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RELEASE

Legislative Assembly Recommends the Re-Appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 4, 2010) - The Legislative Assembly today recommended that Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts be re-appointed as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut for a five-year term of office.

Section 61 of Nunavut's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that the Commissioner of Nunavut, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint the Information and Privacy Commissioner. The position is one of a number of independent officers who report directly to the Legislative Assembly.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has a broad range of responsibilities under the Act, including monitoring government compliance with the legislation. The Information and Privacy Commissioner submits an annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

"Ms. Keenan Bengts is the longest-serving independent officer of our Legislative Assembly," said Speaker James Arreak. "Members have clearly demonstrated their confidence in her."

Ms. Keenan Bengts was appointed Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner in 1999. She also serves as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. She is a long-term Northerner and non-resident member of the Law Society of Nunavut.

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