

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 15, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Media; Jean-François Létourneau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Elizabeth Lindsay; Bryan Blom; James Stott; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie; Martine Skelton; Rachel Lagacé
Subject: For MO approval - Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Procurement of PPE / CBC News Manitoba

Hi Cecely, Emily and James,

For MO approval, please.
Merci,

Stefanie Hamel
89-576-4705

Media response
CBC News Manitoba
Frew, Nick (CBC News (Manitoba))
Date call received: May-13-20 at 16:00
Deadline: May-15-20 at 16:00
Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Procurement of PPE

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter is working on a piece about PPE vendors/manufacturers trying to procure their orders.

He has heard the following:

- Orders/shipments go "missing" (this came up more than once).
- Allegedly people with briefcases full of cash are standing outside manufacturing plants in China to take people's orders
- Some vendors are losing their orders last minute because they're being given to a company who says they'll pay 3x more

He is wondering which agency would be in charge of enforcing that shipments arrive at their intended destination.

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:

Q1. Would a Canadian agency investigate where a shipment goes if it comes from a foreign country, or would it have to be that spective country's jurisdiction?

Q2. Have there been complaints raised to the government regarding similar occurrences to what I listed above?

Our priority is ensuring that front-line healthcare workers receive the supplies and equipment they need to stay safe and healthy. We are aggressively purchasing in the global marketplace, while facing the risks posed by fragile supply chains, the fluidity of the current situation, and a surge in demand. We continue to seek out all options to get these medical supplies and equipment to our frontline workers.

There are many delivery risks, with challenges at multiple points of supply chains and distribution networks. We are making every effort to ensure that the goods we've ordered make their way back to Canada.

For example, we have an agreement with Bolloré Logistics Canada Inc. to provide transportation, receiving, storage services and customs clearances in China. Oversight is maintained at all times until supplies are loaded onto the planes and they depart, ensuring the security of our orders and shipments.

We also issued a contract to Deloitte Canada for advisory services related to establishing an integrated tool to track and manage logistics, and assisting with due diligence and screening of suppliers in support of the Government of Canada's response to COVID-19.

We are also working closely with our embassies to fully leverage diplomatic channels, and engaging at the highest levels to support our efforts to procure and safely import the much needed supplies for our healthcare workers.