

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Media; Jean-François Létourneau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Bryan Blom; Elizabeth Lindsay
Subject: For MO approval - Media response: Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Amazon agreement and working conditions / iPolitics

Hello to you both,

For your approval please. [New info.](#)

Thank you!

Michèle

Media responses

1)iPolitics

Lim, Jolson (iPolitics)

Date call received: April-03-20 at 16:25

Deadline: April-03-20 at 18:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Amazon agreement and working conditions

2)The Canadian Press

Deschamps, Tara (The Canadian Press)

Date call received: April-03-20 at 15:00

Deadline: April-03-20 at 17:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Amazon and working conditions

3) PressProgress

LeBrun, Luke (PressProgress)

Date call received: April-03-20 at 17:15

Deadline: April-04-20 at 10:00 AM ([did several follow ups and wants to receive his response by 5:00 pm](#))

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Agreement with Amazon Canada

CONTEXT (for your information): The reporters are seeking more information about the Amazon agreement. Note that the same response will be used for both Amazon-related media requests on the same topic.

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 everything that is 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. About the Amazon agreement, are worker protections included as part of the deal in any way?

The health and safety of Canadians is the government's top priority as we respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. We expect all employers to follow the recommendations of public health officials to protect their employees.

Q2. Did Amazon reach out first to the government on this? Or was the company tapped among a list of suppliers or something of the like?

Public Services and Procurement Canada awarded the contract with Amazon on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), which is responsible for distributing emergency supplies to the province and territories.

Following a supplier call-out issued by Public Services and Procurement Canada on March 12, 2020, a large number of suppliers offered assistance to support Canada, including Amazon. Canada also contacted other specialized suppliers to develop options to best manage the shipping, receiving, order processing, and distribution of personal protective equipment to healthcare partners. After analyzing the available options, including how rapidly they could be deployed, we concluded that Amazon, working with its delivery partners, including Canada Post and Purolator, met PHAC's requirements for managing distribution of personal protective equipment and supplies.

Amazon will process and manage orders through its online Amazon Business store and Canada Post and Purolator will warehouse and deliver supplies across Canada. PHAC will maintain oversight on the amounts of personal protective equipment and supplies available, which provinces and territories are requesting them, and where they are being shipped.