



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

**Speaking Notes
Citizenship Ceremony
September 28, 2011 Iqaluit, Nunavut**

Honoured Guests, the soon to be Canadian citizens,
ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to witness
this solemn and memorable ceremony.

I commend you for your strength and perseverance to
attain this important goal.

As you have studied and learned your rights and
responsibilities, today you are accepting it all and
pledging your allegiance to our country, Canada.

Be proud of your new citizenship in a country which
will give you values, rights and freedom to maintain
and share your cultural heritage, to be part of the rich
diversity of cultures, ethnicities and languages that
defines Canada which binds us together as a nation.
Embrace these values, rights and freedom of your
new country which you will now call home.

The majority of citizens in Nunavut are Inuit, although there are other ethnic groups who have decided to make it their home. Nunavut has three official languages: the Inuit language, English and French, the latter two being the official languages of Canada.

Nunavut, which makes up 1/5th of Canada's land mass, is a beautiful land with striking landscapes, amazing wildlife, wonderful people and weather conditions that can be extremely challenging.

As in Nunavut, elsewhere in Canada you will also find amazing landscapes, wildlife and remarkable people.

Today is a day to mark and celebrate your lives as Canadian citizens and to embrace your new country, its values and its laws; a country which now embraces you.

Welcome to Canada. Welcome to Nunavut.