

Re: Annual Report on Investigations of Closed Municipal Meetings

To the Clerk and Council,

I am enclosing a copy of my first Annual Report on my Office's investigations of closed municipal meetings for the period from April 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012. 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 128 cases in the 191 municipalities where we are the investigator.

We are providing 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 pocket-sized cards for council members that include "tips for closing meetings" and can be used during meetings as a quick reference guide to the requirements.

The report and other information about municipal meeting investigations can be found on our website – www.ombudsman.on.ca. Our staff can also 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 would like additional copies of this report or the cards, please contact our Director of Communications, Linda Williamson, at llwilliamson@ombudsman.on.ca, or 416-586-3426.

Yours truly,



André Marin
Ombudsman

Encl.

