



## PRESS RELEASE

The independent committee reviewing Newfoundland and Labrador's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (*ATIPPA*) today announced plans for its first set of public hearings, as well as other plans to receive public input.

Hearings will begin at the Ramada Hotel on Kenmount Road in St. John's on Tuesday June 24 with a presentation by the province's Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

"Commissioner Ed Ring and his staff are the province's leading authorities on access and privacy," stated committee chair Clyde Wells. "Hearing their presentation first can provide a reference point for the committee and other presenters."

Wells said additional hearing dates have been tentatively scheduled for late July and August. "We understand not all groups and individuals could be ready to make a presentation in June, so it made sense to provide for hearings later this summer."

The committee also wants to hear from people who choose not to prepare a written submission or make a presentation at a public hearing. "Every two or three weeks, we plan to select a topic such as access or privacy, and pose questions on the committee's website ([www.parcnl.ca](http://www.parcnl.ca)), and have people express their views on those questions by e-mail," explained committee member Doug Letto. "The questions will deal with some of the key aspects of *ATIPPA*, and the responses will provide the committee with a broader representation of views."

Committee member and former Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Jennifer Stoddart says that at a time when everyone is worried about privacy, there is a need to examine privacy protections available to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. "Data breaches are, unfortunately, an increasingly common occurrence. We hope to hear about people's privacy concerns throughout our review process."

The committee announced that it will webcast the public hearings, so that people across the province can see and hear what's being said as the committee does its work. The committee will also post written submissions on its website.

"There is a lot of work to be done," said committee chair Clyde Wells, "but, based on public response to date, we hope to have the committee's report submitted to the government by late October or early November."

The committee is comprised of:  
Clyde K. Wells – chair  
Doug Letto – committee member  
Jennifer Stoddart – committee member

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