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Sent: April 20, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Anand, Anita - Personal; Anand, Anita (SPAC/PSPC)
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Subject: Daily Issues Summary - April 20, 2020

Good morning Minister,

Here is your daily issues summary:

PSPC MEDIA

[COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis. Here's how Canada has met its challenges so far \(Bruce Campion, Alex Ballingall and Alex Boutilier, TORONTO STAR\) 2020-04-19](#)

- 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.

Status:

- 3.2 million **N95 masks** have been delivered to Canada through federal orders (around 165 million on order)
- We have received over 17 million **surgical masks** (orders total more than 330 million)
- Canada has received around 14 million pairs of **medical gloves**, and in addition to the tens of millions of litres of **hand sanitizer** that we have ordered so far that are sourced from a number of domestic and international suppliers, Fluid Energy in Alberta will produce over a million litres of hand sanitizer a week.
- We have orders in place for millions of **medical gowns** as well as contracts with Stanfield's in Truro, Nova Scotia and Canada Goose in Toronto and Winnipeg for millions more.
- On top of the **ventilator capacity** that the provinces have to respond to a surge situation, we are ordering thousands more and are working with Canadian companies to produce up to 30,000 made-in-Canada ventilators.
- We have ordered **test kits** to test millions more Canadians over and above the nearly 550,000 Canadians that have already been tested, and we have signed contracts for additional rapid testing capability, including the technology offered by Canada's Spartan Bioscience.

PMO ISSUES CALL

- PSC: NS shooting
- PSC/Justice: halfway house bracing for potential wave of COVID correctional releases
- Employment: Sex-workers say they've been left out of aid
- ISI: Ottawa looking to procure AI tracking solution
- Finance: Housing market bracing for 'reckoning'
- FA: Canada urged against US approach to space mining
- FA: Canada must defend its civil servants abroad
- FA: Kovrig/Spavor mark 500 days in captivity

- NRCAN: price of WCS oil dropped below \$5
- AG: Outbreak linked to High River meat plant
- AG: Canadian farmers struggling with labour shortfalls
- GHL: No deal with CPC, Parliament returns as scheduled
- DPMO: Canada-US strike deal to extend border restrictions 30-days

PM Itinerary

11:15am COVID-19 update

DPM Itinerary

12:00pm COVID-19 update

LIBERAL RESEARCH BUREAU

New Announcements:

- Yesterday, the Prime Minister gave an update on Canada's response to COVID-19 and highlighted the support put in place to help Canadians across the country. The Prime Minister also noted that National Volunteer Week started Sunday, and he recognized the numerous organizations and volunteers across the country who are helping support their communities and fight COVID-19.
 - Please share the Prime Minister's [post](#) on National Volunteer Week.
- Indigenous businesses provide jobs, goods, and services to communities, and are an important part of the Canadian economy. This Saturday, the Prime Minister announced that our government will be investing \$306.8 million in funding to help 6,000 small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses get through these difficult times. The Prime Minister also announced that Canada and the United States have agreed to extend the border measures that are currently in place by 30 days.
 - See the Prime Minister's [news release](#) for more information on Saturday's announcement.
- On Friday, the Prime Minister announced that our government is investing over \$1.7 billion to help the provinces clean up orphan and/or inactive oil and gas wells in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. This will create and protect approximately 10,000 jobs, and have lasting environmental impacts. The Prime Minister also announced additional support for innovators and young entrepreneurs, businesses in rural communities, businesses not eligible for other emergency support measures, and organizations in the cultural, heritage, and sports sectors.
 - See the Prime Minister's [news release](#) for more information on Friday's announcement.
- We understand that seniors in long-term care facilities are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. On Friday, our government approved a request from Quebec for around 125 Canadian armed forces medical staff to support workers in long-term care facilities. This is in addition to the approximately 160 Canadian Rangers being deployed in Nunavik and Basse-Côte-Nord.
 - See Minister Sajjan's [news release](#) for additional information.
 - Please refer to the Key Messages below for additional messaging.

Key Messages:

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.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit Eligibility

Lead: Employment

- No Canadian should have to choose between protecting their health, putting food on the table, paying for their medication or caring for a family member.
- We are stepping up to better support those who need help but don't qualify for the CERB, and Canadians working in essential jobs.
- To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, the Government will be changing the eligibility rules to:
 - Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
 - Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their usual seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - Extend the CERB to workers who recently exhausted their EI benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.
- We are also working with provinces and territories to help provide a temporary top-up to the salaries of workers deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19, that make less than \$2,500 a month.
- The top-up is in recognition that these essential workers' salaries are often less or similar than what they would receive from the CERB.
- We will continue to look for ways to better help all Canadians during this difficult time.

