

RECEIVED 2015 DEC 24

Re: Materials relating to the Ontario Ombudsman's oversight of municipalities

To the Clerk and Council,

On behalf of the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario, I am pleased to send you the enclosed information that I hope you will find helpful as our Office prepares for its new responsibility related to municipalities.

As you are aware, our Office's jurisdiction is being extended, as of January 1, 2016, to include full oversight of local government services, administration and officials. We come to this role with eight years of experience in investigating closed municipal meetings, through our dedicated Open Meeting Law Enforcement Team (OMLET). Our latest Annual Report on these investigations was released December 16. Two copies are enclosed.

The report includes information about how our new, expanded oversight of municipalities will work, and what municipal officials and all Ontarians can expect. (When the report was released, we also provided you with a link to it on our website, www.ombudsman.on.ca.)

We have also enclosed copies of our brochure, *Complaints about Municipalities*, which explains key points about how we will handle municipal cases as of January 1, for distribution to the public and municipal officials. Similar packages are being sent to every municipal council in Ontario.

We encourage all municipal officials who have questions about our work to contact us at **1-800-263-1830**, or via email at info@ombudsman.on.ca. We will make additional information available through web and video resources very soon.

We are also seeking information from you: In early December, we sent every municipality an email survey to assist us in referring complainants to the appropriate local mechanisms. Many have already done so; we extend our thanks and hope others will follow soon. You may also direct questions or requests to our Director of Communications, Linda Williamson, at lwilliamson@ombudsman.on.ca, or 416-586-3426.

Sincerely,



Barbara Finlay,
Acting Ombudsman

Encl.