



August 28, 2020

Ms. Leslie Weir
Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Library and Archives of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4

Dear Ms. Weir:

We are writing to you regarding the resignation of the Honourable Bill Morneau and the retention of his ministerial records.

As you are aware, at the time of his resignation Mr. Morneau was embroiled in an ethical scandal, the full facts of which have not yet been made public. It is paramount that his Ministerial records be retained so that House of Commons committees have access to them should they be required when their investigations resume.

Subsection 12(1) of the Library and Archives Act prohibits the destruction of any ministerial record without your permission. Can you confirm that you have not given permission for Mr. Morneau to destroy, or to cause the destruction, of any ministerial record from his time as Minister of Finance (and particularly any record created in 2020)?

In addition to ensuring that the relevant documents continue to exist, locating them may also be important should committees adopt orders sending for them.

Paragraph 7(c) of the Act contemplates the Library and Archives of Canada being "the permanent repository ... of government and ministerial records that are of historical or archival value". Subsection 13(1), meanwhile, permits the transfer of such ministerial records. Have you entered into any agreements with Mr. Morneau yet for the transfer of his ministerial records?

Alternatively, Appendix C of the 2015 Guidelines on Managing Records in a Minister's Office discusses the deposit service offered to recently-retired ministers by the Library and Archives. Have you entered into any arrangements with Mr. Morneau yet for the deposit of his ministerial records?

If Mr. Morneau has not entered into arrangements with you to transfer or deposit his ministerial records, can you confirm whether you are aware of the records' current location(s)? If so, can you advise where they are to be found?

We have also written to the Clerk of the Privy Council and asked for his assistance in ensuring the retention of Mr. Morneau's Ministerial Records.

I look forward to your response which will be valuable in parliamentarians' pursuit of answers at investigative committees this autumn.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael Barrett, M.P.
Official Opposition Shadow Minister for Ethics

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pierre Poilievre". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, PC, MP, Carleton
Official Opposition Shadow Minister for Finance