



**The Honourable Nellie T. Kusugak
Commissioner of Nunavut**

Speaking Notes

**On the occasion of the
Nunavut Commissioner's Awards Ceremony**

December 1, 2016

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

Thank you to my aunt for the blessing bestowed upon us and Qulliq for “brightening” the hall with warmth.

I like to welcome everyone, Elders, His Worship Robert Janes, MLA for Rankin Inlet, Alex Sammurtok and MLA for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, Tom Sammurtok, thank you for your welcoming speech, I am so delighted for those of you who are receiving awards.

Thank you all it was very touching, congratulation to those who received awards we are here to celebrate for those recipients. Saving people (Bravery award) serving people (Service award), the words are clear and touching. For the recipients. volunteering and serving others acknowledges who you are, for thinking of others.

Just hearing what you are getting an award for touches the hearts of many people, your fellow men, we are proud of you, it is humbling and touching.

You were so brave and did what you had to do. You did not ignore the people that reached out for help, and you helped them out with all your might and for that you are receiving an award. It is also in the Inuit Law, to help others in need. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for putting others first. You did not think of yourself, it was, you who helped others and saved their lives. You did not do what you did just so you could receive an award, because they are thankful for you, they say you deserve to get this award and that is why we are here this evening. It is also a sad time because some that should receive awards are no longer with us, we want you to know that we acknowledge them.

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award, because they are thankful for you, they say you deserve to get this award and that is why we are here this evening. It is also a sad time because some that should receive awards are no longer with us, we want you to know that we acknowledge you. I would like this to be a time of healing for your hardships as a family. We are very pleased to have you here with us tonight. We are very thankful for those who volunteer their time and your put aside your own family to help others. How would we function as a community if we did not have the help of our endless volunteers? Many functions would not go forward without the volunteers. I thank you very much for your assistance to your community in every aspect in providing volunteerism.

The firefighters, thank you for your hard, never ending work. I want you to know that you are very worthy. You're help that you have brought forward in challenging times, you are thanked and we are proud of you. You do what we are unable to do. Myself

and the residents of Rankin Inlet thank you and your families for their support when you put yourselves at risk in protecting others. The search and rescue as well worked in hard and heavy conditions. When there is a search you put all your work in assisting. If we were to think about how many have you rescued? Many are with us today thanks to the searchers. Thank you very much. This goes to those who are no longer with us as well.

In 1947, May 23rd, they started the Canadian Rangers, you are protectors of the North, as we as Canadians, we thank those who have given of themselves, you teach the Army in the arctic, you conduct searches, keep up the tremendously great work that you do for Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

We are proud of the 3019 cadets of Rankin Inlet. They have been a part of Rankin Inlet for 30 years. Each of you have individually given to the community in an important way. Everyone is aware as they have seen your work and are proud of your work year

after year, the Hamlet's cadets Legion number 169. The difference that you have made and you are role models for the children. We are proud of your presence during Canada Day and Remembrance Day you participate and we are proud of that.

Thank you for your service.

And! Charlie Panigoniak: For being the starter as an Inuk singer he has played all over and is a great role model. Many have followed into the music world after listening to Charlie Panigoniak as he is a true role model. As an Inuk he is a great singer. He made people happy, laugh, and sometimes sang some songs heavy to the heart, and also songs to make us envision great times. He let us enjoy great music, thank you very much. You have promoted Inuit culture and have promoted our language. As Inuit we should use our language and create songs and not be embarrassed about it. You have made us more proud of being Inuk. Thank you very much. I am very happy that your songs will be around for our future generations to enjoy. I want you to know

that you will never ever be forgotten, Charlie. We love you. We celebrate with you and are very proud of you.

May you all be blessed, let us have tea and snacks and be merry together. I am very proud of you all along with the residents of Rankin Inlet as you are being recognized. We are here because of you and are very proud of this. We thank you.

Thank you, for those who have received awards for your hard work and service “for your community” in our community!