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CLOSED MEETINGS REPORT TO BE RELEASED DEC. 11

Ontario Ombudsman André Marin will release his second annual report on municipal closed meetings on Tuesday, Dec. 11.

The Ombudsman created a separate annual report for investigations of closed municipal meetings - a responsibility he was given in 2008 - last year. In [that report](#), he said too many municipalities were "shockingly secretive, suspicious and resentful of the very idea they can be investigated, or well-intentioned but baffled by the complexity of the law."

Complaints under the "Sunshine Law," which requires most municipal meetings to be open to the public, have increased steadily in recent years. In 2012-2013, high-profile cases in London, Ont. and Sudbury, among others, pushed complaint totals to record levels.

The new report covers cases handled by the Open Meeting Law Enforcement Team (OMLET) between September 1, 2012 and August 30, 2013. Which municipal council members met illegally in 2012-2013? Find out during the live press conference, which will be streamed on [our website](#) on December 11 at 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER 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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OMBUDSMAN SPEAKS AT CARLETON'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

On November 5, the Ombudsman spoke to a group of Carleton University alumni at their Fall Leadership Luncheon in Ottawa. [Watch the video here](#)



OMBUDSMAN APPOINTS FORMER POLICE CHIEFS AS ADVISORS

On November 5, Ontario Ombudsman André Marin announced that he has appointed two prominent former police chiefs as special advisors to his ongoing investigation into the province's direction to police for de-escalating conflict situations.

The special advisors who will share their expertise during the investigation are: Hon. Vern White, former chief of the Ottawa and Durham police services and former Assistant Commissioner of the RCMP; and Mike Boyd, former chief of the Edmonton Police Service and former deputy chief of the Toronto Police Service.

"Former chiefs Boyd and White are well-respected across Canada by police and the public alike," said Mr. Marin. "They are committed to increasing public confidence in police, and I welcome their input as we review the use of force by police in Ontario and determine where improvements are needed."

► [Read the full press release](#)

ONTARIO OMBUDSMAN ANDRÉ MARIN ONE OF TORONTO'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

Ontario Ombudsman André Marin has been named one of Toronto Life magazine's [50 most influential Torontonians](#).



NEW TARION BILL INTRODUCED

MPP Rosario Marchese is seeking support for a new bill that he introduced on Nov. 25. [Bill 139, Taron Accountability and Oversight Act, 2013](#) would give the Ombudsman the ability to oversee Taron, the provincial corporation created to protect new home buyers. Read the [Toronto Star's report](#) on the bill.

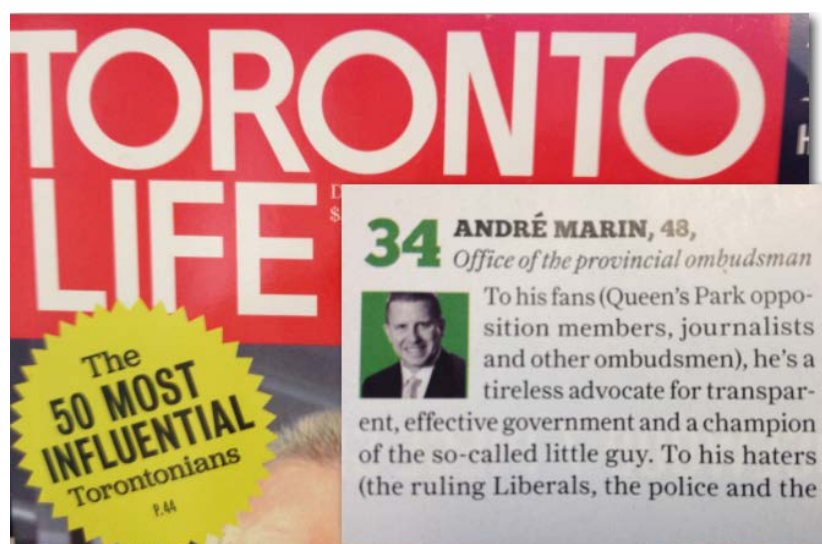
ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT AT JANUARY SYT TRAINING

Our next *Sharpening Your Teeth* training course will be held January 20-22, 2014 in Toronto. This intensive course teaches advanced investigation techniques, using the Ombudsman's proven models for conducting systemic investigations. Priority is given to people currently working in watchdog or investigative roles. If you are interested in attending, please email training@ombudsman.on.ca.

"To his fans (Queen's Park opposition members, journalists and other ombudsmen), he's a tireless advocate for transparent, effective government and a champion of the so-called little guy," the magazine reads, placing Mr. Marin at number 34 on the list. "To his haters (the ruling Liberals, the police and the heads of government agencies), he's a grandstanding crusader whose main interest is raising his own profile through publicity-generating causes."

The magazine hit newsstands on November 14.

➤ [Read the full press release](#)



INVESTIGATION UPDATES

- [Ontario direction to police on de-escalation](#): The fact-gathering stage of this investigation is ongoing. The Ombudsman recently met with family members of victims of police shootings, and appointed two former police chiefs as special advisors.
- [Monitoring of unlicensed daycares](#): Investigators have finished gathering evidence, and the evidence is being reviewed.
- [Adults with developmental disabilities in crisis](#): The investigation is nearing completion, and we have received 1,011 complaints. 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.

SHARPENING your TEETH

ADVANCED INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE WATCHDOGS

SHARPENING TEETH IN AFRICA

In mid-November, Ombudsman André Marin and two senior staff conducted training in French and English for close to 100 staff from ombudsman offices across Africa. The training, held in Lusaka, Zambia, was fully sponsored by the International Ombudsman Institute and the African Ombudsman Resource Centre and hosted by Zambia's Ombudsman/Commissioner for Investigations. Participants from Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad, Djibouti, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia and Zambia were trained in techniques for conducting systemic investigations.



Ontario Ombudsman André Marin (centre) in a panel discussion during the Lusaka, Zambia "Sharpening Your Teeth" training, along with fellow ombudsmen from (left to right) Burkina Faso, Botswana, Kenya, Namibia and South Africa.

STAYING CONNECTED

The Ombudsman now has more than **2,418** [Facebook fans](#) and **17,193** [Twitter followers](#)! Please continue to reach out to us on social media, or drop us a line at thewatchdog@ombudsman.on.ca

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