

FW: FOR INFO (DMO & MISI) - Responses to questions / VTF Co-Chairs interview with CBC (The Current) / Tomorrow morning (Sept. 9)

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Date: Wed, 09 Sep 2020 01:12:38 +0000

Sharing for info. The responses provided by the NRC (and approved by the VTF co-chairs) are below. No concerns.

Anne-Marie

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Subject: FOR INFO (DMO & MISI) - Responses to questions / VTF Co-Chairs interview with CBC (The Current) / Tomorrow morning (Sept. 9)

Good Evening,

For your information (DMO & MISI): Please find below responses received by the NRC to questions posed to the VTF Co-Chairs in advance of an interview with CBC (The Current) tomorrow morning. Note that all responses have been approved by the Secretariat and both Co-Chairs.

Thanks,

Geneviève Sicard

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Q1 - Has -- or will -- any guidance the task force has given been made public? Could you share please if possible?

Some of the advice the Vaccine Task Force has provided to Ministers has been made public through government announcements. For example, in the news release of August 5th, the advice of the task force was cited in the context of the agreements with Pfizer and Moderna and support to VBI for clinical trials and the procurement of equipment and supplies (such as syringes). Moreover, in the news release of August 31st, the advice of the task force was cited in the context of the agreements on Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) and Novavax, as well as the NRC's new biomanufacturing vaccine facility in Montréal.

We anticipate that Ministers will continue to make public our advice in the context of the decisions they reach and announce.

Q2 - I've heard some critics express concern that the task force's conflict of interest declarations are not being made public. Will they be?

General approach: Be as specific as possible and describe the process, use examples when appropriate.

The Task Force from the outset established a formal process for members to declare interests and to recuse themselves from deliberations where there is a Conflict of Interest, as is mentioned on the [Task Force website](#). Ministers are made aware of all declarations of interest and conflicts of interest when we provide them with our advice.

These declarations have all been monitored and formally documented by the Task Force Secretariat, as have been the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Agreements submitted at commencement of the Task Force by each Task Force member.

As a volunteer external advisory body, members of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force do not submit their Conflict of Interest declarations to the public registry. The records of the Task Force including its recommendations to the Government are logged into the official files of the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED).

The Task Force does not make funding decisions. The Task Force only provides advice to Ministers, who make the decisions, which are supported by further due diligence conducted by the individual Government of Canada departments.

For more information please contact of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

Q3 - Can you clarify for me the status of Canada's efforts to purchase doses of vaccine? Has a purchase actually been made? For how many doses?

As announced last week, the Government of Canada has now signed agreements with the following companies to obtain vaccines:

- Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), which will supply up to 38 million doses of its vaccine candidate Ad26.COV2.S.
- Novavax, which will supply up to 76 million doses of its vaccine candidate NVX-CoV2373.
- Pfizer, which will supply a minimum of 20 million doses of its mRNA-based vaccine candidate, BNT162.
- Moderna, which will supply up to 56 million doses of its vaccine candidate mRNA-1273

For more information on the status of the agreements, including negotiations to include options to obtain additional doses, please contact Public Services and Procurement Canada.

Q4 - Is the government considering licensing vaccines for example from Astra Zeneca as other countries have done?

The Government of Canada is in discussions with a range of leading companies to have a wide portfolio of vaccine platforms. This will enhance the probability of safe and effective vaccines being available to Canadians as soon as possible. Additional agreements will be announced as they are finalized.