



Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne

**Office of the Chair of the Board of
Governors**
**Cabinet du Président conseil des
gouverneurs**
Tel/Tél. : 705-673-6567

February 22, 2022

Taras Natyshak, MPP (Essex)
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 1405, Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2
DELIVERED BY EMAIL TO comm-publicaccounts@ola.org & tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca

Dear Mr. Natyshak,

By way of introduction, you may recall that I was appointed to the Laurentian University Board of Governors in December and elected Interim Chair on January 17, 2022. I am writing today on behalf of the University to report to you on the status of the University's compliance with the Speaker's warrants dated December 9, 2021, as partially stayed by the decision of Chief Justice Morawetz on January 26, 2022.

Leading up to the release of that decision, Laurentian had been preparing for the outcome in which a stay was not granted, which would have resulted in all documents requested by the Committee being turned over, a fairly straight forward endeavour. However, the partial stay that the Chief Justice imposed made the production and separation of documents extremely challenging given the volume involved and the fact that some categories of documents contain both documents covered by the court orders and documents not covered by the court orders.

In the days following the Chief Justice's decision, Laurentian made best efforts to isolate those categories of documents and produce the remainder. On February 1, the University delivered two external hard drives, Drive 1 and Drive 2, to the Standing Committee. Drive 1 contained approximately 750 gigabytes of data, including over 3.3 million emails, as well as over 500,000 non-email files.

Drive 2 contained approximately 100 gigabytes of data representing roughly 500,000 emails and other files from areas believed to contain communications covered by the court orders. As you know, Drive 2 was password protected. The Committee accepted this production on the condition that we "...work in good faith to diligently review and separate its records on the second drive that are not subject to the judicial confidentiality orders so that this Committee can be provided with those records as soon as is practicable."

In the past few weeks, I have learned more about data separation than I ever cared to. Through a process of machine-assisted sorting (applying algorithms and artificial intelligence), hands-on human sorting, auditing for accuracy, finding errors along the way and recalibrating search parameters, a team of internal and external data experts have made considerable progress. They have assembled approximately 226,000 documents. Of those documents, 17,000 will be delivered immediately. The balance of approximately 209,000 needs to have certain quality-control checks finalized before they can be delivered, but I understand that this is expected by early next week if not sooner.

After that, roughly 280,000 files will remain to be screened (manually and machine-assisted) on Drive 2. We intend, with your approval, to provide the Standing Committee with staged production as files are identified and ready, and with updates every two weeks on our progress. This process will continue until all files not protected by the court orders are shared with your Committee.

I want to reiterate that the process of complying with the requests of your Committee continues to be a top priority for Laurentian. While the sheer volume of files on Drive 2 and the difficulty of accurately separating them are undeniable, it is still a task that we are determined to complete. I would welcome the opportunity to appear before your committee to report on our progress, answer any questions you and your colleagues may have, and to clearly state that we will indeed get the job done.

Thank you for your patience and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Bangs', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jeff Bangs
Interim Chair, Laurentian University of Sudbury