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Sent: April 15, 2020 9:12 AM
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Cc: Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC); Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); Mullan-Boudreau, Caitlin (SPAC/PSPC); Gerasimov, Boyan (SPAC/PSPC); Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC); Tallerico, Joel (SPAC/PSPC); Laporte, Anthony (SPAC/PSPC); Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC)
Subject: Daily Issues Summary - Apr 15, 2020

Good morning Minister,

Here is your morning issues summary:

PSPC MEDIA

[Portable COVID test gets approval](#) (Cassandra Szklarski, NATIONAL POST / CANADIAN PRESS) 2020-04-14 *Health Lead

- The whole-of-government is focused on responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, and working with partners at all levels of government, and with industry, to secure life-saving medical supplies.
- We are partnering with Canadian industry to rapidly scale up and re-tool production capacity, ensuring a reliable domestic supply to serve our needs for the short and long terms.
- We are also deepening the use of existing supply arrangements and innovative, flexible procurement approaches to accelerate Canada's response to the pandemic.
- We stand ready to take further action and adapt our approach as the situation evolves.

If-pressed:

- We have ordered material to test millions more Canadians over and above the nearly 270,000 Canadians that have already been tested, and contracting is underway for additional rapid testing capability, including the technology offered by Canada's Spartan Bioscience.

2 DND Articles for Awareness:

[NATO ministers to question reliance on China for pandemic supplies](#)

- As a founding member of NATO, our government's commitment to the Alliance is strong.
- Today, NATO member countries will be holding a virtual meeting to tackle global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We will continue to work with our partners to ensure that the alliance remains ready to face current and future challenges.

On this, from PSPC perspective we would say the following:

- Our focus now is on responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, and on protecting the health and safety of Canadians.
- We are taking a two-pronged approach by pursuing every possible avenue to ensure that Canada has diversified sources of supply, while at the same time directly supporting Canadian industry to rapidly scale up and re-tool production capacity.
- We are taking action to ensure a reliable domestic supply that will serve our needs for the short and long terms.

- Our goal is to be over-prepared, and we stand ready to take further action and adapt our approach as the situation evolves.

COVID-19 prompts purchase of new medical transportation system for RCAF aircraft

- The health and safety of Canadians and the women and men of the Canadian Armed Forces is our government's top priority.
- The Royal Canadian Air Force is looking to purchase an aeromedical bio-containment evacuation system to further assist in responses to major international and domestic emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This system will enhance our current capabilities to transport patients with highly infectious diseases.
- We will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our Canadian Armed Forces and maintain its readiness at all times to conduct military operations at home and abroad.

PMO ISSUES CALL

- Health: Supply of drugs for COVID patients on ventilators
- Health: Scheer raising concern over WHO and influence of China
- Health: Canada taking slow approach to serological testing
- DPMO/GAC: Trump ended US aid to WHO
- GAC: Irwin Cotler urging us to sanction Chinese officials
- NRCAN: Continued coverage of oil and gas bailout / ensuring energy sector helps pay for orphan well clean-up
- QPC: Federal government open to new law to fight pandemic misinfo
- ISC: MB Indigenous leaders not pleased at Premier quashing lawsuits re: child welfare

PM Itinerary

Private meetings.

11:15 a.m. The Prime Minister will address Canadians on the COVID-19 situation, and a media availability will follow.

DPM Itinerary

The Deputy Prime Minister will chair the Cabinet Committee on the federal response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Closed to media.

12:00 p.m. The Deputy Prime Minister will join ministers and Government of Canada officials to provide an update on COVID-19.

LIBERAL RESEARCH BUREAU

Economic Impact and Response

Canada's Emergency Response Plan

Lead: Finance

- In these extraordinary times, no Canadian should have to worry about paying their bills, rent, or putting food on the table.
- Our Government is unwavering in our commitment to support Canadians, our healthcare system, and our economy.
- Through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, we are focused on providing immediate help to those Canadians and businesses that are most in need.
 - With the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, we're protecting jobs.
 - With the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, we're helping those who lose their job.
 - And with easy, guaranteed loans for businesses of all sizes, we're helping people access credit.

