Instructions for downloading federal political donation data for the last quarter of 2020

The story upon which the tutorial is based federal political parties filling coffers in the lead-up to a possible election in 2021.
https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/grenier-2020-q4-fundraising-1.5896460

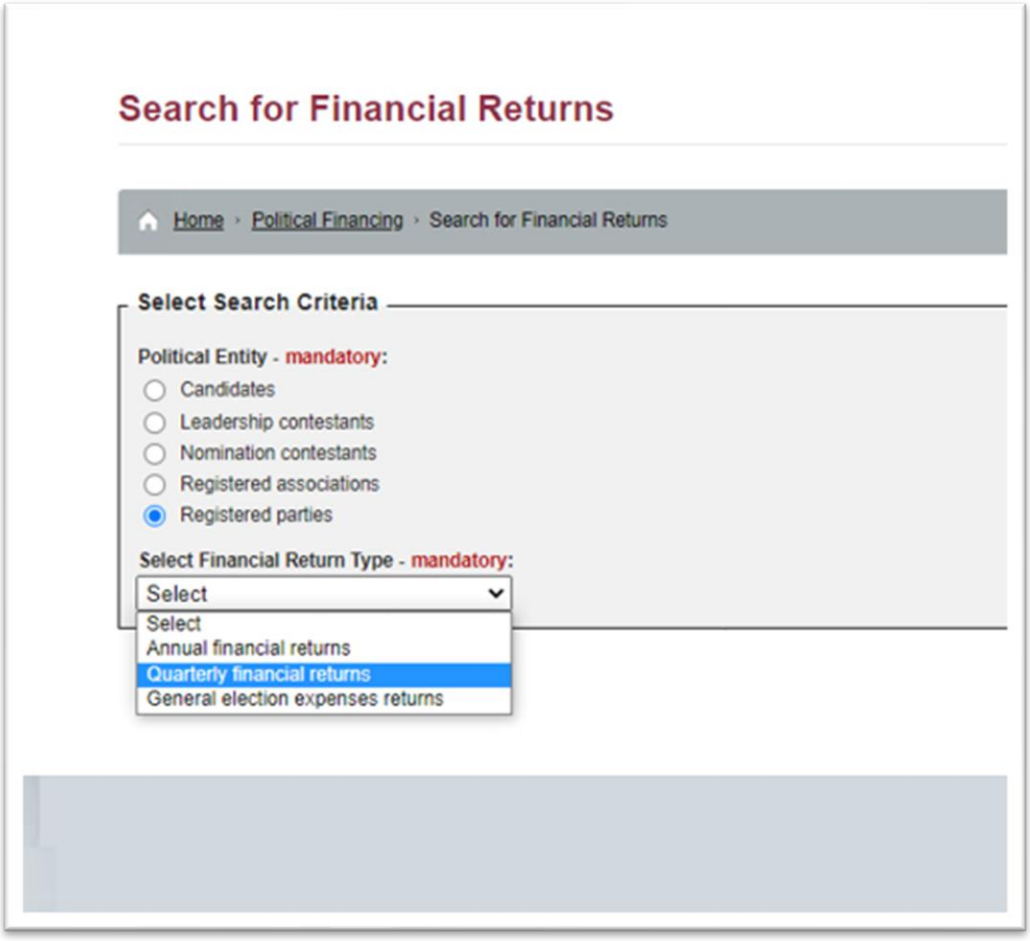
This tutorial will help us locate the numbers driving Eric's story about the Conservative Party's total donation tally for the last three months of 2020 ($7,661,755) and the number of people who contributed those amounts (46,234), compared to the $6,499,668 and 48,282 for the Liberals and $2,504,279 and 20,877 for the NDP. It is also worth noting that these donations are for all amounts. The dataset you are about to download contains two tables in one csv file: The main table provides the location and identify of the donors who contributed more than $200.

A separate and much smaller table on the same worksheet contains all the amounts UNDER $200, inexplicably aggregated by party.

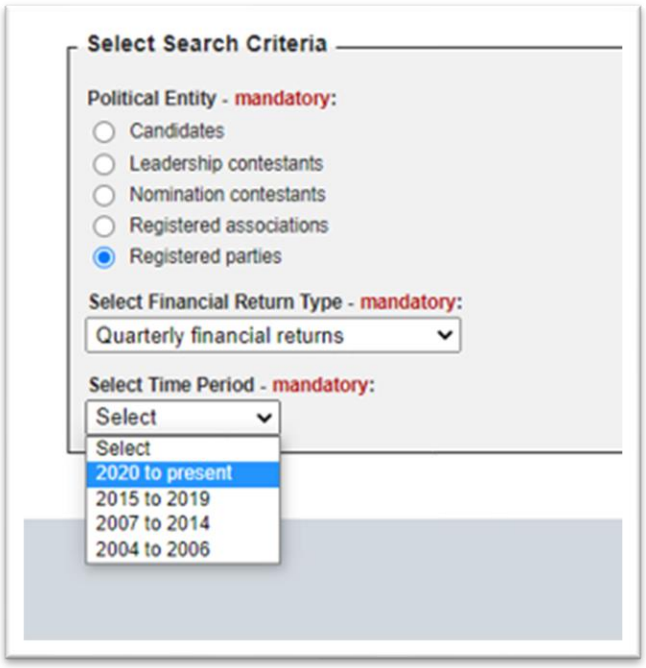
So, while we can identify the country's largest donors and where the live, Canadians giving smaller amounts to our federal political parties can do so anonymously. Go figure! At any rate, it is still worth learning how to download this data.
So, here we go.

https://www.elections.ca/wpapps/WPF/EN/Home/Index?returntype

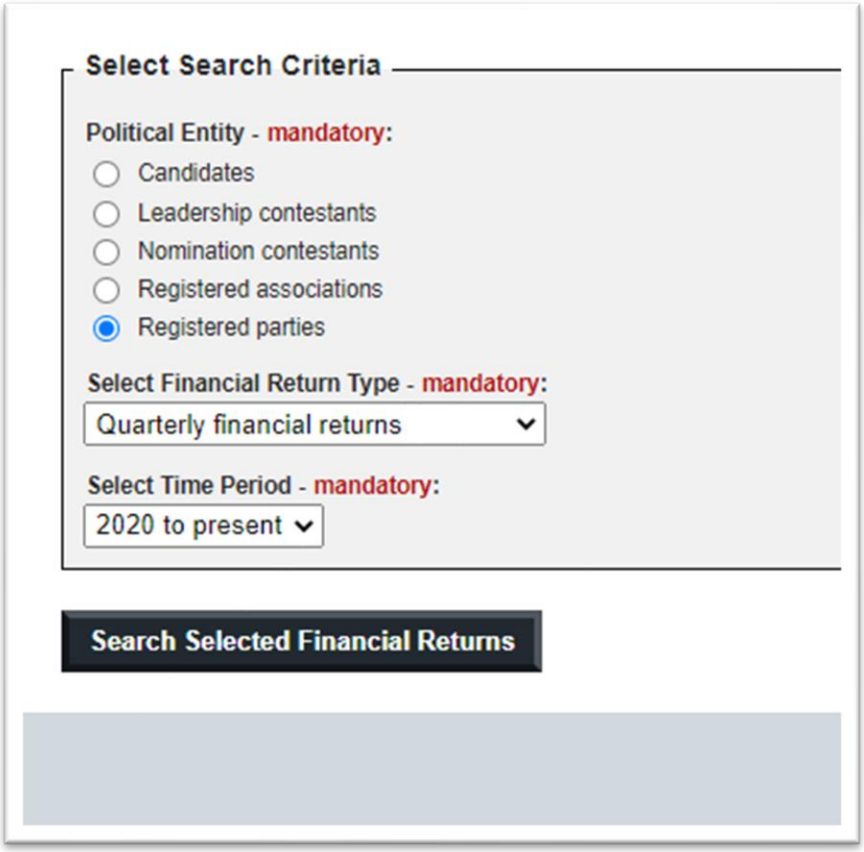
1. Select “Registered parties” and “Quarterly financial returns.”



