

Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario



Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario

October 22, 2021

Robert Haché
President and Vice-Chancellor
Laurentian University
935 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2C6

Claude Lacroix
Chair, Board of Governors
Laurentian University
935 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2C6

Dear Mr. Haché and Mr. Lacroix,

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Committee) has received the letter from your legal counsel, Mr. Gover, dated October 19, 2021.

As indicated in our letter of October 15, 2021, the Committee has the power to command the production of papers and things from Laurentian University of Sudbury (Laurentian) that the Committee considers necessary for its work, including privileged information.

The documents received by the Committee will not be exhibited publicly. The Committee is of the view that the provision of information to the Committee will not negatively impact Laurentian, the Sudbury community or northeastern Ontario, nor will it compromise Laurentian's ability to continue to operate.

In discussion with the Auditor General, we understand that a number of our requests are readily available and already collected in an electronic format by Laurentian University staff or by your legal counsel. Therefore, in the spirit of cooperation, we have identified the items that we believe can be easily provided with minimal time and effort. As such, we require the items listed in Appendix A to be provided to the Committee by October 29, 2021.

All remaining items included in our October 15, 2021 letter must be provided no later than November 12, 2021. It will be a serious matter if Laurentian University does not comply with the Committee's request by the indicated deadlines. When this Committee decides to launch an inquiry and request documents pursuant to its authority under the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, it is helping the Assembly to carry out an accountability function and to exercise a parliamentary privilege that, as noted in the Speakers' rulings referenced in Mr. Gover's letter, ultimately trumps the legal privileges and other considerations mentioned in that letter. Compliance with the Committee's request and deadlines is therefore expected.

The Committee's request is clear and does not require a meeting with Laurentian's legal counsel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Taras Natyshak, MPP
Chair of the Committee

CC: Christopher Tyrell, Clerk of the Committee

Appendix A:
Information to be provided to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts by October 29, 2021

Information and materials requested
All Board of Governors and Board of Governors Committee and Ad-hoc Committees public and in-camera materials and minutes from January 1, 2010 to present in their entirety
All Senate and Senate Committee, Subcommittee and Ad-hoc Committees public and in-camera materials (including all communications of financial information on programs viability and/or Laurentian's overall finances) and minutes from January 1, 2010 to present in their entirety
The complete emails (including all archives and migrated emails from the legacy mail system to Google Mail), as of either August 12, August 13, or August 16, 2021 for the following individuals and domain names: • Carol McAulay • Chris Mercer • Dominic Giroux • Isabelle Bourgeault-Tasse • Julie Lacroix • Lorella Hayes • Normand Lavallee • Dr. Pierre Zundel • Sara Kunto • Serge Demers • Shawn Frappier • Tracy MacLeod • Dr. Robert Haché (rhache@laurentian.ca, rhpvc@laurentian.ca) • president@laurentian.ca • pvpa@laurentian.ca • vpadmin@laurentian.ca
Any and all email communications, (including all archives and migrated emails from the legacy mail system to Google Mail), as of either August 12, August 13, or August 16, 2021 with the following domains: • kpmg.ca • sudburylaw.com
Extract of all folders, including subfolders and contents, from Laurentian University's T-Drive as of August 16, 2021 contained in the folders identified below: • Finance • Human Resources and Organizational Development

Information and materials requested
• Legal • Physical Plant Capital • Risk and Insurance • Secretariat <i>(Our understanding is that the above folders contain, at a minimum, the following types of information: Accounting, Finance, Legal / General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, Board of Governors, Capital Procurement, Procurement and HR)</i>
KPMG audit planning reports for the following fiscal periods: • year ending April 30, 2019 (presented to the Audit Committee during its meeting on March 25, 2019) • year ending April 30, 2020 (presented to the Audit Committee during its meeting on March 23, 2020) • year ending April 30, 2021 (presented to the Audit Committee at an unknown date)
KPMG audit findings reports for the following fiscal periods: • year ending April 30, 2010 (presented to the Finance Committee during its meeting on October 4, 2010) • year ending April 30, 2021 (presented to the Audit Committee at an unknown date)
All documentation relating to the appointment and retention of the external auditor (including but not limited to internal correspondence, request for proposals, vendor-submitted proposals, evaluation of submissions, minutes of any discussions or decision-making, and signed Board or Audit Committee resolutions) for the fiscal years ending April 30, 2019, April 30, 2020, April 30, 2021
All draft and final budgets and supporting analysis for Laurentian University's budgets from 2010 to present

* The Committee's understanding is that these materials have already been provided in complete form to Laurentian Counsel*

The Committee's understanding is that this information is already downloaded and stored on a hard drive at Laurentian University with password protection from Laurentian University and Office of the Auditor General.