- This wide-ranging support will help ensure Canadians can pay for rent and groceries, and help businesses continue to pay their employees and their bills during this time of uncertainty.
- This is just the beginning, and our Government will be there with Canadians every step of the way. We will do whatever it takes.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

Lead: Employment

- Protecting the health and safety of Canadians, jobs, and our economy, is our top priority.
- No one should have to worry about paying the bills during this time.
- We recognize the urgency of the situation and that's why our government has taken action to support workers and their families with the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.
- Nearly 6 million Canadians are either self-employed or do not have enough hours of work to qualify for EI benefits.
- This benefit will mean that workers, including the self-employed, who are unable to work because of COVID-19 have the income support they need.
- As of April 6th, a single landing page is available to assist Canadians with the application process – Canada.ca/coronavirus-cerb
- We recognize that the CERB might not address all the various work situations Canadians have right now and we continue to look at ways to support all Canadians during this difficult time.
- Our priority remains to make sure all Canadians have the support they need and we will continue working with our partners across the country to do so.

Please see the CERB [backgrounder](#) and [news release](#) for additional information.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit Eligibility

Lead: Employment

- No one should have to worry about how they are going to pay the bills during this time.
- That is why we are providing help to those most in need – including those who are without work because of COVID-19 whether they are sick, caring for a loved one, unemployed or sent home.
- The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is intended for those who have lost all sources of income and meet all of the benefit's eligibility criteria.
- If you have questions about whether or not you are eligible, please visit Canada.ca or contact 1-800-O-CANADA.
- We recognize the various work situations Canadians have and we will have more to share on our continuing efforts to support Canadians that are impacted by COVID-19.
- Our priority is to make sure all Canadians have the support they need and we will continue working with our partners across the country to do so.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit Gaps

Lead: Employment

- The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is meant to help everyone who needs it, and millions of Canadians have already received benefits.
- At the same time, we know there is more work to do to ensure that no one falls through the cracks
- We're working as hard as possible to make sure we get support to:
 - Those working reduced hours, down to ten hours a week or less.
 - Those working but making less than they would with the benefit – such as home care workers or long-term-care workers.
 - And students who are worried about what kind of job they will get this summer.
- Our Government is working around the clock to get Canadians the help they need. Our message is clear: we will have your back.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

Lead: Finance/ Small Business

- Canadians should be confident that their jobs are safe as we continue to fight the global COVID-19 outbreak.

- That's why our Government passed the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy to support businesses that are hardest hit by the pandemic, and protect the jobs Canadians depend on.
- The subsidy will cover 75 per cent of an employee's wages for employers of all sizes and across all sectors – including not-for-profits and charities - who have suffered a drop in gross revenues of at least 15 per cent in March, and 30 per cent in April and May.
- The subsidy will provide up to \$847 per employee, per week, between March 15th and June 6th.
- This significant support will help employers keep their staff on payroll, rehire those previously laid off, ensure workers can access a decent income, and position themselves to rebound when the outbreak has passed.
- We will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure that workers and businesses have the support they need during these difficult times.

Please see the CEWS [news release](#) and [backgrounder](#) for additional information.

Canada Summer Jobs

Lead: Employment

- Right now, young people are facing serious challenges finding work.
- To build the foundations of strong communities, we need a strong workforce that includes good job opportunities for youth.
- That's why we are changing the Canada Summer Jobs program this year to help employers adapt to the realities of COVID-19, and support young Canadians as they begin to look for summer employment.
- The temporary changes to the program for this year include:
 - an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee
 - an extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021,
 - allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services
 - allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis.
- Canada's small businesses increasingly depend on the employment of young Canadians. The changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program will help small businesses hire and keep the workers they need so they can continue to deliver essential services.
- The Canada Summer Jobs program provides opportunities for youth to develop and improve their skills within the not-for-profit, small business, and public sectors, and supports the delivery of key community services.
- This program will help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15 and 30 years of age.

