

On Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:13 PM fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) <[james.fitz-morris@canada.ca](mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca)> wrote:

Hi Zi-Ann,

Saw your story regarding contract disclosure and have very serious concerns that it doesn't accurately portray the facts.

Your first two lines are in the present tense and indicate that the government continues to withhold the contracts in question.

In fact, as was pointed out in the response the Department provided to you:

"However, the procurement environment has since evolved [since the time that memo was written]. .... In line with this new reality, and consistent with our commitment to transparency, we are now disclosing the majority of our COVID-19 contracting information on our [web page](#) as well as through normal proactive disclosure requirements. In limited cases, certain contract details cannot be disclosed, for example to protect commercial confidentiality of suppliers. "

The website mentioned about is this one: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/comm/aic-scr/contrats-contracts-eng.html>

On it, you will see that, of the 244 COVID-19 response related contracts we have signed, the names of only 32 are being withheld in order to protect supply chains. In all but two of those cases, the commodity and contract value are disclosed.

I'm not going to provide links to all of the individual entries, but these contracts have been proactively disclosed on the open government website. The vast majority are listed under PHAC as it is the agency that requested them.

I must also take issue with referring to Mr. McKinnon's one response as "vague." Without debating the validity of editorializing about that one response, this is an issue the Minister and the Deputy Minister have spoken to a number of times before in interviews, committee hearings, and in the House. We have been very clear about this issue for months.

Thank you,  
James

James Fitz-Morris

Directeur des communications / Director of Communications

Cabinet de la ministre des Services publics et de l'Approvisionnement / Office of the Minister of Public Services and Procurement

[james.fitz-morris@canada.ca](mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca)

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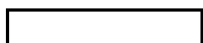
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ZI-ANN LUM

Politics Reporter

HUFFPOST CANADA

(343) 996-2251 | [@ziannlum](https://twitter.com/ziannlum)



## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 16, 2020 2:26 PM  
**To:** fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Cc:** Jean-François Létourneau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Sara Lacasse; Rachel Lagacé; Renee Harden; Media  
**Subject:** RE: For MO Approval: Media Response / Tier 1 - Signature of Memorandum to the DM / HuffPost (Canada)

Hi James,

Her contact info:  
343-996-2251  
[ziann.lum@huffpost.com](mailto:ziann.lum@huffpost.com)

Here is the response that was sent to her on October 13:

We can confirm that the approach outlined in the memo was approved.

Given the global nature of the pandemic and the severe competition for goods early on, we needed to protect the names of suppliers for certain hard-to-procure commodities, such as N95 respirators, nitrile gloves and swabs, to ensure these sources of supply remained available to us.

However, the procurement environment has since evolved. We have secured more than 2 billion articles of various personal protective equipment, and we will continue to receive steady, ongoing deliveries into the coming months. We are also continuing to leverage domestic supply chains wherever possible, with more than 40 percent of the total value of PPE contracts going to domestic companies.

In line with this new reality, and consistent with our commitment to transparency, we are now disclosing the majority of our COVID-19 contracting information on our [web page](#) as well as through normal proactive disclosure requirements. In limited cases, certain contract details cannot be disclosed, for example to protect commercial confidentiality of suppliers.

Thank you  
Stefanie  
819-576-4705

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**From:** fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) [mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca]  
**Sent:** October 16, 2020 2:11 PM  
**To:** Media ; Cecely Roy  
**Cc:** Jean-François Létourneau ; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger ; Elizabeth Lindsay ; James Stott ; Sara Lacasse ; Rachel Lagacé ; Renee Harden  
**Subject:** RE: For MO Approval: Media Response / Tier 1 - Signature of Memorandum to the DM / HuffPost (Canada)

Hi,

The reporter has filed and incorrectly states that we are presently withholding the contract information.

[https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/covid-19-contracts-national-security-exemption\\_ca\\_5f89c08cc5b69daf5e12c0cc?utm\\_hp\\_ref=ca-politics&guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/covid-19-contracts-national-security-exemption_ca_5f89c08cc5b69daf5e12c0cc?utm_hp_ref=ca-politics&guccounter=1)

Can someone please contact her immediately for a correction?  
Or send me her contact info?

Thanks,

James

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**From:** Media [<mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>]

**Sent:** October 10, 2020 9:34 AM

**To:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <[cecely.roy@canada.ca](mailto:cecely.roy@canada.ca)>; fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) <[james.fitz-morris@canada.ca](mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca)>

**Cc:** Media <[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Jean-François Létourneau <[Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger <[MeShel.GulliverBelanger@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:MeShel.GulliverBelanger@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Elizabeth Lindsay <[Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; James Stott <[James.Stott@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:James.Stott@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Sara Lacasse <[Sara.Lacasse@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Sara.Lacasse@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Rachel Lagacé <[Rachel.Lagace@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Rachel.Lagace@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>; Renee Harden <[Renee.Harden@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:Renee.Harden@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** For MO Approval: Media Response / Tier 1 - Signature of Memorandum to the DM / HuffPost (Canada)

Good morning Cecely,

For MO approval, please.

A copy of the note has also been attached to this email.

Thanks,

Stéfanie Hamel  
819-576-4705

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**Media response**

**HuffPost (Canada)**

**Lum, Zi-Ann (HuffPost (Canada))**

**Date call received: October-06-20 at 10:10**

**Deadline: October-09-20 at 17:00 (followed up)**

Tier 1 - Signature of Memorandum to the DM

**CONTEXT (for your information):**

The reporter submitted an ATIP request (A2020-00135) through which she obtained a copy of a Memorandum to the Deputy Minister from ADM Stott to DM Matthews, that appears to be unsigned by Mr. Matthews. The reporter emailed Mr. Matthews directly in an attempt to obtain more information on the Memorandum.

## **VALUE STATEMENT:**

## **QUESTIONS / RESPONSES:**

**Q1. What was DM Matthews response to the document? Did he "agree" or "disagree" with the note?**

**Q2. What happened next?**

### **Proposed response:**

We can confirm that the approach outlined in the memo was approved.

Given the global nature of the pandemic and the severe competition for goods early on, we needed to protect the names of suppliers for certain hard-to-procure commodities, such as N95 respirators, nitrile gloves, and swabs, to ensure these sources of supply remained available to us.

However, the procurement environment has since evolved. We have secured more than 2 billion articles of various personal protective equipment, and we will continue to receive steady, ongoing deliveries into the coming months. We are also continuing to leverage domestic supply chains wherever possible, with more than 40 percent of the total value of PPE contracts going to domestic companies.

In line with this new reality, and consistent with our commitment to transparency, we are now disclosing the majority of our COVID-19 contracting information on our [webpage](#) as well as through normal proactive disclosure requirements. In limited cases, certain contract details cannot be disclosed, for example to protect commercial confidentiality of suppliers.