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RELEASE

Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut to appear before Standing Committee

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 2, 2004) - The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut will present her most recent annual report before the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability on June 24, 2004.

Elaine Keenan Bengts was appointed in November 1999 as Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner. An independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, she reports directly to the House in fulfilling a range of duties under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Hunter Tootoo, MLA for Iqaluit Centre and Chair of the Standing Committee, said, "Nunavummiut expect their government to be open and accountable. The Standing Committee looks forward to reviewing the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report."

David Alagalak, MLA for Arviat and Committee Member, said, "It is important that our government be vigilant in ensuring that the privacy rights of our residents are respected, especially in such areas as their health records."

Ms. Keenan Bengt's appearance begins at 1:00pm in the Tuktu Room at the Legislative Assembly Building. The appearance is open for the public to observe and will be broadcast in Iqaluit on local cable channel 33 as well as 94.9 FM and 93.7 FM radio.

Copies of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report are available from the Legislative Assembly.

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For more information:

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