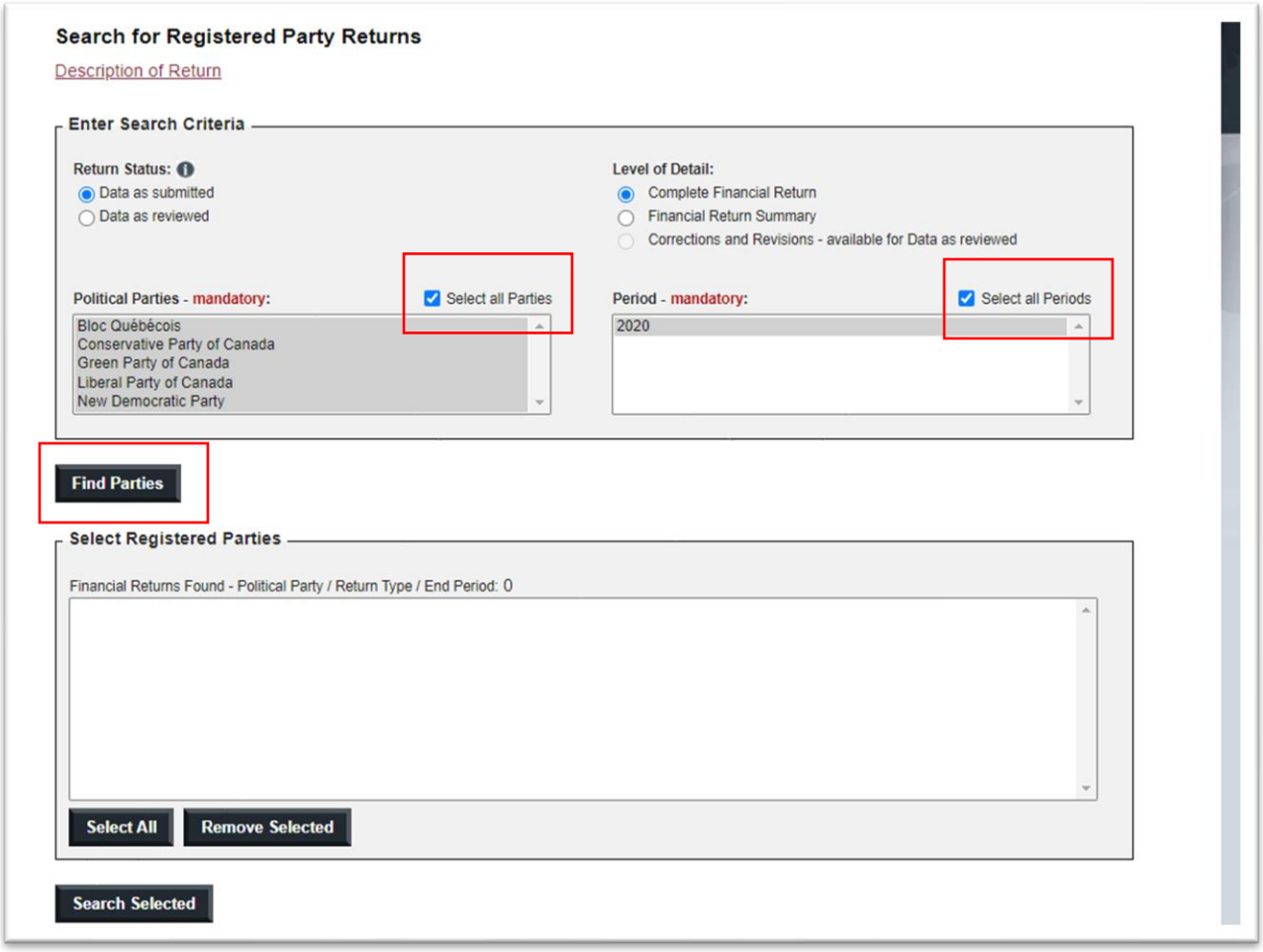
2. Select the “2020 to present” time period.



