nunavummiut to forge ahead; continue to face your challenges and to share and mark your progress; for it is an awesome feeling of accomplishment and success to overcome an obstacle, be it great or small. When challenges become visions a whole new world of opportunities open up. As demonstrated by our special guest, Rick Hansen, he took his disability and made it into an opportunity to fund raise towards spinal cord injury research.

You are truly a role model for our society and I believe that this visit and the rest of your tour will inspire many people. Nunavut Youth, the leaders of tomorrow can take the inspiration and apply it to their lives and down the path of their choosing.

So enjoy the evening and thank you very much!