

Re: Annual Report on Investigations of Closed Municipal Meetings and Sunshine Law Handbook

To the Clerk and Council,

I am enclosing two copies of my Annual Report on my Office's investigations of closed municipal meetings for the period from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014. As you are aware, in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the *Ombudsman Act*, the Ontario Ombudsman investigates these complaints in all municipalities except those that have appointed another investigator.

Since 2008, my Open Meeting Law Enforcement Team (OMLET) has acted as a dedicated resource for reviewing and investigating closed meeting complaints, as well as educating the public and municipalities about open meeting requirements. In the period covered by this report, OMLET handled 149 cases in the 196 municipalities where we are the investigator.

We are providing two copies of our report to all municipal councils across Ontario in the interest of raising awareness of the open meeting requirements and best practices. We have also enclosed copies of the latest edition of our *Sunshine Law Handbook* for each council member and the clerk, for information and reference. It includes frequently asked questions, excerpts from relevant legislation, tips and legal references.

The report, Handbook and other information about our municipal meeting investigations can also be found on our website – www.ombudsman.on.ca. As well, our staff can provide general information on the open meeting requirements and complaint process – we can be reached at 1-800-263-1830 or via email at info@ombudsman.on.ca.

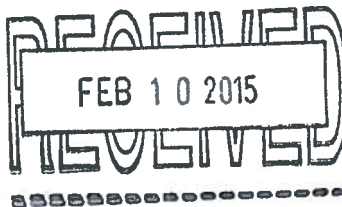
If you have any questions about the OMLET Annual Report or Handbook, please contact our Director of Communications, Linda Williamson, at lwilliamson@ombudsman.on.ca, or 416-586-3426.

Yours truly,



André Marin
Ombudsman

Encl.



- File Incoming Other
- Mayor
- Council A
- CAO
- Building
- Finance S C
- De Dev S C
- Parks & Rec S C
- Planning S C
- Public Wks S C
- PPP
- Social Services
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