



CALGARY | TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014

Mount Royal University security guard admits to stealing memory card containing video footage of alleged assault

Court documents indicate a security guard involved in 2013 altercation at Mount Royal University has admitted to stealing a memory card that a filed lawsuit claims contains footage of his involvement — and that of his peers — in an alleged assault of a pro-life activist.

The incident on the Calgary campus occurred the evening of February 19, 2013. Nicholas McLeod, president of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, ventured to campus and was distributing postcards containing graphic imagery when he was approached by security members and asked to stop.

McLeod said Monday in his first interview since the incident that when he refused to hand over his postcards he was knocked to the ground and swarmed by as many as five guards.

McLeod claims he'd been recording the guards on his phone and stuffed the device in his pants to prevent them from seizing it. He said he was taken to a holding room and remained handcuffed for three hours.

“They wouldn't let me call a lawyer, they wouldn't let me do anything,” he said. “They put the cuffs on extremely tight . . . I was in agony.” He alleged one guard did take the phone for a short time but later returned it. McLeod said it wasn't

until the next morning that he'd realized the memory card had been snatched.

Court documents leaked to Metro Monday indicate that Mount Royal guard, Shannon Walter Courtorielle, was charged the following September with theft under \$5,000 for stealing McLeod's memory card. The documents show that Courtorielle has since accepted responsibility for the theft and enrolled in an alternative measures program approved by a judge. In April, his charge was withdrawn and, as such, he will not have a criminal record.

McLeod, meanwhile, has launched a \$120,000 lawsuit against the Courtorielle, five of his peers, the company they worked for and Mount Royal University for false arrest and imprisonment, battery and breaches of charter rights. The accusations haven't been proven in court but the matter is due to go before a judge next month, according to John Carpay, president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, who's taken on McLeod's case.

On Monday, Carpay said, to his knowledge, the memory card hasn't resurfaced.

Carpay said he's hoping a judge will force Mount Royal to disclose more information on actions taken in the wake of the incident against the employees involved and to retrieve the memory card.

Carpay previously waged a fight with the University of Calgary in court and successfully overturned rulings of non-academic misconduct against seven students who'd continually erected graphic pro-life billboards on that school's campus.

Mount Royal University representatives said, because the matter is before the courts, they couldn't address questions on whether Courtorielle was still employed at the school or whether officials have knowledge of the missing memory card's whereabouts.

“It is not appropriate for Mount Royal University to comment on this case; the issues will ultimately be decided by the court,” institution spokesperson Alyssa Berry said in a written statement. “Any situation with a Mount Royal employee is a human resources matter and Mount Royal (is) bound by legislation to respect privacy of its employees.”

The lawsuit states that McLeod suffered injuries to his head, spine, left hand and arm, and both shoulders. He said Monday's he also had troubles sleeping since the incident and it has aggravated issues he has with anxiety and a speech impediment.

“It's affected physically at the time but that goes away,” McLeod said. “The emotional and the physical damage is something that continues.”