Support for Business

Lead: Finance/ Small Business

- Our Government is taking immediate and decisive action to help Canadians and businesses through this challenging time.
- As a next step in our COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, our Government is helping Canadian businesses protect jobs, and pay their bills by:
 - Providing an up to 75% wage subsidy for qualifying employers for up to 3 months;
 - Allowing businesses to defer GST/HST payments, and customs duties until the end of June;
 - Launching the new Canada Emergency Business Account to help provide interest-free loans to small businesses and not-for-profits
 - And providing SMEs with guaranteed loans to help cover operational costs.
- These new measures will provide immediate help to Canadian businesses so that they can weather the impacts of COVID-19.
- This builds on our work so far to expand work sharing, launch the Business Credit Availability Program, and stabilize our financial markets.
- Our Government will continue to do whatever necessary to support workers, businesses, and our economy as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

GST/HST & Duty Deferral

Lead: Finance

- We know that small businesses are facing significant challenges due to a sudden reduction in sales.
- That's why we are providing immediate assistance by deferring any payments on GST/HST and customs duties over the next three months.
- For over 3.2 million businesses and self-employed Canadians, this measure will help provide them with the cash to continue operating.
- The deferral of these payments will provide for up to \$30 billion in interest-free loans as we deal with this unprecedented challenge.

Canada Emergency Business Account

Lead: Small Business

- The new Canada Emergency Business Account will provide up to \$25 billion to eligible financial institutions so they can provide interest-free loans to small businesses and not-for-profits.
- These loans – guaranteed and funded by the Government of Canada – will ensure that small businesses have access to the capital they need, so they can pay for rent and other important costs over the next couple of months.
- Valued at a maximum of \$40,000 to qualifying businesses, the program will support Canadian employers – including not-for-profits – with \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019.
- Loans may be repaid over 2 years with no interest with an option for another three years with interest.
- Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022, will result in loan forgiveness of 25% (up to \$10,000).

Loan Guarantee and Co-Lending Program

Lead: Small Business

- Our Government recognizes that small and medium-sized businesses are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19.
- To support their operations, we are launching two new programs which will help provide cash flow during this challenging time.
- EDC will guarantee new operating and cash flow term loans that financial institutions extend to SMEs, providing up to \$6.25 million.
- BDC, together with financial institutions, will provide additional liquidity to businesses through a new Co-Lending Program providing up to \$6.25 million.
- These new programs are part of our ongoing work to help businesses keep their employees, pay the bills, and weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

CMHC IMPP

Lead: Finance

- Uncertainty around the spread of COVID-19 have created volatility in the markets, and we recognize that Canadians are anxious about the possible economic impacts.
- At the same time, Canada has one of the strongest and most resilient banking sectors in the world.
- The Minister of Finance, Governor of the Bank of Canada, and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions coordinated to take unprecedented action and support the Canadian economy.
- This includes launching an Insured Mortgage Purchase Program, in which CMHC will purchase up to \$150B of insured mortgage pools.
- This will provide long-term stable funding to banks and mortgage lenders, help facilitate continued lending to Canadian consumers, and add liquidity to Canada's mortgage market.

New Horizons for Seniors Program

Lead: Seniors

- Seniors who are staying safe by isolating at home may need help to get supplies and stay connected.
- The New Horizons for Seniors Program now allows previously approved projects to be modified to meet seniors' needs during this public health crisis.
- Recipients can now use funds previously received to deliver services to seniors impacted by COVID-19, such as providing electronic devices to help them stay connected or supporting the delivery of food and medication. In addition, organizations now have up to two years to finish their original projects.

- Canadians are coming together to protect our most vulnerable by helping their neighbours with groceries, calling their parents and grandparents and doing their part to flatten the curve by physical distancing. We can and will get through this difficult period together.

Vulnerable Canadians

Lead: Families

- We have taken steps to ensure that organizations that support people living in homelessness have all the tools they need to prepare, prevent and manage this disease.
- To this end we have made available \$157.5 million for these organizations to directly assist them in responding to COVID-19.
- We will also invest \$50 million to women's shelters and sexual assault centres to help with their capacity to manage or prevent an outbreak in their facilities. This includes funding for facilities in Indigenous communities.

Travel, Canadian Borders, Trade and the International Community

Ontario hospitals ban health-care workers from criss-crossing borders to work

Lead: DPMO

- There are healthcare workers that do cross the border every day. This is essential travel.
- Hospitals and other primary care facilities are providing guidance to their staff. Including some hospitals asking their staff to limit their work to one health care center.
- This is consistent with other measures taken to reduce spread of the virus.

