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## Susan Aglukark – Final Keynote Speaker at Interim Place's Her Life, Her Words Luncheon Speaker Series 2008

**Mississauga** – Interim Place will be hosting the final luncheon of its annual Speaker Series for the year called, **Her Life Her Words** on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at the Mississauga Convention Centre, 75 Derry Road West, Mississauga from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. As one of Canada's unique artists, three time Juno Award Winner and singer/songwriter, **Susan Aglukark**, will be the keynote speaker and will also perform a few of her songs at the luncheon. Not only is she known for her distinctive music but she has rapidly become known as an uplifting motivational speaker and mentor, able to reach both youth and adult audiences alike. **Her Life, Her Words** is Interim Place's signature event for the year and proceeds from the luncheon will go towards funding important programs that help women and their children break the cycle of abuse and violence.

Cindy Cowan, Executive Director of Interim Place says, "Susan Aglukark is an important voice for Aboriginal and Inuit women. Violence against Aboriginal women in Canada is a national shame. On June 21<sup>st</sup> we marked National Aboriginal Day and so we honour the memory of over 500 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in the country and we also commit to working to change the conditions that create violence in the lives of Aboriginal women. Susan has generously agreed to share her incredible talent as an artist and storyteller. She is a strong Inuit woman who has given voice to important social issues and has provided messages of courage, strength, hope and healing. We are honoured that Susan has agreed to share these gifts with Interim Place and the community".

Says Antoinette Antoine, a volunteer Board Member and former child resident at Interim Place's emergency shelter, "Abuse is a local and global issue for women and our mission at Interim Place is to work towards the elimination of violence. Our programs are designed to help women and their children close the door on abuse and open the door to hope. We provide women who come to us with the means to start new lives and it's vitally important that we raise the funds for our programs. **Her Life, Her Words** is a great way to raise awareness of the issues that are important to Interim Place, profile inspiring women, educate and entertain".

Susan Aglukark blends Inuit folk music with pop songwriting that has made her a major recording star in Canada. She never strays far from her Inuit roots and combines the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary pop music arrangements to tell the stories of her people. She uses her songs to address many of the issues facing the Canadian Aboriginal community. She has recorded six albums to date and has sold well over 400,000 copies. Susan has won many accolades including three Juno Awards and several nominations. She was the first recipient of the Aboriginal Achievement Award in Arts and Entertainment. Susan has also become well-known for her work with Aboriginal and Inuit youth. In 2005 Susan was awarded the Order of Canada for her contribution to Canadian music and for her work as a mentor in the Aboriginal community.

For over 25 years, Interim Place has been providing support services for women in the Peel region, from all communities, who face domestic violence and abuse. Interim Place operates two emergency shelters and provides shelter, support, counselling and advocacy to help women and their children break from the cycle of abuse.

**Her Life, Her Words** is the signature fundraising event hosted by Interim Place. It's a Women's Luncheon Speaker Series and for 2008, features Sue Johanson, Janet Kestin and Juno Award winner and singer/songwriter, Susan Aglukark. Former speakers include: Gloria Steinem, Margaret Trudeau, Erin Brockovich, Mayor Hazel McCallion, Margot Kidder and Hayley Wickenheiser among many. There have been 17 luncheons and over 900 attendees since its inception in 2003.