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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

R E L E A S E

Standing Committee Announces Schedule of Hearings

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 2, 2014) - The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts will hold hearings from September 16-23, 2014, on the most recent reports of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly, in addition to the current corporate plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. All Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly serve on the standing committee.

The Auditor General of Canada, Mr. Michael Ferguson, will appear before the Standing Committee at 1:30pm on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, to present his 2014 *Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*. The hearing will continue on Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

"The Auditor General's report identifies a number of concerns regarding the government's progress in implementing recommendations that were contained in his office's 2011 report to the Legislative Assembly," said Committee Chairperson George Hickes, MLA for Iqaluit-Tasiluk. "The recent appointment by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut's first Representative for Children and Youth highlights the importance of ensuring that the needs of our territory's young people are adequately met. The Standing Committee's upcoming hearing will provide an opportunity for MLAs to ask questions directly of the Department of Family Services concerning its ongoing plans to address the issues that have been identified by the Auditor General."

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts, will appear before the Standing Committee at 1:30pm on Thursday, September 18, 2014, to present her 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 annual reports to the Legislative Assembly. Government of Nunavut officials will subsequently appear before the Standing Committee on the morning of Friday, September 19, 2014, to respond to Members' questions concerning the government's administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

"Recent amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that were passed by the Legislative Assembly have strengthened the Information and Privacy Commissioner's authority to review matters related to the government's use and disclosure of personal information," said Committee Member Allan Rumbolt, MLA for Hudson Bay. "The Standing Committee's upcoming hearing will provide an opportunity to publicly discuss such

complex and challenging issues as the protection of personal health information and the expansion of access to information rights to the municipal level of government.”

The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Ms. Sandra Inutiq, will appear before the Standing Committee at 09:00am on Monday, September 22, 2014, to present her 2012-2013 annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

“Nunavut’s current *Official Languages Act* came into force last year,” said Committee Member Joe Savikataaq, MLA for Arviat South. “This will be the Languages Commissioner’s first appearance before a standing committee of the new Legislative Assembly, which will provide an opportunity for MLAs to consider both the government’s success in complying with territorial languages legislation and the Office of the Languages Commissioner’s effectiveness in focusing on the protection of official language rights.”

At the request of Chairperson Hickey, Qulliq Energy Corporation officials will appear before the Standing Committee at 09:00am on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, to present the corporation’s 2012-2013 annual report and 2014-2018 corporate plan.

“Our upcoming hearing on the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s current corporate plan and most recent annual report to the Legislative Assembly will constitute the first time that the QEC has been asked to publicly account to elected MLAs, in detail, for its proposed expenditures and activities,” said Committee Member Pat Angnakak, MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu.

The Standing Committee’s hearings will take place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and are open for the public to observe. The hearings will be televised on local community cable stations and direct-to-home satellite service on the Bell (channel 513) and Shaw (channel 289 – classic / channel 489 – new lineup) networks. A detailed broadcast schedule is available on the Legislative Assembly’s website at www.assembly.nu.ca.

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