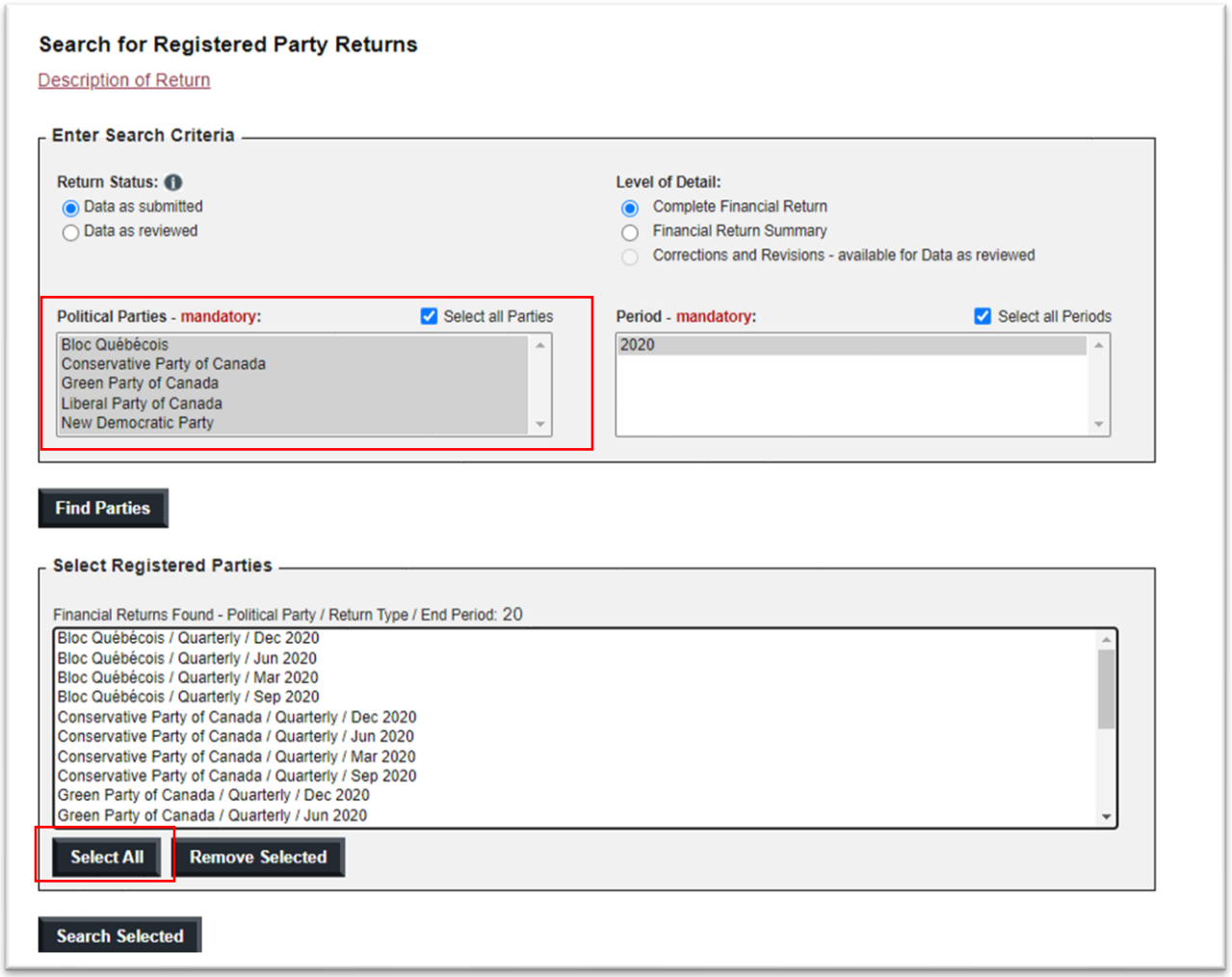
3. Click the “Search Selected Financial Returns” tab.



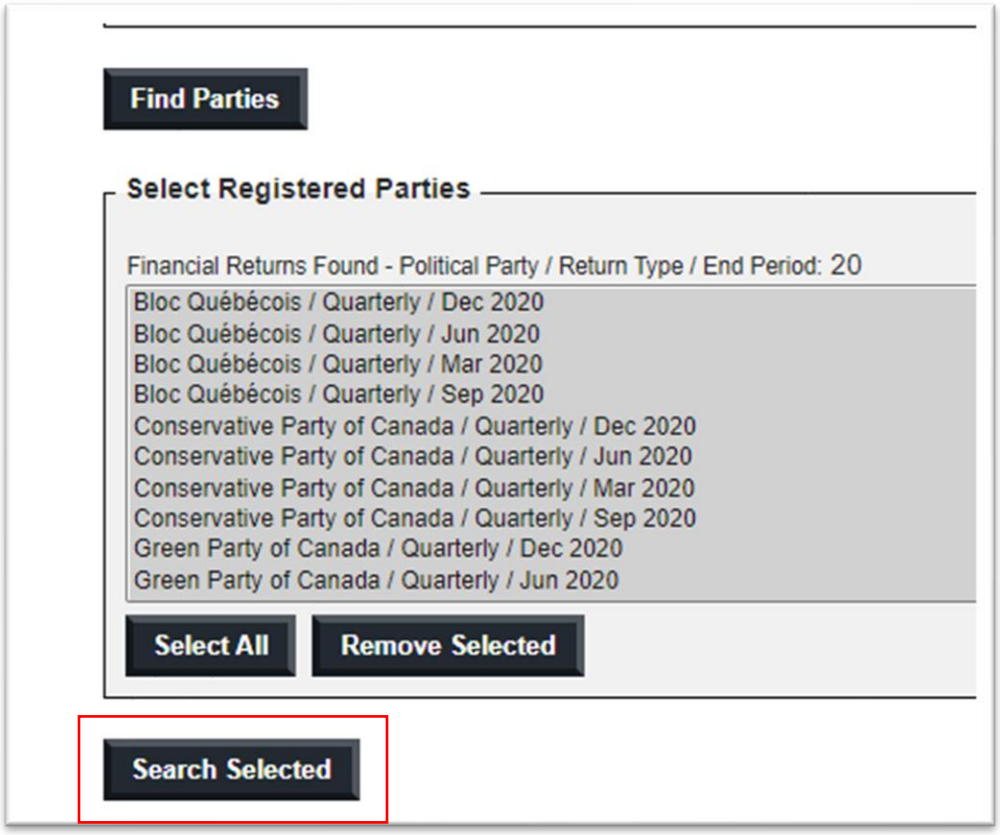
4. The database defaults to “Data as submitted” under the “Return Status.” So leave that as is. Check the boxes to the right of “Political Parties” and “Period,” as you can see in the screen grab below.



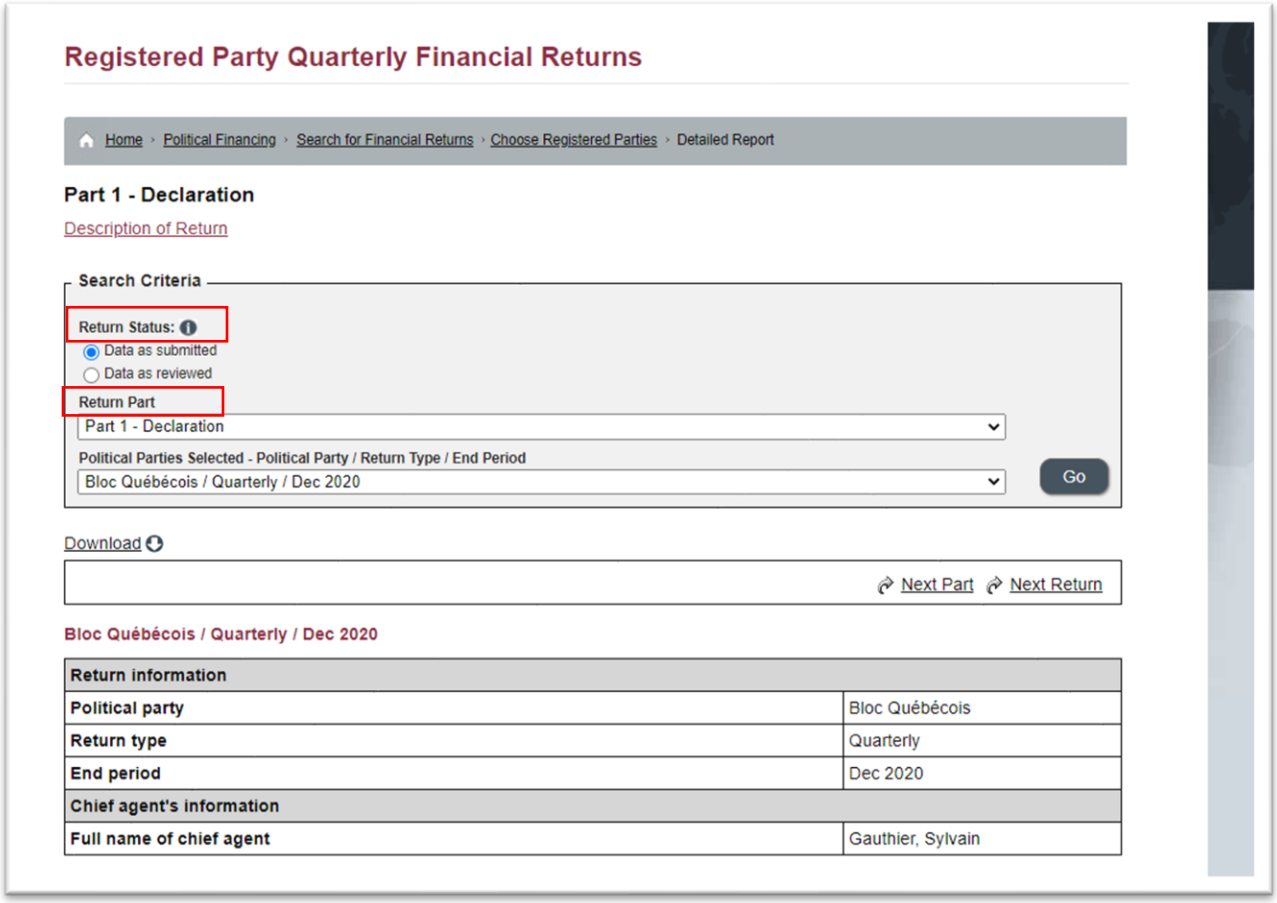
5. Click the “Find Parties” tab, which will populate the section at the bottom of the screen grab above.