Inter-provincial travel

Lead: DPMO

- We are recommending that Canadians avoid all nonessential travel, both inside and outside the country.
- This includes cancelling or postponing vacations and unnecessary work travel.
- A number of provinces and territories have already placed restrictions prohibiting travel between provinces.
- The advice from Canada's public health officials is clear: staying at home is the best way we can all work together to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- And, as the Prime Minister said, all Canadians should go home, and stay home.

Irregular Migration – Direct Backs

Lead: Public Safety

- Canada is a welcoming country for those fleeing war and persecution, but during this pandemic we need to reduce the flow of international travellers in order to better protect Canadians.
- Our agreement with the United States extends our travel restrictions to irregular entryways, to discourage travel between countries, and is in line with our international commitments to asylum seekers.
- While we are still finalizing our agreement with the U.S., we have been provided assurances that migrants will not be removed to their country of origin, and will be able to return afterwards while their claims will continue to be processed here.
- This is one additional step that our government has taken to contain the spread of COVID-19 until this pandemic is over.

Repatriation

Lead: GAC

- To all Canadians abroad: We are working tirelessly to resolve this complex and unprecedented situation.
- We are prioritizing locations where there is currently a large number of Canadians, and a lack of local air service or local restrictions on travel.
- We continue to support Canadian airlines in their efforts.

- We continue to work around the clock to bring back Canadians and Minister Champagne remains in close contact with his counterparts.

Manufacturing and Services, Building Response Capacity, and Emergency Preparedness

Support for Northern Communities

Lead: Northern Affairs

- We're working to ensure that all Canadians have access to the quality food and essential healthcare they need, during this difficult time.
- To address the unique needs of Northerners, we are working with territorial governments to address immediate health, economic, and transportation needs in the North.
- These measures will:
 - transfer \$72.6 million to the territory governments to support their COVID-19 health and social services preparations and response.
 - provide up to \$17.3 million to the territory governments to support northern air carriers to ensure the continued supply of food, medical supplies, and other essential goods and services to remote and fly-in communities.
 - make available \$15 million in non-repayable support for businesses in the territories to help address the impacts of COVID-19.
 - provide an additional \$25 million to Nutrition North Canada to increase food affordability so families can afford much-needed nutritious food and personal hygiene products.
- We will continue to work with all of our partners to keep Northerners and all Canadians safe and healthy.

COVID-19 Data and Modelling Update

Lead: Health

- While some of the numbers released today may seem stark, Canada's modelling demonstrates that the country still has an opportunity to control the epidemic and to save lives.
- We all play a role in what the future will hold for Canada's COVID-19 trajectory.
- We must continue to control the epidemic using tried and true public health measures, including staying home when possible, maintaining physical distancing, meticulous handwashing, and covering our coughs.
- What we do together now to stop the spread of COVID-19 will reduce the impact of the pandemic and determine how soon we can readjust our public health measures in Canada.

Nursing Homes

Lead: Health

- We are deeply concerned by the outbreaks of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities. Our thoughts are with those who have lost a loved one.
- Ministers Hajdu and Schulte have been working with provincial counterparts to address these outbreaks, and PHAC released guidance for facilities on how they can protect their residents from COVID-19.
- We all have a role to play to stop the spread of COVID-19. If you are ill and have a loved one in a seniors' home, please do not visit. Instead, we encourage you to connect with loved ones in care over the phone or internet.

If pressed on guidance for LTCFs:

- We know that we must act to protect our loved ones in these facilities and those that care for them.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has created interim guidance for long-term care facilities, which was validated by Chief Medical Officers of Health.
- The guidance recommends that a "no visitor" policy be considered, that physical distancing take place at all times, and that staff in long-term care homes stay home if they are ill.
- We will continue to work closely with our provincial and territorial colleagues to ensure we are doing everything possible to protect senior

Food Banks

Lead: Agriculture

- COVID-19 is increasing the need for food among many Canadians and is having a major impact on the operations of local food organizations.
- Today, Prime Minister Trudeau announced \$100 million in support of organizations who are on the front lines making sure people get essential food support in their time of need.
- Food Banks Canada will receive \$50 million, while \$20 million has been evenly divided between Second Harvest, Community Food Centres Canada, the Breakfast Club, and the Salvation Army.
- Organizations will work with local partners to meet urgent and increased food needs, including those of Indigenous and Northern populations.
- Where gaps in service are identified, the Government of Canada has allocated a further \$30 million to go towards other local-level organizations.
- Funds will be used primarily for the purchase of food and other basic necessities. Funding can also be used for creative approaches to get those Canadians the food they need.
- Canadians can be confident we will be there every step of the way to support those working in our supply chain and ensure Canada's food security.

