

J. Paul Dubé, Ombudsman

BY MAIL AND EMAIL

Council for the Township of Tehkummah
456 Hwy 542A
Tehkummah, ON POP 2C0

May 31, 2018

Dear Members of Council for the Township of Tehkummah,

Re: Closed meeting complaint, May 15, 2018

My Office received a complaint about a special meeting of council for the Township of Tehkummah held on May 15, 2018. The complainant told my Office that the public was not provided with notice of the meeting. The township's Acting Clerk confirmed to my staff that, through inadvertence, no notice was posted for the meeting in the municipal building, as required by the township's procedure by-law.

In April 2018, I issued a report to the township setting out the findings of my investigation into a meeting of council on December 22, 2017. In that report, I found that the township failed to provide notice of the meeting as required by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the township's procedure by-law. I also found that the township's procedure by-law should be updated to correct out-of-date references to repealed sections of the *Act*, and to formalize the township's general practice with respect to posting notice of meetings.

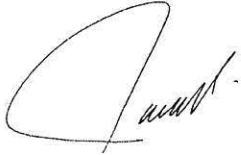
In response to my report, the township's Reeve told my Office that the township would be improving its procedures to fulfill its statutory obligations in the future. Given the failure to post public notice of the May 15, 2018, meeting, I am writing to remind the township of its obligations under the *Act*, and to encourage council to be vigilant in adhering to its obligation to ensure that sufficient public notice is provided before holding any meeting.

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This letter should be made public at the next meeting of township council. We will also post a copy of this letter on our website. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Office.

Yours truly,



Paul Dubé
Ombudsman of Ontario