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.

Wage Top Up for Essential and Frontline Workers

Lead: Employment

- As Canadians take unprecedented action in the fight against COVID-19, workers on the front line and in essential services are stepping up to serve their communities.
- The pandemic has put a tremendous burden on these workers, who are saving lives, ensuring the safety and integrity of our food supply, and providing essential retail services.
- Our Government will ensure that they are properly compensated for their efforts.
- Through a new transfer with the provinces and territories, we will provide a temporary top-up to the salaries of the millions of low-income workers deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19.
- Further details will be announced soon, following further work with the provinces and territories.

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

Lead: Finance/ Small Business

- We know that many small businesses are worried about paying the rent, paying suppliers, and keeping people employed.
- Last week, we launched the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), which is offering interest-free, partially forgivable loans of up to \$40,000.
 - To date, more than 195,000 loans have been approved.
- To support even more small businesses, we are expanding the eligibility requirements of CEBA to allow businesses with between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in annual payroll to apply.
- Our Government is taking decisive action to keep our businesses strong, so that when this is over they can continue to create jobs, and support their communities.

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

Lead: Finance

- As Canadians take action in the fight against COVID-19, we know that many businesses are worried about being able to pay rent.
- Landlords across the country have stepped up to the plate, offering relief to their tenants, and helping them get through this challenging time. Our Government commends their leadership.
- In recognition of the challenges facing Canadian businesses and property owners, our Government intends to introduce Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses.
- This program will seek to provide loans and/or forgivable loans to commercial property owners who provide businesses with rent reductions in April, May and June.
- To do this, we require partnership with provincial and territorial governments, who govern owner-tenant relationships, and we hope to have more to say soon.

Support for the Energy Sector

Lead: NRCAN

- Canada's energy sector, which provides more than 170,000 good, well-paying jobs across the country, is dealing with unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19, and a global surge in crude oil supply.
- To support the hard working men and women in our energy sector, our Government is taking targeted action to create and protect approximately 10,000 jobs, while also moving us closer to our environmental targets.
- We will:
 - Provide up to \$1.72 billion to clean up orphan and inactive oil and gas wells;

- Provide up to \$750 million to create a new Emissions Reduction Fund;
- And expand eligibility for the new BCAP program to help medium-sized businesses including those in the energy sector.
- These actions will help keep Canadians working, and support the sector through these significant challenges.

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.

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.

Support for Businesses Who Don't Qualify for Other Measures

Lead: Finance/ Small Business

- Through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, we are providing immediate help to businesses in need through programs such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canada Emergency Business Account.
- However, it has become clear that certain sectors of our economy, and their workers, may not qualify for existing measures. That's why we are taking additional action to provide immediate relief to:
 - Innovators and young entrepreneurs;
 - Businesses in rural communities;
 - Businesses not eligible for other emergency support measures;
 - And organizations in the cultural, heritage, and sports sector.
- We will continue to ensure that workers in every sector are protected, and that families have the help they need to put food on the table, and pay the bills.

Regional Support

Lead: Small Business

- Our Government recognizes that businesses in different parts of the country may face unique realities and challenges in the face of COVID-19.
- As a result, many businesses may be unable to access our Government's existing emergency support programs.
- In order to give equivalent financing support to these small and medium-sized businesses, our Government is investing \$675M in Canada's Regional Development Agencies.
- At the same time, we will ensure that rural businesses and communities have access to much-needed capital by investing \$287M in the Community Futures Network to support small businesses in rural communities.
- This new financing will help support the businesses that will help keep our communities strong through this crisis.

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.

Indigenous Business Support

Lead: Finance/ ISC

- Indigenous businesses provide jobs, goods, and services to communities, and are an important part of the Canadian economy.
- Right now, they are facing challenges and economic hardships due to COVID-19.
- That is why we are providing up to \$306.8 million in cash funding to help Indigenous businesses and ensure business owners have access to the support they need to get through this crisis.
- It is estimated that 6,000 Indigenous-owned businesses will benefit from this funding.
- We will continue to take action to protect the health and safety of Canadians and stabilize our economy.

