

Ombudsman to investigate oversight of Bestech Academy

TORONTO (January 8, 2009) – Ombudsman André Marin today announced an investigation into the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' oversight of Bestech Academy, a private vocational college in Stoney Creek.

The investigation will include an examination of the Ministry's enforcement of the provisions of the *Private Career Colleges Act* and an alleged conflict of interest in respect of a Ministry employee who served as Bestech's president. The Ombudsman will also investigate the Ministry's response to complaints by students regarding forfeited tuition fees paid to Bestech.

The investigation will be conducted by the Special Ombudsman Response Team (SORT). Anyone with any information that may be relevant to this investigation is asked to contact the Ombudsman's Office at 1-800-263-1830 or email <u>info@ombudsman.on.ca</u>. All complaints are confidential.

-30-Aussi disponible en français

Media Contacts:

Linda Williamson Director of Communications Tel: 416-586-3426 lwilliamson@ombudsman.on.ca Patricia Tomasi Communications Officer Tel: 416-586-3402 ptomasi@ombudsman.on.ca