

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: October 21, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Media; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Rachel Lagacé; Renee Harden; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie
Subject: FACT CHECKED: For MO Approval: Media Response / Tier 1 - COVID 19 - Supply chain pressure / Global

Hi Cecely and James,

The program confirmed PSPC is not in a position to confirm contracts awarded will be enough to do the 200,000 tests per day.

We recommended removing the following sentence :

With the procurements made to date to support lab based COVID-19 testing, we have secured sufficient supplies to perform 200,000 tests per day across Canada through at least the end of the year, while the procurement of rapid tests is adding to this capacity.

Replace the above with the original response :

To support this pan-Canadian effort, the Government of Canada is providing \$4.28 billion to provinces and territories to fund testing, contact tracing, and sharing of public health data. The goal is to enable provinces and territories to have the capacity to test up to 200,000 people per day, nationwide.

Let us know if this works with you, and we'll send the response to the reporter.

Many thanks.

Marc
873-354-7219

From: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) [mailto:cecely.roy@canada.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Cc: James Fitzmorris <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>; Elizabeth Lindsay <Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; James Stott <James.Stott@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger <MeShel.GulliverBelanger@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Rachel Lagacé <Rachel.Lagace@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Renee Harden <Renee.Harden@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Sara Lacasse <Sara.Lacasse@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Vivianne Soubhie <Vivianne.Soubhie@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Jean-François Létourneau <Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: For MO Approval: Media Response / Tier 1 - COVID 19 - Supply chain pressure / Global

Please see changes below in red text

Cecely Roy

Press Secretary | Attachée de presse

Office of Minister Anita Anand | Bureau de la ministre Anita Anand

C : 343-549-7293

Media response

Global

Jarvis, Carlyne (Global)

Date call received: October-16-20 at 13:45

Deadline: October-19-20 at 13:00 (firm)

Tier 1 - COVID 19 - Supply chain pressure

CONTEXT (for your information): The reporters are working on stories about the pressures Covid testing labs are facing.

For this piece, they're looking at supply chain issues. This piece will air on Global National, and they would like an on camera interview. They would like the interview anytime today or early Monday, October 19.

Although they would prefer an on-camera interview, they would accept a written response, and they have also already been informed that an on-camera interview is not likely.

QUESTIONS / RESPONSES:

Q1. What is the Federal government doing to secure the supply chain for Covid testing labs? (from gloves, to plastic consumables, to reagents, to machines)? (PSPC)

Q2. What role does the Federal government play in procuring supplies used by Covid testing labs? (PSPC)

To date, approximately 8.7 million COVID-19 tests have been administered in Canada, with approximately 49 thousand tests performed across the country between the October 18 and 19 Public Health Agency of Canada daily updates posted on the [canada.ca/coronavirus](https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus) webpage.

(Numbers taken from CPHO's daily updates for October

18: https://twitter.com/cpho_canada/status/1318178864695304192?s=21 and October

19: https://twitter.com/cpho_canada/status/1318537568242274305?s=21)

~~Since March, From the outset of the pandemic, on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has been working hard securing the equipment and testing supplies needed to support the needs of provincial and territorial governments and to protect the health and safety of Canadians. by securing equipment and supplies to combat COVID-19.~~

This includes action to ensure that Canadians can quickly and easily access COVID-19 testing—be that through ~~conventional lab based testing~~ or rapid tests.

Each province and territory decides how to test residents in alignment with a common, national approach to testing, as discussed under the COVID-19 Special Advisory Committee.

~~The Public Health Agency of Canada publishes the number of people tested in Canada every day.~~

To support this pan-Canadian effort, the Government of Canada is providing \$4.28 billion to provinces and territories to ~~directly~~ fund testing, contact tracing, and sharing of public health data ~~through the Safe Restart Agreement~~.

~~The goal is to enable provinces and territories to have the capacity to test up to 200,000 people per day, nationwide.~~

In addition to this funding provided directly to provinces and territories, ~~as the Government's central purchaser, PSPC~~ the federal government has procured 200,000 serological tests, as well as equipment, lab consumables ~~and rapid tests~~.

We have ~~secured~~ more than 39 million ~~test swabs, including through an agreement with Precision ADM based in Winnipeg for made-in-Canada 3D printed swabs, while other domestic companies are also developing Canadian made swabs through~~ The Made in Canada Project.

~~13 million of which have been delivered so far.~~ Additionally, we have ~~signed~~ several contracts for ~~the purchase of~~ laboratory equipment and the chemicals ~~needed for to support~~ the production of reagents in Canada as well as the finished product, ~~including the following as listed in~~ Table 12 of PSPC's COVID-19 contract information webpage; ~~however, we are unable to provide the specific quantity of reagent this amounts to, as several chemicals are needed to produce a specific amount of reagent.~~

- LuminUltra Technologies Ltd. based in Fredericton, which is producing reagents and the chemicals required to equip essential workers, needs to process lab based tests.

- Galenvs Sciences Inc. which is producing made-in-Canada functionalized magnetic reagents.

With the procurements made to date to support lab based COVID-19 testing, we have secured sufficient supplies to perform 200,000 tests per day across Canada through at least the end of the year, while the procurement of rapid tests is adding to this capacity.

The Government of Canada has also secured access to up to nearly 30 million rapid tests to date with deliveries underway. The rapid tests secured by the federal government include the Abbott ID NOW and Panbio antigen tests, as well as the GeneXpert tests, and each of these has received Health Canada authorization. This increases Canada's testing capacity without increasing the volume of tests

Total of up to 30M has been added up from the numbers listed below.

~~With regards to rapid testing, the Government of Canada has signed secured agreements with the following companies for COVID-19 rapid tests authorized by Health Canada:~~

- ~~o Abbott Rapid Diagnostics ULC will supply up to 7.9 million ID NOW rapid tests, and up to 20.5 million Panbio COVID-19 Antigen rapid tests.~~
- ~~o Biomérieux Canada will supply up to 699,750 RP2.1 Diagnostic test kits.~~
- ~~o Inter Medico will supply up to 1.2 million GeneXpert rapid tests.~~

COVID-19 testing technologies are advancing as the pandemic continues. On behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada continues to pursue additional agreements to secure access to the most promising candidates.

Q3. Should the federal government be leading a domestic solution, to supply chain issues for Covid testing labs (manufacturing in Canada)? (PHAC/ISED TBC)

Q4. Have any of the provinces reached out for assistance in securing a steady supply chain for Covid testing labs? (PHAC/ISED TBC)