Travel, Canadian Borders, Trade and the International Community

WHO – Suspension of U.S. Contribution

Lead: Foreign Affairs

- Now more than ever, a coordinated global response based on science and accurate data is essential.
- This is an unprecedented and historic situation and the global community must work with multilateral organization in order to combat this pandemic.
- That is why Canada has contributed \$33 million this year to the WHO (N.B. \$17.5 million annual contribution, \$15.5 million additional funding for 2020).
- Canada will continue to work closely with its allies and the WHO – International cooperation is essential to ensuring that Canadians are safe here at home.

Temporary Foreign Worker Isolation Support

Lead: Agriculture

- Our Government is committed to ensuring Canadians continue to have access to high quality and affordable food in our stores and on our tables.
- Temporary Foreign Workers are an important part of our agricultural supply chain from planting and harvesting of crops – particularly for fruits and vegetables, but also fish, meat and seafood.
- Workers arriving in Canada must observe a mandatory 14 quarantine period. The rules have been clearly defined and distributed to employers who are committed to upholding those rules.
- This new federal subsidy provides employers with \$1,500 per worker to help cover the costs of meeting these regulations for as long as the Quarantine Act and the TFW isolation protocol are in effect.

- Governmental authorities will follow up regularly and any employer or worker who does not comply will be punished.

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

Armed Forces Support for Long-Term Care Homes in Quebec

Lead: DND

- We understand that seniors in long-term care facilities are especially vulnerable to COVID-19, and their health and safety is our government's top priority.
- We are deeply concerned about the outbreak of this virus across the country, and recognize the tragic devastation it has had in these facilities across Quebec.
- That is why we have approved Quebec's request for medical specialists to be deployed to long-term care facilities across the province that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Through use of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Red Cross and Health Canada's volunteer portal, resources are being mobilized to help Quebec through this difficult time.
- We have been clear: like during emergencies that threaten our citizens, especially our most vulnerable, the Canadian Armed Forces will do what it can to be there for those in need.

House and Virtual Sitings

Lead: GHLO

- We believe in the importance of parliamentary accountability.
- That is why the motion adopted at the last sitting of the House included additional committees, as well as Auditor General oversight.
- In regards to House sittings, the Speaker clearly said that his team is working towards the goal of making virtual sittings of the House possible within 3 weeks.
- Now is a time to set politics aside and work together to increase parliamentary accountability in a way that respects the advice given by our public health experts.
- We will continue to work collaboratively, because that's what Canadians are expecting all of us to do.

Support for Innovation

Lead: ISI

- Canada is a nation of innovators who drive our economy forward and create new opportunities for all Canadians.
- In the face of COVID-19, our Government recognizes that many innovative, early-stage companies are unable to access existing emergency support measures.
- To better support these organizations, we are investing \$250 million through the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program.
- We're supporting our innovators today, so that they can help us emerge from this challenge stronger than ever.

Arts and Culture

Lead: Heritage

- With stages dark, sports events cancelled, and summer festivals postponed, many of the organizations that keep our communities strong are struggling to make ends meet.
- Through a new \$500 million COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage, and Sports Organizations, we will make sure that our artistic and athletic organizations are supported during this challenging time.

Canada Food Inspection Agency

Lead: Agriculture

- We are announcing \$20 million to support CFIA's essential service of making sure Canadians continue to have access to safe and high-quality food on their grocery store shelves and kitchen tables.
- This investment allows the CFIA to hire, train and equip additional staff and permits more overtime and extra shifts.
- It also supports the sharing of inspection resources between provincially and federally inspected processing facilities to meet any changes in processing capacity.
- Our government is working every step of the way with provinces and territories, workers and businesses, to ensure our food supply chain adapts to the evolving situation.

Penitentiaries

Lead: Public Safety

- Our government is committed to protecting the safety of correctional staff, inmates, and the public in all of its operations.
- We are concerned about the transmission of COVID-19 in our institutions and Correctional Services continues to take a number of preventative measures to restrict its introduction and spread.
- This includes screening of employees prior to entrance, cleaning and disinfecting of all touch surfaces and modified routines to limit inmate contact.
- CSC continues to work collaboratively with the PBC to examine whether there are cases of possible early release of non-dangerous inmates who could be safely released into the community.
- This case review process is ongoing and public safety remains our foremost priority.

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.

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 seniors.

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 frontlines 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.

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 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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