

مم⊅َ لحلح⊳∿∧⊲ Nunavut Maligaliurvia Legislative Assembly of Nunavut Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

Standing Committee to hold hearings on the Annual Reports of the Languages Commissioner and Information and Privacy Commissioner

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 2, 2011) - The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts will hold hearings from November 22-25, 2011, on the most recent annual reports to the Legislative Assembly of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. All Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly serve on the Standing Committee.

The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, Ms. Alexina Kublu, has been invited to appear before the Standing Committee at 1:30pm on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

"Following the Languages Commissioner's appearance before us last fall, the Standing Committee presented a report to the House that contained a number of formal recommendations," said Standing Committee Chairperson Ron Elliott. "Members will have the opportunity this year to evaluate her progress in addressing the issues that were raised during her appearance and in our report."

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts, has been invited to appear before the Standing Committee at 1:30pm on Thursday, November 24, 2011.

"The Information and Privacy Commissioner plays a key role in helping to ensure that the rights of Nunavummiut in the areas of access to information and protection of privacy are respected," said Moses Aupaluktuq, MLA for Baker Lake.

Senior officials from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs have been invited to appear before the Standing Committee at 09:00am on Friday, November 25, 2011.

"For the past several years, the government has tabled formal responses to the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Standing Committee itself," said Standing Committee Co-Chairperson Louis Tapardjuk. "This appearance will constitute the first time that departmental officials have been asked to publicly account for the government's actions in response to our recommendations and those of the Information and Privacy Commissioner concerning the important issues of access to information and protection of privacy."

The Standing Committee's hearings will take place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and will be open for the public to observe. The hearings will be broadcast in Iqaluit on local cable television and FM radio.

Copies of the annual reports of the Languages Commissioner and the Information and Privacy Commissioner are available from the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The reports were formally tabled in the House during the fall sitting.

Copies of prior year' responses by the Government of Nunavut to reports of the Standing Committee may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website at: www.assembly.nu.ca.

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For more information: Ron Elliott, MLA Tel: (867) 975-5000 or (867) 439-8050