

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 13, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Lucie Brosseau; Martine Skelton; Media; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Rachel Lagacé; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie
Subject: For MO Approval: Media Response/Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Contract with BYD / The Wall Street Journal

Good afternoon everyone,

For MO approval, please. The journalist's deadline is at 5 pm today.

Thank you.

Marc
873-354-7219

Media response
The Wall Street Journal
Lin, Liza (The Wall Street Journal)
Date call received: May-11-20 at 10:20
Deadline: May-13-20 at 17:00
Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Contract with BYD

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter would like an interview to chat about BYD's masks. She has heard that the government of Canada had signed a procurement deal with BYD.

She is working on a story about a profile on how BYD pivoted from making electric cars and buses to managing to provide KN95 masks to U.S., Canadian governments and companies.

There is a lot of interest from their readers on who this company is, and hence the story.

She's been made aware this might be difficult to provide an interview, and we suggested a written response. Due to time difference, we are still waiting for her answer.

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 / ANSWERS:

Q1. What products are being sourced (N95, KN95, regular surgical masks)?

Q2. Why did the government of Canada choose BYD (it's a carmaker not a PPE maker after all)?

Q3. How did the Canadian government get in touch with BYD (or did BYD get in touch?)

Q4. Did/Will the government test BYD products?

Our priority is ensuring that front line healthcare workers receive the supplies and equipment they need to stay safe and healthy. All products must meet the requirements or specifications established by Health Canada.

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. This includes connecting with many suppliers through our call-out on [BuyandSell.gc.ca](https://buyandsell.gc.ca).

In order to protect the integrity of our procurement processes, as well as the integrity of global supply chains, we need to exercise caution at this time with information we are able to provide about specific suppliers.

All products we are purchasing are subject to rigorous testing by the Public Health Agency of Canada, to ensure they meet our standards, prior to distribution to provinces and territories.