



R E L E A S E

**Reverend Michael Gardener, C.M., to Receive
the Order of Nunavut on November 29, 2011**

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 21, 2011) - Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council Hunter Tootoo today announced that the Reverend Michael Gardener, C.M., will receive the Order of Nunavut at a public investiture ceremony to be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at 4:00pm in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

The investiture ceremony for Reverend Gardener will be open to the public to observe and will be broadcast on cable television on the Legislative Assembly's broadcast channel.

On January 1, 2010, *The Order of Nunavut Act* came into force. The objective of the Order is to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cultural, social or economic well-being of Nunavut. The Order is the highest honour of Nunavut and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations or medals conferred by the Government of Nunavut.

In June of this year, the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council announced that the first three recipients of the Order will be the Reverend Michael Gardener, C.M., the late Mark Kalluak, C.M. and the late Jose Amaujaq Kusugak.

Commissioner of Nunavut Edna Ekhivalak Elias will preside over Reverend Gardener's investiture ceremony in her capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Nunavut. By virtue of her office, Commissioner Elias is a statutory member of the Order and will be invested at a private event prior to Reverend Gardener's investiture.

Investiture ceremonies honouring the late Mark Kalluak and the late Jose Amaujaq Kusugak will be held at community events in Arviat and Rankin Inlet in December of this year. Dates and venues for these events will be announced in the near future.

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