

Read the Ombudsman's input on new policing legislation, learn about the proposed changes to correctional services, and more.

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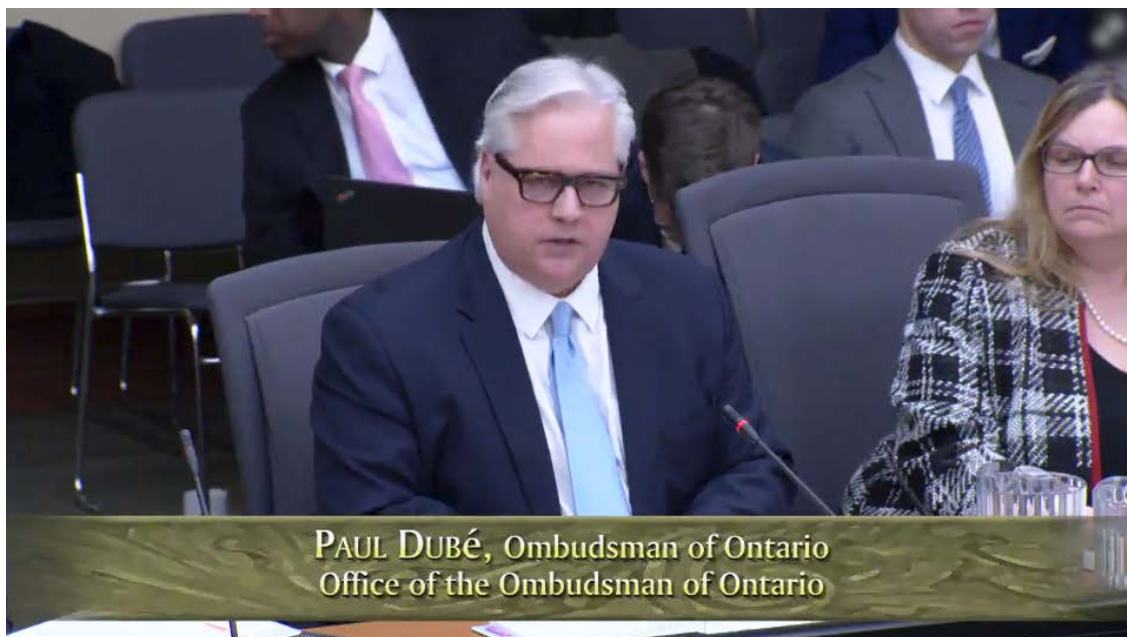


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OMBUDSMAN CALLS FOR AMENDMENTS TO POLICING BILL



On February 22, 2018, in a submission to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dubé flagged gaps in the province's proposed new policing legislation, the *Safer Ontario Act*, warning that they could undermine strong civilian oversight of police.

While Mr. Dubé was encouraged to see the bill include his Office's longstanding recommendation to extend Ombudsman oversight to all of the province's police oversight agencies, he cautioned that amendments would be necessary to ensure police co-operation with oversight bodies and guard against perceived pro-police bias.

His submission flags that:

- The lack of limits on how many investigators and other staff the agencies can employ who have a policing background “means that police oversight organizations could include serving officers or be primarily constituted of former police officers”;
- The bill should ensure any former officers working for the agencies are prohibited from handling cases involving their former colleagues; and
- Non-disclosure provisions in the bill could impede Ombudsman investigations.

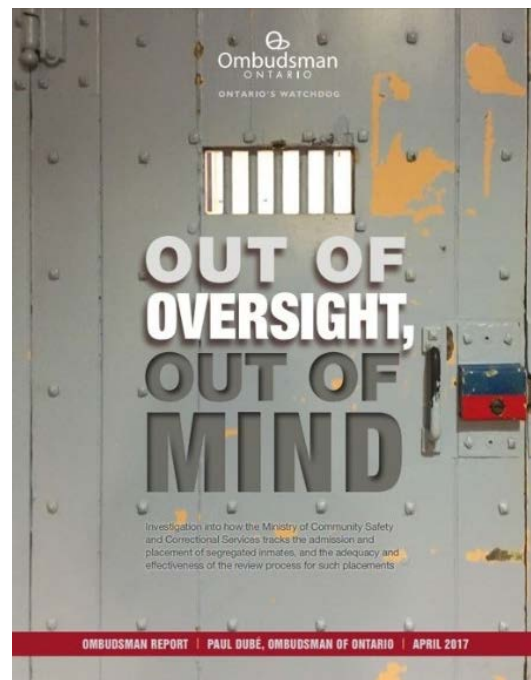
Ombudsman Dubé also stressed the need to recognize the government’s commitment – made in response to his 2016 report, [A Matter of Life and Death](#) – to train and require police to use de-escalation techniques when dealing with persons who have a mental illness or are otherwise in crisis.