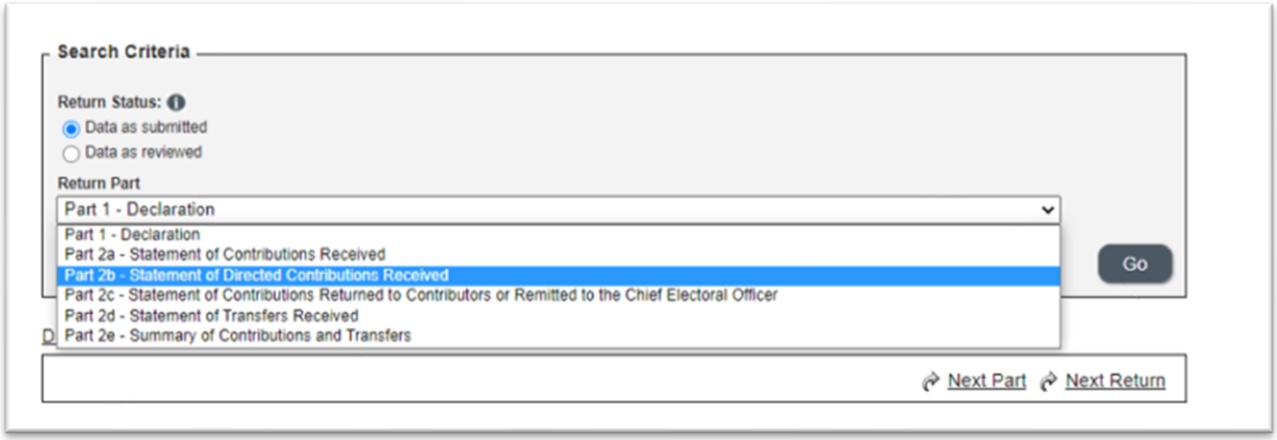
6. Click the “Select All” tab highlighted by the red rectangle, which will highlight all the parties as you can see below.



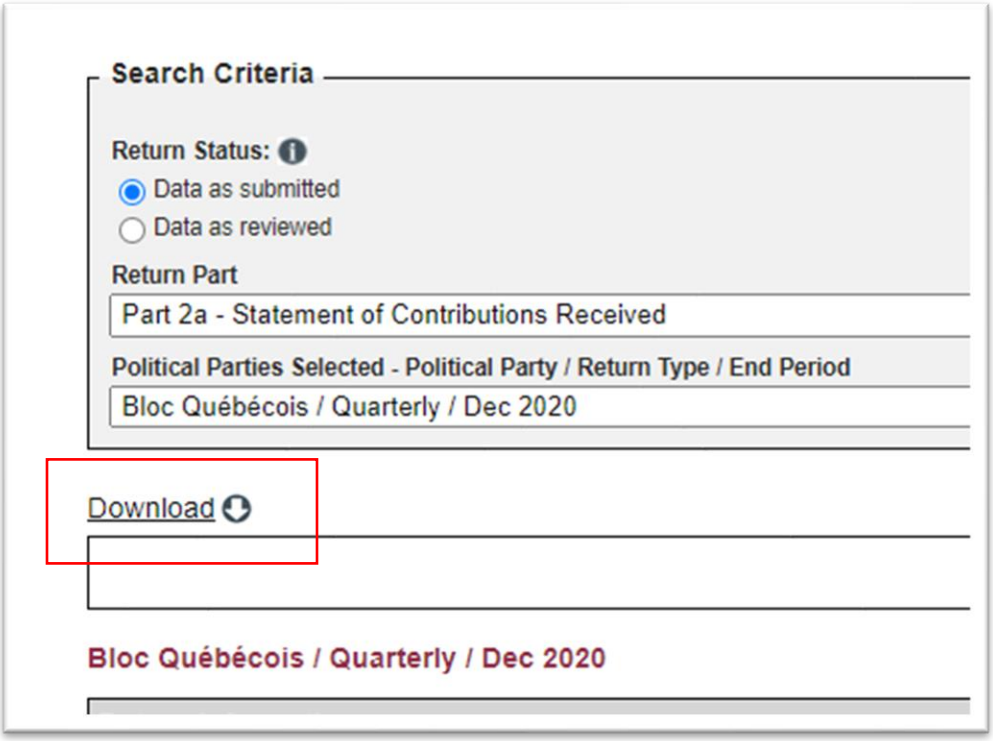
7. Click the “Search Selected” tab.



8. Under “Return Status”, it defaults to “Data as submitted.” Leave that as is. Under “Return Part” select “Part 2a – Statement of Contributions Received” from the dropdown menu.



9. Do not worry about selecting parties under the under the “Political Parties Selected – Political Party….” Section. Instead, click the “Download” tab.



