



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 20, 2015
To: All Administration Division Staff
From: Roger Couldrey, Vice-President (Administration)
Cc: Richard Godsmark, Director, Technology, University Technology Services
Re: **Phishing Awareness**

Dear Colleagues:

To gain an understanding of our susceptibility to phishing attacks at McMaster, over the past few months UTS' IT Security team sent out phishing messages to staff within the Administration Division to test our employees' ability to detect and discard these types of fraudulent messages.

You may recall receiving email messages with these subject lines:

- Holiday Gift Card Giveaway
- Your Package has arrived
- Thank you for scheduling a payment
- Permission to publish your video?
- Email Migration Error

The good news is that we performed very well at identifying malicious email messages during this Phishing Awareness campaign. Susceptibility rates were well below expectations. However, those few that were susceptible have not always followed through with the required Phishing Awareness training.

Training modules are assigned to anyone that clicked on a malicious link, opened an attachment or provided their personal information in response to the above mentioned messages. The modules are entertaining, but more importantly, they are the best way to help you learn to spot fraudulent emails and to identify malicious web links. If you have been assigned a training module, please complete it.

For those requiring assistance with Phishing Awareness training, please feel free to contact IT Security at: c-it-security@mcmaster.ca. If you know anyone in our Division who should be part of this program but did not receive this message, please encourage them to reach out to UTS' IT Security to be included in the program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Couldrey".

Roger Couldrey
Vice-President (Administration)