

## MIKE BRADLEY MAYOR CITY OF SARNIA

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January 28th, 2015

Premier Kathleen Wynne
Office of the Premier of Ontario
Room 281
Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
TORONTO, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

## **RE: OPEN MEETING ACT IN ONTARIO**

I have written to you in the past and past governments going back to 1996 asking for personal penalties for Mayors and Councillors who violate the Open Meeting Act to be put into law.

The Ombudsman, yesterday, released his Annual Report which once again indicated the problem has not diminished but has grown. In some cases Councils are actually defiant, knowing that there is no penalty for violating the Act, beyond embarrassment.

If your response to this request is going to be the standard one going back almost 20 years that we are studying the matter and revisions to the Municipal Act, that is a tired old excuse which has led to no action over many years, despite an increase in frequency of violations of the Act. The issues and solutions have been identified and the time to move forward is now.

I would urge you to listen to the request by the Ombudsman and I offer my own support, as a long-time municipal leader, to act immediately to put in place appropriate penalties for Mayors and Councils who violate the Act and help restore trust in local government across the Province of Ontario.

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Yours sincerely,

Mike Bradley Mayor of Sarnia

:jmoore

Copy: Hon.Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs

and Housing

Mr. Andre Marin, Ombudsman of Ontario Members of Sarnia City Council