



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

**Swearing-In Ceremony**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**

**May 31, 2010**

Elders, Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, federal representatives, honoured guests and all people of Nunavut.

It is with great honor and respect that I accept this respected position.

I wish all members of my family could be here today to witness my taking office and to share the moments with me. But at this time of the year, no one can take my father away from the call of the land and the migrating geese. At 77 years of age, he likes to ensure that all his freezers and those of his daughters are all full of caribou, fish and geese by spring break-up. They could not be here for one reason or any other, so I thank you for coming this morning.

The short time since the announcement of my appointment by Prime Minister Harper, I have been asked by students, the general public and even government employees what the Commissioner does. My educator's hat will remain and my first line of duty is obviously to inform on the role of the Commissioner. Being present and visible in all regions of Nunavut by talking to people is the best way to educate.

Likewise I have procedure and protocol to learn; even to get used to being called Commissioner.

The Commissioner, as the Government of Canada's senior representative in Nunavut, is the link between the government and you, the people of Nunavut. I look forward to fulfilling my formal duties of opening and closing each session of the Legislative Assembly, giving assent to bills and Acts and swearing in new members of the Legislative Assembly. However, I also look forward very much to getting out to the communities to join in community celebrations, graduations and formal events – meeting friends, relatives and more people.

You just witnessed my Oath of Allegiance to take this office but it is far greater than that and has much more meaning. I have never successfully done any job alone; it has always been with the guidance, assistance and advice of many. This role will be no different.

With on-going support, advice and guidance of family, elders and officials, I will fulfill the role of Commissioner of Nunavut with respect, honor and dignity.