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OMBUDSMAN FINDS COUNCIL MEMBERS MET ILLEGALLY IN LONDON, ONT.

Ontario Ombudsman André Marin's latest [investigation](#) into closed meetings of London, Ont. city council has found that a gathering by the mayor and six city councillors in the back room of a local eatery was in "clear violation" of the law.

"Backroom, backdoor, closed-door meetings – organized by and participated in by elected officials – are inimical to the democratic process," Mr. Marin says in his report, [In the Back Room](#), released October 22 in London. "This case is a cautionary tale for municipal governments, underscoring the risks of so-called social gatherings that are really a shield for clandestine meetings to further city business away from public scrutiny."

- [Read the full press release](#)
- [Read the Ombudsman's Report "In the Back Room" \(PDF\)](#)
- [Watch the press conference](#)



OCTOBER 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](#)

Ombudsman Ontario

Bell Trinity Square
483 Bay St., 10th Floor, South Tower
Toronto, ON
M5G 2C9

Phone: 1-800-263-1830

Fax: 416-586-3485

TTY: 1-866-411-4211

Email: info@ombudsman.on.ca



OMBUDSMAN: NO "LEGAL TWERKING" UNDER THE SUNSHINE LAW

Ombudsman André Marin wrote an article for the [London Free Press](#) on October 22, explaining the municipal open meeting rules. "It's time for the city to accept and fulfill its democratic obligations to a public which thirsts for open local government."

SHARPENING YOUR TEETH TRAINING REGISTRATION: SPOTS ARE GOING FAST TORONTO, JAN. 20-22, 2014

Registration is filling up fast for the next session of Ontario Ombudsman André Marin's training course for ombudsmen and administrative investigators, "[Sharpening Your Teeth](#)." The course, which is tailored for oversight agencies and administrative watchdogs, will be held January 20-22, 2014 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada at Twenty Toronto Street, the Ontario Bar Association Conference Centre.

The three-day training course will cost \$975 plus applicable taxes and will cover all the basics of planning, announcing, executing and publicly reporting on an investigation, including such topics as investigation planning, interviewing witnesses, assessing evidence, report writing, communications and using digital and social media tools to make sure your message is heard.



This advanced course is geared towards ombudsmen, investigators, and other professional watchdogs. People working in those sectors will be given priority in registration because the course content is tailored specifically to their work.

- [Learn more about this year's course](#)
- [Read about the Ombudsman's systemic investigations](#)

If you're interested in attending, please get in touch with us at training@ombudsman.on.ca.

INVESTIGATION UPDATES

- André Marin, op-ed, London Free Press
Oct. 22, 2013

[Read more](#)



VISIT FROM VIETNAM OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On October 4, Ombudsman André Marin and Senior Counsel Wendy Ray met with a delegation from the Vietnam Office of the National Assembly arranged through York University. They spoke to the group about the role of the Ontario Ombudsman, our systemic investigations and how we resolve complaints.



RUN FOR THE CURE

On October 6, the Ontario Ombudsman Watchdogs ran in the CIBC Run for the Cure, and they raised more than \$4,000

- › [Direction to police on de-escalation](#): This investigation into the direction provided to police by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for de-escalating conflict situations is ongoing. The Ombudsman will announce an update the week of November 4.
- › [Monitoring of unlicensed daycares](#): Staff have finished gathering evidence in this investigation into how the Ministry of Education responds to complaints and concerns relating to unlicensed daycare providers. The evidence is now being reviewed.
- › [Adults with developmental disabilities in crisis](#): The investigation is nearing completion, and we have received more than 985 complaints. The report is expected to be released in early 2014. We continue to take complaints and resolve individual cases.
- › [Monitoring of drivers with uncontrolled hypoglycemia](#): The Ombudsman's report and recommendations in this investigation are now being drafted.

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.

VISIT BY QUEEN'S PARK INTERNS

On Oct. 1, Ombudsman André Marin and Deputy Ombudsman Barbara Finlay met with the interns from the Ontario Legislative Internship Programme at Queen's Park. They discussed Ontario's lack of independent hospital oversight, the benefits of an open dialogue between the office and the government, and how the Ombudsman uses social media to be transparent and accessible.



for breast cancer research.



OMBUDSMAN TO SPEAK AT CARLETON'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

The Ombudsman will be speaking at [Carleton University's Fall Leadership Luncheon](#) next week, discussing his latest investigations, including oversight of police. Catch him in Ottawa on Tuesday, November 5!

STAYING CONNECTED

The Ombudsman now has more than [2,386 Facebook fans](#) and [16,669 Twitter followers](#)! Please continue to reach out to us on social media, or drop us a line at thewatchdog@ombudsman.on.ca

Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario | Bureau de l'Ombudsman de l'Ontario

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Bell Trinity Square, 483 Bay St., 10th Floor, South Tower

Bell Trinity Square 483, rue Bay 10e étage, Tour Sud, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2C9, Canada

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