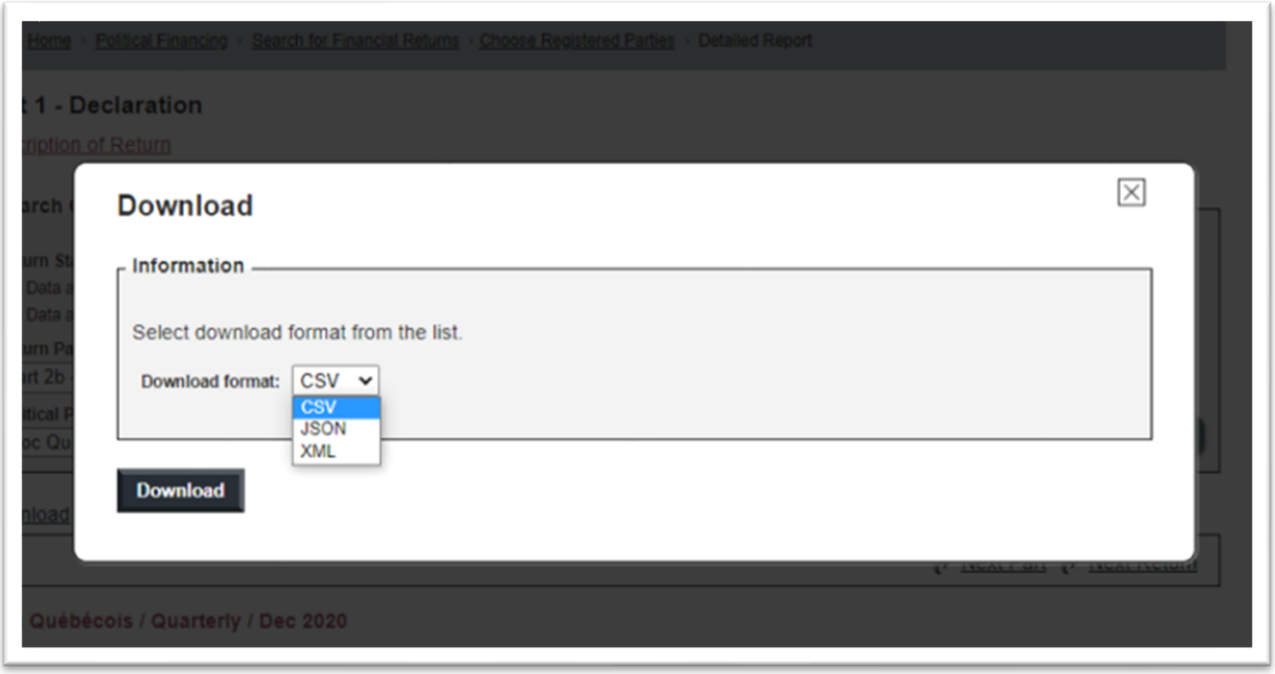
10. The default format is a “csv”, the acronym for “comma separated value”, a text file format in which the columns of information are separated by commas as you can see in this

screen grab.

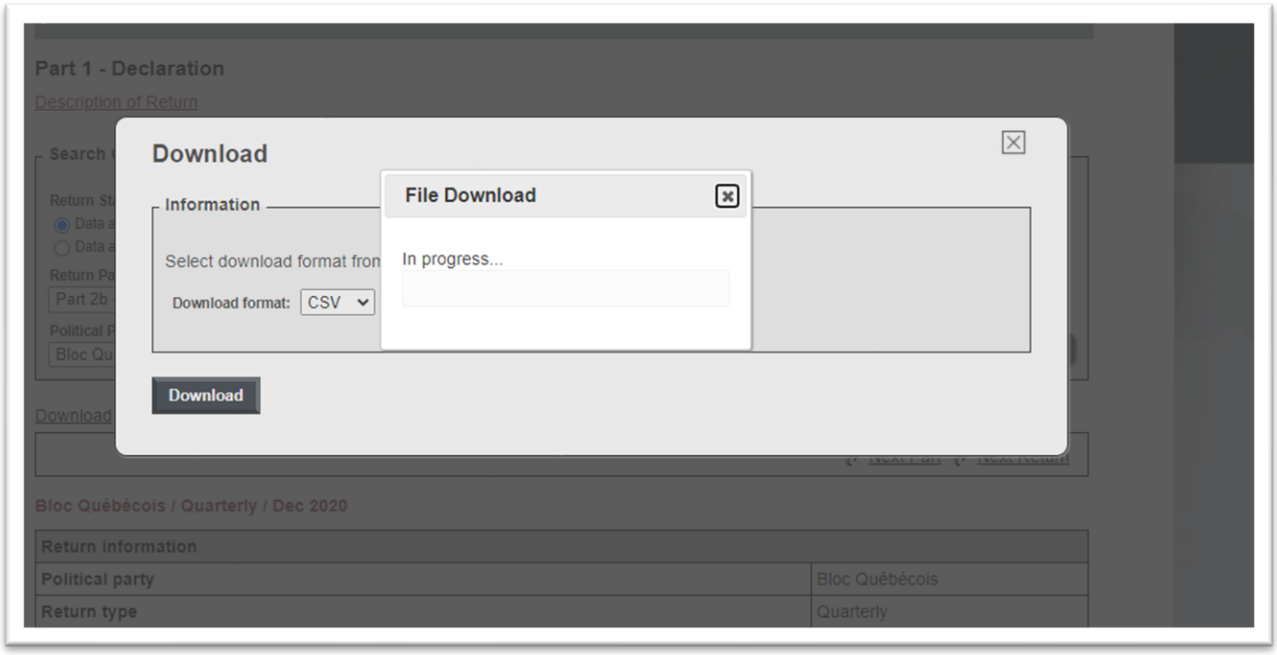
```
DETAIL_DATA
"Client_id","No","Contributor_last_name","Contributor_first_name","Contributor_middle_initial","City","Province","Postal_code","Date_received","Monetary","Non_monetary","Amount_of_monetary_and_non_monetary_contributions"
"43103","1","Allard","Jacques","","Mont-Saint-Grégoire","QC","J0J1K0","Feb 13, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","2","Audet","Carole","","Varennes","QC","J3X1V2","Feb 24, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","3","Audet","Carole","","Varennes","QC","J3X1V2","Mar 16, 2020","20","0","20"
"43103","4","Aumond","François","","Lac-Beauport","QC","G3B1R9","Feb 13, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","5","Baillargeon","Jacques","","Mont-Royal","QC","H3P2N7","Feb 17, 2020","300","0","300"
"43103","6","Barsalou","Louise","","Boucherville","QC","J4B7G7","Feb 02, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","7","Barsalou-Duval","Alexandra","","Boucherville","QC","J4B6X7","Feb 08, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","8","Barsalou-Duval","Xavier","","Boucherville","QC","J4B2T7","Jan 24, 2020","1600","0","1600"
"43103","9","Beauchesne","Mario","","Victoriaville","QC","G6P9M8","Mar 04, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","10","Beaulieu","Daniel","","Rimouski","QC","G5L1T5","Jan 22, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","11","Beaulieu","Jean","","Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu","QC","J0L1R0","Mar 10, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","12","Beaupré","André","","Saint-Georges","QC","G5Y7N4","Mar 23, 2020","300","0","300"
"43103","13","Beaupré","Lucien","","Aston-Jonction","QC","G0Z1A0","Feb 13, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","14","Bélanger","Jules","","Gaspé","QC","G4X1S5","Mar 31, 2020","400","0","400"
"43103","15","Bellavance","Jean-Marie","","Québec","QC","G1R5H5","Jan 07, 2020","205","0","205"
"43103","16","Bérard","François","","Montréal","QC","H1K5C8","Feb 20,
```

