

## Closed meetings: Know the exceptions

The *Municipal Act, 2001* (s. 239\*) states that municipal meetings must be open to the public, with certain narrow exceptions. As of **January 1, 2018**, there are **14** exceptions – those shown in bold are new.

A meeting MAY be closed if the subject matter being considered is:

- The security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- Personal matters about an identifiable individual;
- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- Labour relations or employee negotiations;
- Litigation or potential litigation;
- Advice subject to solicitor-client privilege;
- A matter in respect of which a closed meeting may be held under another Act;
- **Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by another level of government or a Crown agency;**

*\*NOTE: This text has been paraphrased in places for brevity; please consult the Act for the exact wording.*



- **A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with negotiations of a person, group or organization;**
- **A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary or potential monetary value;**
- **A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to negotiations by or on behalf of the municipality or local board;**
- For the purpose of educating or training the members, provided they do not materially advance business or decision-making.

Meetings MUST be closed if the subject matter being considered is:

- A request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- An ongoing investigation by the Ontario Ombudsman or the municipality's closed meeting investigator or ombudsman.

**Questions? [info@ombudsman.on.ca](mailto:info@ombudsman.on.ca)**

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