



Statement

For Immediate Release

Honouring Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Iqaluit, Nunavut (September 13, 2022) - Today the Honourable Eva Qamaniq Aariak, Commissioner of Nunavut has issued a statement Honouring the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, together with Nunavummiut, we send our deepest sympathies to the Royal Family on the passing of an extraordinary woman, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who was a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Her Majesty vowed when she took the throne, to dedicate her whole life to the service of the Commonwealth and its people.

We send our condolences at this difficult time and offer our support to our new King, King Charles III, who ascended to the throne on September 10, 2022.

As Queen of Canada Her Majesty the Queen had enduring pride in Canada and Canadian society.

Queen Elizabeth II made 22 tours of Canada and travelled to the Arctic on three occasions.

Her Majesty had a natural curiosity, keen interest, and commitment to understanding Inuit culture and language and beliefs. She had said that diversity was a strength and that we should respect the differences between us but never let our differences make us intolerant.

The Queen's tour of Canada in 1970 began in the eastern Arctic at Frobisher Bay, where Her Majesty turned the sod for the new Anglican cathedral. She respected the simple Sunday service she attended at the church in Apex with hymns sung by Inuit parishioners. She then made a brief stop in Resolute Bay, in the high Arctic.

During that visit Queen Elizabeth said, "Until you have seen the North, you have not really seen Canada."

When Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visited the Arctic in 1994 nearly the whole community of Rankin Inlet came out to welcome her and children greeted her calling out, Queen Elisapi, Queen Elisapi.

Her Majesty came to the Arctic once again in 2002, during her Golden Jubilee, to dedicate the legislative building in Iqaluit, the capital of our new territory, Nunavut. When she addressed the MLAs she said, “your land is indeed your strength.”

During that visit she thanked us for our hospitality in Inuktitut, saying Qujannamiik.

Her Royal Highness respected and honoured our desire to create our own territory, saying that our separation from the NWT would be the last change of the map of Canada that she would see in her lifetime.

Queen Elizabeth loved our land and truly appreciated meeting our Elders who helped give her a better understanding of our unique and vibrant culture.

In Nunavut we deeply mourn the passing of Her majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Nunavummiut may sign the virtual book of condolences by going to:

Commemoration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - Canada.ca

In Iqaluit my book of condolences may be signed at the Office of the Commissioner of Nunavut, house 2554 in Tundra Valley from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The last day to sign my book of condolences will be Tuesday September 20.



Honourable Eva Qamaniq Aariak C.M., O.Nu

Commissioner of Nunavut

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