

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 24, 2020 9:27 AM
To: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Media; Jean-François Létourneau; Lucie Brosseau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Bryan Blom; Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott
Subject: REVISED: For MO approval - Media response - Tier 1/ COVID-19 - Government's efforts to procure PPE / The Capital

Hello James and Cecely,

Please find below a revised response for your approval please. [New info.](#)

Thank you,

Michèle
613-415-6302

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Media response

The Capital

Marlan, Tori (The Capital)

Date call received: May-15-20 at 11:25

Deadline: May-19-20 at 17:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Government's efforts to procure PPE

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter is writing an article about the impact the pandemic has had on long-term care homes. He would like to obtain more information about the government's efforts to procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The reporter contacted Health Canada / Public Health Agency of Canada , who has reached out to PSPC for input. A joint response will be developed and PSPC's input will be sent to HC/PHAC. PSPC will respond to Q1 and Q2.

VALUE STATEMENT:

The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories on an ongoing basis to identify their needs and purchase required equipment, supplies, and services to combat COVID-19.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is taking an aggressive approach to buying, especially when it comes to personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers. This includes:

- Ordering ahead in bulk on behalf of provinces and territories
- Supplementing those orders by purchasing limited-availability supplies that are immediately available
- Ramping up the domestic manufacturing capacity, through the Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, being led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

This is over and above the efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supply. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

CO. Would you let me know what kind of PPE and how much of it, was acquired and from where? (PSPC)

As the Government of Canada's central purchaser, Public Services and Procurement Canada is leading efforts to purchase equipment, supplies and services required for Canada to combat COVID-19. We are working with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) which is consolidating the needs of provincial and territorial governments to inform our bulk buying of PPE and medical supplies. We are anticipating Canada's needs in the short and long term by securing the supplies needed for frontline healthcare workers, while ensuring products we are purchasing meet Canada's standards for use in the health system before distribution for medical use.

This procurement is in addition to the buying being done directly by provinces, territories and healthcare centres.

We are purchasing a broad range of personal protective equipment and supplies, including gloves, masks, face shields, gowns, swabs and tests kits. An overview of our efforts to procure key personal protective equipment and medical supplies is available online.

Q2. How many contracts does the government have for domestic production of PPE, and how much PPE domestic manufacturers have supplied thus far? (PSPC)

At this time we are not disclosing specific information about our contracts given the highly competitive and volatile marketplace in which we are operating. That said, Canadian businesses of all sizes, right across the country, have stepped up to support the fight against COVID-19. We can confirm that through the [Plan to Mobilize Industry to Fight COVID-19](#), the Government of Canada has signed 44 Letters of Intent with Canadian companies, which have so far resulted in 24 contracts being signed. This includes PPE and medical supplies ranging from ventilators, to hand sanitizer to masks.

As of May 19, we had received:

- More than 139,000 gowns from domestic gown manufacturers, including Stanfield's in Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada Goose with factories in Winnipeg and Toronto, and Logistik based in St. Jean-sur-Richelieu.
- More than 2.7 million made-in-Canada face shields from companies Bauer, Toronto Stamp and HP Canada. (confirmed on Tuesday — *no, data provided was not interpreted correctly — 1.7 million was the total number of masks that had been received since the previous web update; not the total received from domestic producers to date. Number updated.*)
- More than 5 million litres of Canadian-made hand sanitizer, including quantities from Fluid Energy based in Alberta and Irving Oil out of New Brunswick.

We also have an agreement with LuminUltra, a leading biotechnology company based in New Brunswick to produce enough reagent along with other testing required for 500,000 tests per week through March 2020. Deliveries directly to provincial and territorial labs is underway.

As more and more companies that have retooled and scaled up their production come online, we're receiving deliveries from these suppliers as well as other Canadian companies. This ongoing engagement with Canadian industry is critical to ensuring access to a reliable domestic supply to serve our short and long term needs.

Q3. My understanding is that after the federal government procures PPE, it sends it to the provinces, and then the provinces farm it out to the health-care sector. Is that correct? If not, how does the process of getting PPE to the health-care sector work?

(HC/PHAC)

Q4. What were the biggest missed opportunities to save lives in long-term care homes?

(HC/PHAC)

Q5. What, if anything, does the federal government think it could have done better? (HC/PHAC)

Q6. Why was the national stockpile insufficient?

(HC/PHAC)