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Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut to appear before Standing Committee

IQALUIT, Nunavut (October 11, 2006) - 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 October 19, 2006.

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*. She was re-appointed in November of 2004 for a second term of office.

Iqaluit Centre MLA and Committee Chair Hunter Tootoo said, "The Information and Privacy Commissioner has an important role to play in balancing the public's right to know with the need for the government to safeguard the personal information of Nunavummiut in its possession. Our Standing Committee's annual hearings provide a valuable opportunity to address issues of concern in these areas."

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's appearance begins at 6:30pm in Salon D of the Siniktarvik Hotel in Rankin Inlet. The appearance is open to the public to observe.

This is the second year in a row that the Standing Committee has held its hearings in a community outside of the capital. The Committee encourages the people of Rankin Inlet to take the opportunity to observe their elected representatives at work on their behalf on these important issues.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner will also participate in training sessions for local Government of Nunavut staff, in addition to speaking with senior high school students.

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

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