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OMBUDSMAN NOMINATED AS ONE OF CANADA'S TOP LAWYERS



Ontario Ombudsman André Marin has been shortlisted as one of the nominees for [Canadian Lawyer Magazine's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada](#).

[Online voting](#) for the Top 25 is open until June 3 and results will be announced in August.

The list recognizes lawyers "who have power and influence the laws, justice system, and legal profession in Canada today."

"As one nominator put it, '[Marin] is fearless in the face of stonewalling, sidestepping, and double speak in every investigation he takes on,'" reads the website for the competition. "This past year, Marin looked into the issue of closed-door meetings in many Ontario municipalities, a role that put him at odds with those who essentially hired him to oversee them. Marin continues to push the boundaries in efforts to ensure

MAY 2013

The Ombudsman investigates public complaints about Ontario government agencies. His office oversees more than 500 provincial ministries, agencies, tribunals, boards, commissions and Crown corporations.

[FILE A COMPLAINT ONLINE](#)

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LONG-TERM CARE OVERSIGHT

In mid-May, CTV News ran a story about a son's hidden camera showing nursing home workers apparently mistreating his mother. The Ombudsman tweeted about the story, prompting a discussion about long-term care problems and the need for oversight of the system.

[Read the tweets](#)

Ontarians are treated fairly and their tax dollars are not wasted. His latest push is to have the embattled air ambulance service Ornge come under the purview of his office."

"The Ombudsman represents our office, and it's an honour to see him nominated as part of this prestigious group of lawyers," said Barbara Finlay, Deputy Ombudsman.

Last August, he was [honoured by the Canadian Bar Association](#) for excellence and public sector law, and he was also [recognized last year by the Ontario Bar Association](#) for his contributions to the legal profession and achievement of significant law-related benefits for the residents of Ontario.

Canadian Lawyer will choose the top five lawyers in five different categories, through a combination of online votes and internal judging. Mr. Marin is one of 25 lawyers nominated in the government and non-profits category.

- [Cast your vote here](#)
- [Take a look at last year's list](#)

INVESTIGATION UPDATES

- **Use of force in jails:** The Ombudsman's final report on the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' response to allegations of excessive use of force by correctional officers will be released on June 11. You will be able to read the report, as well as watch the press conference, on our website, and follow along with live tweets at #OOLive.
- **Adults with developmental disabilities in crisis:** The investigation is nearing completion. Evidence will be reviewed and the report drafted over the summer, with an expected release sometime in the fall. Complaints continue to come in - we have received more than 800 so far, and we continue to take complaints and resolve individual cases wherever possible.
- **Monitoring of drivers with uncontrolled hypoglycemia:** The Ombudsman's report and recommendations in this investigation will be drafted soon.

These investigations are being conducted by the Special Ombudsman Response Team (SORT). Anyone who has information relevant to these investigations can contact our office at 1-800-263-1830, [file an online complaint](#) or email info@ombudsman.on.ca.

ORNGE "INNERSIGHT"

SHOULD THE OMBUDSMAN BE ON TWITTER?

Last month, the Ombudsman asked his followers for their views on whether ombudsmen should use Twitter.

He wrote: *"This has been bugging me... The odd person tells me that the Ombudsman shouldn't be on twitter. It 'lowers' the office. Back to you. What do u think?"* What do you think?

[Should the Ombudsman be on Twitter? Twitter responds](#)

Please send us your thoughts or tweet at @ont_ombudsman. And if there's anything you'd like to see in our newsletter, let us know! Email us at thewatchdog@ombudsman.on.ca.



2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2012-2013 Annual Report will be released early this summer. Watch our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for updates!

STAYING CONNECTED

The Ombudsman now has more than **13,048** [Twitter](#) followers and **2,167** [Facebook](#) fans. Please

"Now what's wrong with Bill 11? Nothing - and everything. It consists of an elaborate series of baby steps that will improve internal checks and balances - not a bad thing, but falling short of true oversight....Bill 11 is more "innersight" than oversight...what Ornge really requires is oversight: the ability to complain to an independent body that has the tools to investigate and, if necessary, report back to the Legislature and publicly on the issue, while making necessary recommendations."

-Ombudsman André Marin, in his [submission on Bill 11](#)

On May 15, the Ombudsman made a submission to the Standing Committee on General Government relating to Bill 11, An Act to amend the Ambulance Act with respect to air ambulance services. He spoke specifically about the need for Ombudsman oversight of Ontario's air ambulance system, Ornge.

[Watch the video](#) | [Read the transcript](#) | [Read the tweets](#)



continue to reach out to us on social media, or drop us a line at thewatchdog@ombudsman.on.ca!

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