



August 28, 2020

Ian Shugart
Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet
Privy Council Office
Room 100 - 85 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

We are writing to you about the preservation and location of records which may be crucial to parliamentary investigations concerning the ethical conduct of the present federal government.

As you know, the Honourable Bill Morneau recently resigned from the Cabinet. This followed in the wake of a series of ethical failures on his part concerning his relationship with WE Charity and the Cabinet's decision to award a half-billion-dollar contribution agreement to its associated entity, WE Charity Foundation.

At the time of the Prime Minister's decision to prorogue Parliament, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance was in the midst of investigating this contribution agreement and what led up to its awarding.

Moreover, at the time of prorogation, very troubling news was emerging about the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff's spouse's ties to an \$84-million contract to administer a commercial rent relief program designed by the Department of Finance, as well as his aggressive, unregistered lobbying campaign of Mr. Morneau's office for amendments to the pandemic wage subsidy program.

All of these matters are likely to be investigated by parliamentary committees early in the forthcoming session of Parliament, and continue to be investigated by officers of Parliament. It will be absolutely crucial for committees to have access to the documentary evidence on all of these scandals. Mr. Morneau's resignation has added a degree of concern about timely access to certain records.

We are asking you to ensure that all safeguards are in place to prevent the destruction of any relevant ministerial documents that may be in the possession of current or former staff in the Office of the Minister of Finance relevant to these future parliamentary investigations.

Additionally, we are requesting that you ensure that all safeguards are in place to prevent the destruction of any relevant documents (including those of volunteer advisors) or communications in the Prime Minister's Office.

Indeed, the issue of deleted records in the 2017 legal proceedings over the Ontario government's gas plant scandal, we believe, provides justification to proactively ask for the preservation of all relevant documents.

We have also written to Ms. Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, to ascertain whether Mr. Morneau has made arrangements with her with respect to his records.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pierre Poilievre". The signature is cursive and includes a long, horizontal flourish at the bottom.

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