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"BILL 8-ED GOOD NEWS"

Accountability finally coming to Ontario cities: ombudsman

History was made on July 8 as the Ontario government inched toward greater accountability in the broader public sector with the introduction of Bill 8 (formerly Bill 179), the Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act 2014.



Ontario Ombudsman André Marin at a press conference about the new Accountability Bill.

[In an op-ed in the Toronto Star](#), Ontario Ombudsman André Marin said it was, as one of his Twitter followers put it, "Bill 8-ed good news."

Once passed, Bill 8 will, among other things, finally allow Ontarians to complain to their ombudsman about municipal governments, universities and school boards — in addition to the hundreds of provincial government organizations his office already oversees.

JULY 2014

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

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MUNICIPAL OVERSIGHT

The Ombudsman spoke to Brighton municipal council on July 21 about municipal oversight and the proposed changes in the new Accountability Bill.

[Watch a video of his presentation](#)

"Ontario comes to this accountability party decades behind the other provinces," Marin wrote. "All have long given their ombudsmen jurisdiction in the MUSH sector (municipalities, universities, school boards, hospitals and long-term care, child protection and police). Ontario is the only province whose ombudsman has no jurisdiction over hospitals, long-term care or children's aid societies."

- [Read the Ombudsman's full op-ed](#)
- [Watch video from the Ombudsman's press conference on July 9](#)
- [In full: The Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act](#)

In the news

Catch up on the media coverage about the newly-introduced Accountability Bill:

- [Ontario Liberals bring back accountability law \(Ottawa Citizen\)](#)
- [Ontario ombudsman has new powers over schools and cities \(London Free Press\)](#)
- [Ombudsman applauds more transparency \(The Londoner\)](#)
- [Patients need a 'Cadillac' ombudsman, but get a 'Chevette': Marin \(QP Briefing\)](#)

Investigation updates

- [Hydro One billing practices](#): Investigators are in the fact-gathering stage and taking individual complaints - more than 8,300 have been received since the investigation was announced on Feb. 4.
- [Ontario direction to police on de-escalation](#): The fact-gathering stage of this investigation is ongoing.
- [Monitoring of unlicensed daycares](#): Investigators have finished gathering evidence. A preliminary report is being drafted and will be sent to the Ministry for comment before the report is finalized.
- [Adults with developmental disabilities in crisis](#): The fact-gathering is nearing completion, and we have received close to 1,190 complaints. We continue to take complaints and resolve individual cases.

Anyone who has information relevant to our ongoing investigations can



WE'RE HIRING!

The Ombudsman is looking for a tech-minded communications and social media expert who's connected, keen and thinks differently. Does this sound like you?

[Read more about the position and apply here](#)



OMBUDSMAN WATCHDOGS

For the seventh year in a row, the [Ombudsman Watchdogs](#) will represent the office in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Run for the Cure. Since the first run, our team has raised about \$19,000. Come cheer on our runners on October 5!



STAY CONNECTED

The Ombudsman has 3,072 [Facebook fans](#) and 24,317 [Twitter followers](#)!

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info@ombudsman.on.ca.

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social media, or drop us a line at
thewatchdog@ombudsman.on.ca.

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