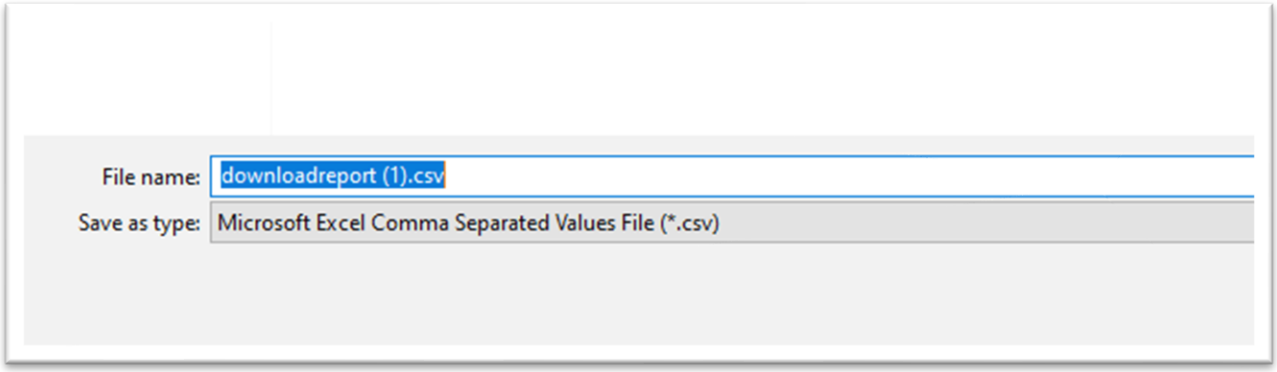
Just to get a sense of what other formats are available, click the

arrow to the right of “csv” to obtain the drop-down menu.



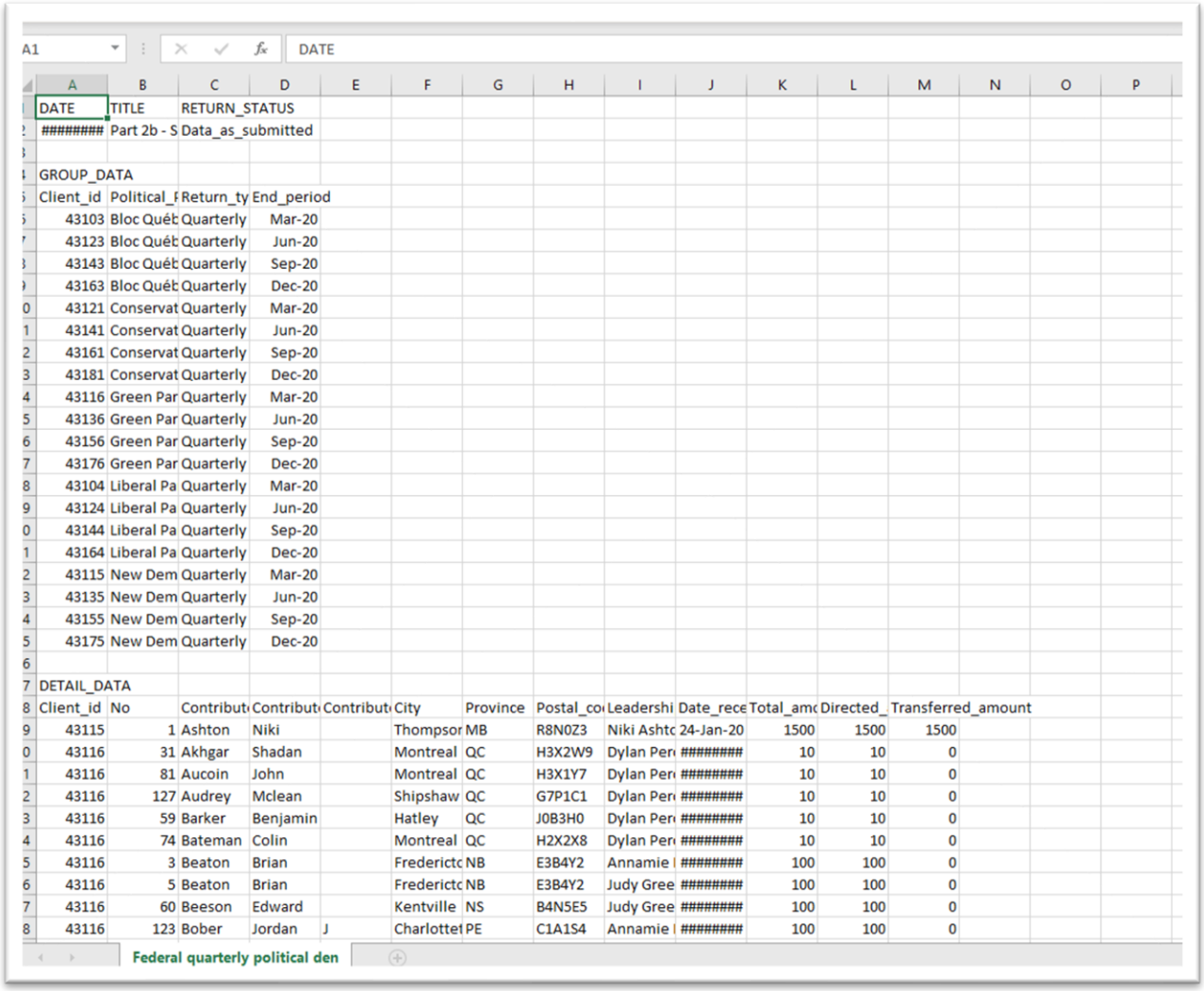
11. Don’t worry about the JSON and XML formats. It’s just good to know that they are there.
12. Be sure that the “csv” option is selected before downloading.





13. Browse to your folder on your hard drive you have created for this project (NOTE: I have the #1 after my download because I have already done the exercise. You will just have the generic “downloadreport” title.) Be sure to rename the file to something that makes more sense such as “Federal quarterly political denotations 2020”.