- [Read the press release](#)
- [Read the Ombudsman's submission](#)
- [Read the Ombudsman's remarks to the Standing Committee](#)

OMBUDSMAN WELCOMES PROPOSED CHANGES TO SEGREGATION LEGISLATION

This month, Ombudsman Paul Dubé welcomed the new provincial legislation that will reform Ontario's correctional services. Bill 195, the *Correctional Services Transformation Act, 2018* promises to incorporate many of the Ombudsman's recommendations for reform, particularly the placement and monitoring of inmates in segregation.

The legislation also proposes that segregation be strictly limited to no more than 15 days, and defined as any type of custody where an inmate is isolated for more than 22 hours a day.



These were two key recommendations in the Ombudsman's April 2017 report [Out of Oversight](#), [Out of Mind](#), which resulted from his investigation of systemic problems in tracking segregation placements in jails. "Transformation on this scale will take time, but placing it on a strong legislative footing is an excellent first step," said Ombudsman Dubé. [Read his full statement here](#)

DIFFERENT MUNICIPALITIES, EQUAL ACCESS TO TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT: OMBUDSMAN IN MUNICIPAL WORLD MAGAZINE

In the February issue of *Municipal World* magazine, Ombudsman Paul Dubé reflects on the progress municipalities have made in the past decade towards openness and transparency. Municipalities and the public have embraced the changes and amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001*, he writes, and transparency measures such as municipal codes of conduct, integrity commissioners and local ombudsman services are growing more common. Read the full article on our website [here](#).

For more municipal resources, check out the [municipal tip cards](#) designed especially to clarify the latest changes to the *Municipal Act*, and keep an eye out for the release of our Office's online digest of closed meeting investigation reports.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

This month, General Counsel Laura Pettigrew and Wendy Ray delivered a tailored investigations training to members of the [Mohawk Council of Akwesasne](#) on the Ontario-Quebec border. Our staff also discussed university issues at the [Ontario University Registrars' Association](#) annual conference in Toronto, and answered questions from the public at the Government and Consumer Services Fair at Cloverdale Mall in Etobicoke.



In March, you'll spot members of our legal team at law school career days across the province, including the University of Toronto, Western University, the University of Windsor, and the University of Ottawa. Stop by to say



hello and learn more about our work!

**Interested in having our staff attend your public outreach event?
Contact us!**

CASE SUMMARY: SECURITY RISK

An inmate who had been in segregation for nine months – because the facility had concerns about his and others' safety and security – complained to our office that it was harming his mental health and he needed to see a psychiatrist. After Ombudsman staff made inquiries, the facility took a closer look at its safety and security concerns and decided the man could be moved into a general population unit. Read more successful case resolutions [here](#).



CAREERS WITH THE OMBUDSMAN

Are you an energetic problem solver with an interest in public policy? Our office is hiring early resolution officers. [Click here to learn more.](#)

BROADER PUBLIC SECTOR CASES

The Ombudsman's mandate was expanded to include school boards on September 1, 2015, and to municipalities and universities on January 1, 2016.

To date, we've received 2,110 cases about school boards, 6,390 cases about municipalities and 513 cases about universities.

Like most of the 21,000-plus cases we receive each year, all but a few of these have been resolved without need for formal investigation.

[Learn more here](#)

File a complaint or contact us here

The Ombudsman is an independent officer of the Ontario legislature who conducts oversight of provincial government agencies and municipalities, universities and school boards. Ombudsman Paul Dubé began his five-year term on April 1, 2016.

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