

July 30, 2009.

Dear Northern Young Leaders:

I was very pleased to be invited to your summit in Inuvik, but as it turns out, my August is full of different duties to do, which were already agreed to ahead of time. One of the duties is my personal favourite and that is talking with the young people. This is Students On Ice Expedition. These students are from all over the world, including the northern areas of Canada. We learn all about the north, all areas. I talk about our people, The Inuit.

I wish you well in your very important Northern Young Leaders Summit. I know you will learn a lot and share very useful information, not only for now but for later on throughout your life. You will make new friends and contacts which will last for a lifetime. I know this from experience.

Community Development, leadership development, political development and just being involved in your community through school, sports, volunteering are the best gifts you can give. I have found that volunteering in the community is the best personal and professional development one can gain. It teaches you a lot while giving part of yourself to others. It is one of the natural leadership training for life.

I regret deeply that I will not be able to attend but know this: I support you, applaud you and wish you all the best

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At this summit and throughout your giving life. Being a leader is about giving oneself unselfishly, but then you already know this because you are already attending leadership conference. I also deeply appreciate you because we older leaders need a much deserved rest when you take over! Thank you!

Taima,

Mrs. Ann Meekitjuk Hanson, C.M.,  
Commissioner of Nunavut.