14. You will be able to open the file in Excel.



DATE	TITLE	RETURN_STATUS												
########	Part 2b - S	Data_as_submitted												
GROUP_DATA														
Client_id	Political_F	Return_ty	End_period											
43103	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Mar-20											
43123	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Jun-20											
43143	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Sep-20											
43163	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Dec-20											
43121	Conservat	Quarterly	Mar-20											
43141	Conservat	Quarterly	Jun-20											
43161	Conservat	Quarterly	Sep-20											
43181	Conservat	Quarterly	Dec-20											
43116	Green Par	Quarterly	Mar-20											
43136	Green Par	Quarterly	Jun-20											
43156	Green Par	Quarterly	Sep-20											
43176	Green Par	Quarterly	Dec-20											
43104	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Mar-20											
43124	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Jun-20											
43144	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Sep-20											
43164	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Dec-20											
43115	New Dem	Quarterly	Mar-20											
43135	New Dem	Quarterly	Jun-20											
43155	New Dem	Quarterly	Sep-20											
43175	New Dem	Quarterly	Dec-20											
DETAIL_DATA														
Client_id	No	Contributo	Contributo	Contributo	City	Province	Postal_co	Leadershi	Date_rece	Total_amo	Directed_	Transferred_amount		
43115	1	Ashton	Niki		Thompsor	MB	R8N0Z3	Niki Ashto	24-Jan-20	1500	1500	1500		
43116	31	Akhgar	Shadan		Montreal	QC	H3X2W9	Dylan Per	########	10	10	0		
43116	81	Aucoin	John		Montreal	QC	H3X1Y7	Dylan Per	########	10	10	0		
43116	127	Audrey	Mclean		Shipshaw	QC	G7P1C1	Dylan Per	########	10	10	0		
43116	59	Barker	Benjamin		Hatley	QC	J0B3H0	Dylan Per	########	10	10	0		
43116	74	Bateman	Colin		Montreal	QC	H2X2X8	Dylan Per	########	10	10	0		
43116	3	Beaton	Brian		Frederictc	NB	E3B4Y2	Annamie I	########	100	100	0		
43116	5	Beaton	Brian		Frederictc	NB	E3B4Y2	Judy Gree	########	100	100	0		
43116	60	Beeson	Edward		Kentville	NS	B4N5E5	Judy Gree	########	100	100	0		
43116	123	Bober	Jordan	J	Charlottet	PE	C1A1S4	Annamie I	########	100	100	0		

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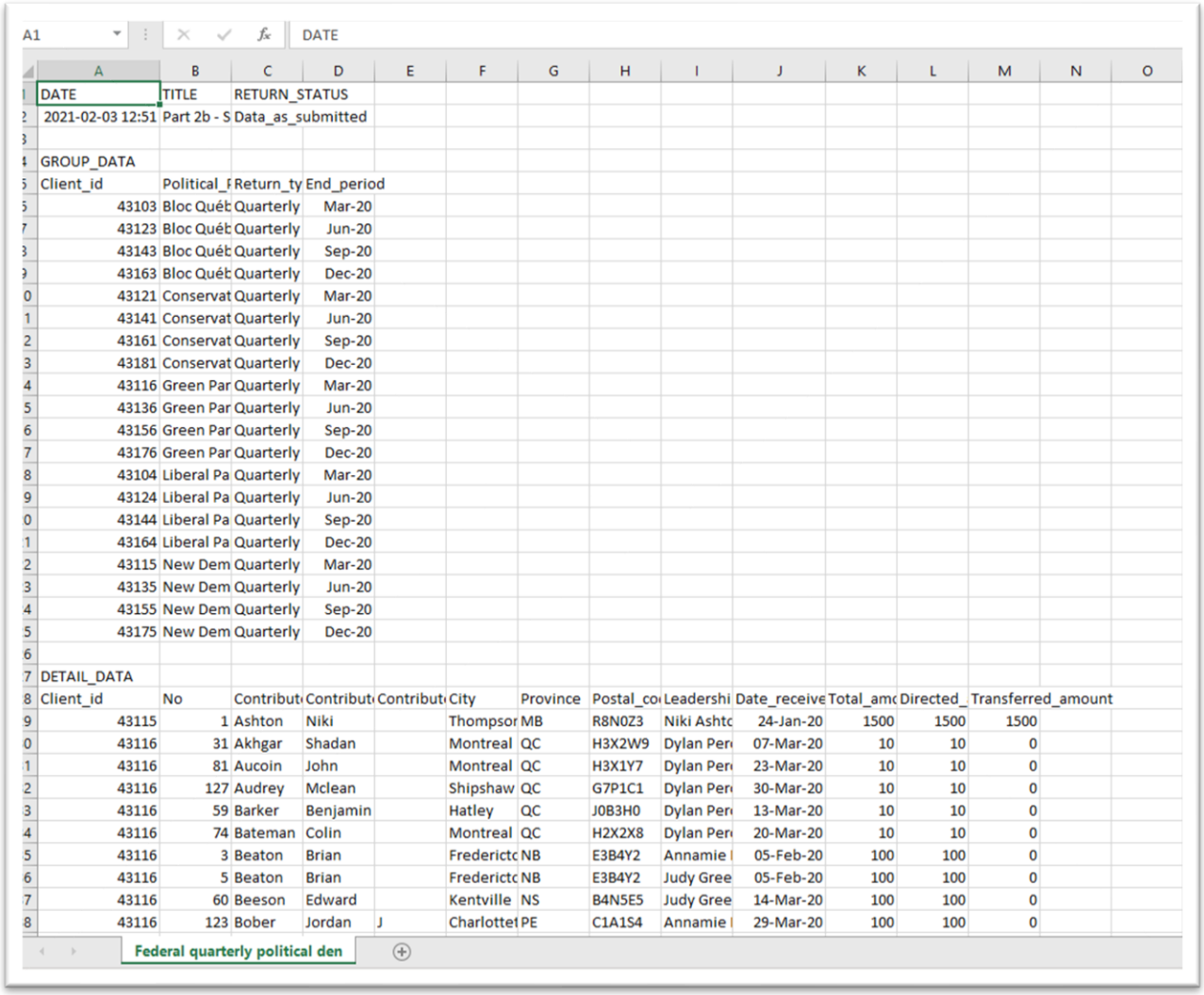
15. The hashtags in A2 and column J, beginning at row 9, are Excel's way of telling you to provide a tad more width for the

columns that contain numbers.

