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Ombud seeks right to oversee agencies

Schools, cities, CAS on Marin's list

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
Staff Writer

You believe the Children's Aid Society has cut off access to your child for no reason, the local school board won't provide a program your child requires, you've been on a waiting list for months for a hospital procedure.

Where do you go?

Ontario ombud Andre Marin would like to help you, but right now he can't.

His office can only investigate government organizations, even though most government programs are administered by other bodies.

It makes no sense that the ombud's office, which helps resolve complaints or concerns, is not allowed to investigate public complaints against municipalities, universities, school boards and hospitals/long term care facilities as well as children's aid societies (known as the MUSH sector), Mr. Marin said at a media conference Thursday.

The office has dealt with more than 24,000 complaints and inquiries in the past 12 months. But more than 1,850 additional complaints against the MUSH sector were sent to Mr. Marin's office, even though he had no jurisdiction.

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BISHOP ABANDONS CATHEDRAL OF TRANSFIGURATION IN DISPUTE WITH FOUNDATION

WHOSE CATHEDRAL IS IT?

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

Ownership of the Cathedral of Transfiguration in Markham is central to the dispute that led Bishop John Puzak to abandon the facility earlier this month.

Owned by the Slovak Greek Catholic Church Foundation, which is controlled by the family of the late Stephen Roman, the land-

mark cathedral was used by the Eparchy of Saints Cyril and Methodius Canada by permission.

But after Bishop Puzak and many parishioners left, a sign was posed on the gates, inviting people to attend services at St. Volodymyr The Great Ukrainian Catholic Church in Thornhill. The note, since removed, gave no explanation for the move but did stir speculation the church was closed.

But, in fact, services are still being held there.

Most of the original congregation celebrated divine liturgy last Sunday, foundation lawyer Dana Fuller said.

"It's open," Mr. Fuller said. "The eparchy wasn't locked out. In May (the eparchy) announced it would withdraw from the cathedral June 1 and, in fact, did. Subsequently, the building was secured."

While unsure of who led the service, Mr. Fuller, a senior partner at Ogilvy Renault, said the cathedral will be open regularly.

"The foundation fully intends to complete the cathedral. There's no specific time line, partly because of the less than optimum relationship with the eparchy. The eparchy abandoned the cathedral. We had a

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STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

KEEPING THE BEAT

Reena Patel (right) watches her fellow drummers from Parkview Public School's African drum team as they perform at a concert at O.M. MacKillop Public School in Richmond Hill to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis AIDS Foundation.

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