



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

**Air Cadet 795 Squadron
Iqaluit, NU
November, 2013**

Good evening members of Air Cadet 795 Squadron, parents, grandparents and Cadet training leaders and personnel.

It is with great pleasure that I join you this evening for your parade. Cadets always look so proud, professional and impressive in full uniform 'standing on guard for thee'.

Your Cadet training is an extension of, and is just as important as, your schooling. I see the two going hand-in-hand complementing one another. The discipline you learn at either school or at cadet training should carry over to everything else that you do. Being a good cadet means being a good learner. Being a good cadet and a good student means being a good citizen.

Good citizens provide service to their friends, families and communities. A good citizen shovels snow for an Elder, helps someone out from the store with their bags or gives directions to a stranger on the street. You showed good citizenship by raising \$1,150 for the Legion poppy campaign this year. Volunteering for your class or school marks a good person. Rewards are not always necessary.

Parents are good citizens; they make sure that you get to school on time. They make sure you go to school fed and that you have proper nutrition for your cadet training. They make sure you take care of your uniform. They make sure that you get to cadet practices and events on time. They do all this to support your growth as a good citizen. You need to be thankful for that. We thank them very much as well.

Lastly, I want to talk about Canada 150. In 2017, our beautiful and proud nation, Canada will turn 150 years old. It may seem early to be thinking about a birthday that is many years away but as a nation we need to think and plan ahead. How old will you be in 2017? Some of you may be leaving Air Cadets and joining something else like the Canadian Rangers or the Canadian Forces. You may be off at university. You may be an employee for the government or a cadet leader. Whatever you may be doing in 2017, think about this question – What will my gift be for Canada in 2017?

I always like these words of the late John F. Kennedy, former U.S. President
“Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.”

What will I do for my country? Will I protect its environment? Will I be a spokesperson for Canada? Will I join the military for my country? Will I guard it as a Ranger? Will I serve my territory/country as a RCMP officer? The opportunities are boundless. Whatever path you choose will make your parents prouder and show that you have become a great citizen.

Think about it and chose wisely.

Quana very much for your attention and for inviting me to your parade.