PPE Procurement

Lead: PSPC

- Our government is investing \$2 billion to purchase protective personal equipment, including things like more masks and face shields, gowns, ventilators, test kits and swabs, and hand sanitizer.
- Since the outbreak, many businesses have put their hand up and asked us what they can do to help. Over 22,000 submissions from companies interested or able to sell to Canada are being worked through and all efforts are being made to secure deliveries as quickly as possible.
- We announced a new strategy that will make it easier for companies to help out during this critical time.
- We launched Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to Fight COVID-19 to ensure that we can quickly produce, here in Canada, the things we need to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Since its launch, we have spoken to more than 2,900 Canadian companies that have offered their expertise and capacity to meet the country's need for personal protective equipment and critical health supplies.
- We have signed procurement contracts with several Canadian companies to make medical supplies such as ventilators, surgical masks, medical gowns and test kits. We've also signed letters of intent with five other companies: Precision Biomonitoring, Fluid Energy Group, Irving Oil, Calko Group, and Stanfield's.
- This initiative will help companies that are already making things like masks, ventilators, and hand sanitizer massively scale up production.
- It will also provide support to those who want to retool their manufacturing facilities to contribute to this fight.
- The government has ordered millions of supplies to ease the pressure on healthcare facilities.
 - We have sourced more than 230 million surgical masks and over 16 million have already been delivered.
 - We have roughly 75 million N95 masks on order.
 - We have received nearly 10 million pairs of medical gloves and are procuring hundreds of millions more.
- We are mobilizing all of Canada to protect our healthcare workers so they can continue to protect all Canadians. All hands on deck.

Service Canada Closures

Lead: Families

- Our government is committed to ensuring that Canadians have access to the benefits provided by Service Canada that they rely on.
- After reviewing our operations, we will be closing "in person" Service Canada offices, so that we can redeploy our focus to online and telephone services, which continue to remain open, to better serve Canadians.

- Our top priority is to ensure that Canadians can get the benefits they need, while protecting their health and safety. Yesterday's announcement will help ensure that more Canadians get the services they need.

Indigenous Community Support Fund

Lead: ISC

- We recognize that First Nation, Inuit and Métis are among the most vulnerable and face unique challenges in addressing COVID-19
- That is why we are providing immediate support through the distinctions-based Community Support Fund so First Nation, Inuit and Metis communities can address their specific needs as they prepare for and react to the spread COVID19.
- Indigenous communities are resilient and full of solutions and innovative ideas. These funds will flow directly to Indigenous communities and groups across the country, to allow maximum flexibility in adapting responses to local needs.
- These funds could be used for, but not limited to:
 - support for Elders,
 - food insecurity,
 - educational and other support for children,
 - mental health assistance and emergency response services.
- This is just the start. We know that more support will be needed and we will be here to make sure no Indigenous community is left behind.

Agriculture

Lead: Agriculture

- Our farmers and food businesses play an essential role in our country's plan to manage the outbreak of COVID-19.
- We recognize that a reliable labour force is crucial to food businesses across the supply chain. The Interim Order exempting temporary foreign workers from the travel restrictions is now in place, and we are working closely with the sector to develop health protocols to ensure that workers can safely observe a 14-day isolation period upon entering the country.
- We're also supporting farmers by giving Farm Credit Canada an extra 5 billion dollars in lending capacity and a 6-month Stay of Default on Advance Payment Program loans for several sectors, including grains and oilseeds, pulses, cattle and flowers. These measures do not add to the debt burden of farmers. They will help with cash flow issues and give them the financial breathing room they need to buy the inputs required for the upcoming planting season.
- We will continue to closely monitor the situation as it evolves and stand ready to support our farmers and our food processing sector, who provide an essential service to Canadians.

Tristan Laycock

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