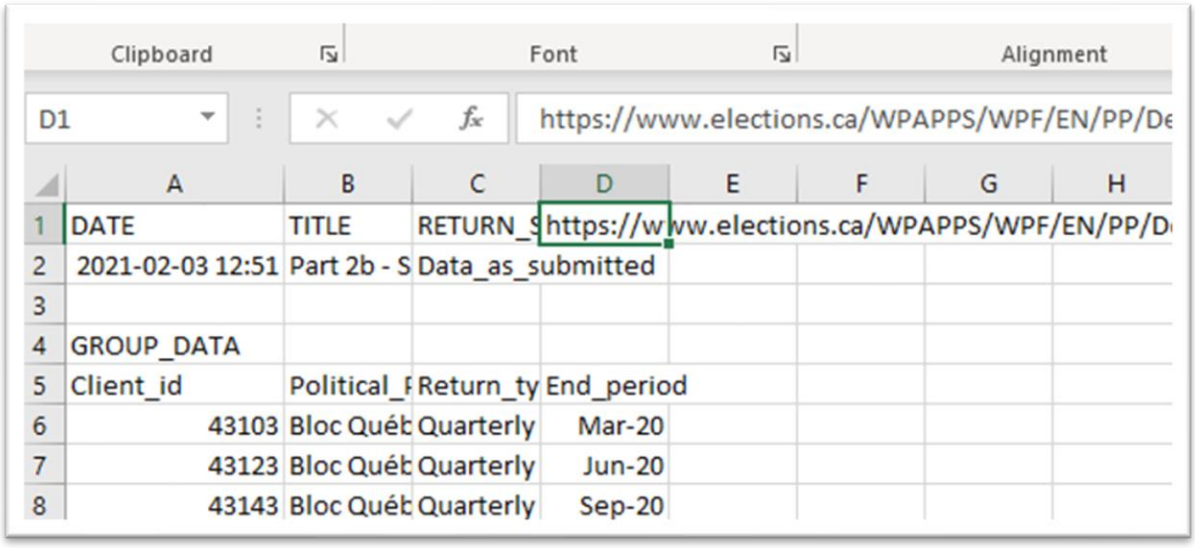


A1 DATE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	DATE	TITLE	RETURN_STATUS												
2	2021-02-03 12:51	Part 2b - S	Data_as_submitted												
3															
4	GROUP_DATA														
5	Client_id	Political_F	Return_ty	End_period											
6	43103	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Mar-20											
7	43123	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Jun-20											
8	43143	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Sep-20											
9	43163	Bloc Québ	Quarterly	Dec-20											
10	43121	Conservat	Quarterly	Mar-20											
11	43141	Conservat	Quarterly	Jun-20											
12	43161	Conservat	Quarterly	Sep-20											
13	43181	Conservat	Quarterly	Dec-20											
14	43116	Green Par	Quarterly	Mar-20											
15	43136	Green Par	Quarterly	Jun-20											
16	43156	Green Par	Quarterly	Sep-20											
17	43176	Green Par	Quarterly	Dec-20											
18	43104	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Mar-20											
19	43124	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Jun-20											
20	43144	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Sep-20											
21	43164	Liberal Pa	Quarterly	Dec-20											
22	43115	New Dem	Quarterly	Mar-20											
23	43135	New Dem	Quarterly	Jun-20											
24	43155	New Dem	Quarterly	Sep-20											
25	43175	New Dem	Quarterly	Dec-20											
26															
27	DETAIL_DATA														
28	Client_id	No	Contributi	Contributi	Contributi	City	Province	Postal_co	Leadershi	Date_receive	Total_amo	Directed_	Transferred_amount		
29	43115	1	Ashton	Niki		Thompsor	MB	R8N0Z3	Niki Ashto	24-Jan-20	1500	1500	1500		
30	43116	31	Akhgar	Shadan		Montreal	QC	H3X2W9	Dylan Per	07-Mar-20	10	10	0		
31	43116	81	Aucoin	John		Montreal	QC	H3X1Y7	Dylan Per	23-Mar-20	10	10	0		
32	43116	127	Audrey	Mclean		Shipshaw	QC	G7P1C1	Dylan Per	30-Mar-20	10	10	0		
33	43116	59	Barker	Benjamin		Hatley	QC	J0B3H0	Dylan Per	13-Mar-20	10	10	0		
34	43116	74	Bateman	Colin		Montreal	QC	H2X2X8	Dylan Per	20-Mar-20	10	10	0		
35	43116	3	Beaton	Brian		Fredericto	NB	E3B4Y2	Annamie	05-Feb-20	100	100	0		
36	43116	5	Beaton	Brian		Fredericto	NB	E3B4Y2	Judy Gree	05-Feb-20	100	100	0		
37	43116	60	Beeson	Edward		Kentville	NS	B4N5E5	Judy Gree	14-Mar-20	100	100	0		
38	43116	123	Bober	Jordan	J	Charlottet	PE	C1A1S4	Annamie	29-Mar-20	100	100	0		

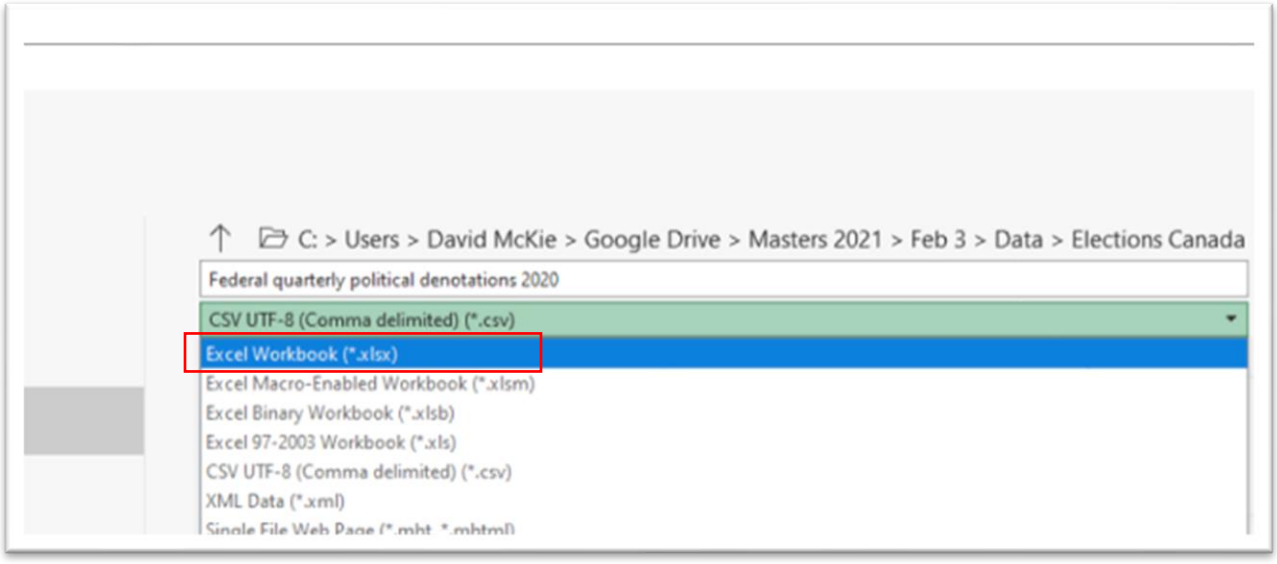
Federal quarterly political den

16. Copy the URL from the Elections Canada site, and paste it into the first available cell in the first row: DA.



17. As we've explained during previous sessions with tables from Statistics Canada, it's always good practice to do this so that we always know the origin of the data. We should never have to go hunting. This csv file will now become our backup. Remember, that although we can open a csv file in an Excel spreadsheet, it must actually be saved in this format.

18. This is a crucial step that you CAN'T skip. Save the csv file as an Excel spreadsheet



19. Unlike the csv or text file format, Excel allows for multiple worksheets that will contain your pivot tables.
20. Now we will be able to find the numbers in Eric's story.