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From: Laycock, Tristan (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: April 1, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Anand, Anita - Personal; Anand, Anita (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC); Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); Mullan-Boudreau, Caitlin (SPAC/PSPC); Gerasimov, Boyan (SPAC/PSPC); Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC); Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC); Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC); Tallerico, Joel (SPAC/PSPC); Laporte, Anthony (SPAC/PSPC)
Subject: Daily Issues Flags and Media Summary - April 1, 2020

Hello Minister,

Here is your daily issues summary:

PSPC MEDIA

Various articles covering yesterday's announcement, PPE shortages (particularly Quebec), and the potential for faulty supplies from China:

**EX: [China clamps down on coronavirus test kit exports after accuracy questioned](#)
[Trudeau promises surge of made-in-Canada masks, ventilators and testing kits](#)
[Quebec warns of possible equipment shortage as COVID-19 cases soar above 4,000](#)**

- 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 identify priority items and secure necessary supplies in real time.
- 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.

If-pressed:

- We recognize that some of these goods are in high demand around the world, and we are leveraging existing sources of supply while also proactively engaging industry to help meet Canada's needs.
- We are investing \$2 billion to purchase ventilators and protective personal equipment, and to support diagnostic testing.
- Our goal is to be over prepared and we are ordering supplies in anticipation of future needs, to ensure they are available for provinces, territories, frontline health workers and Canadians.

If-pressed (faulty supplies):

- We are working with established suppliers and distributors, and we have strong processes in place to ensure that the supplies we receive meet all necessary standards.

If-pressed (Quebec):

- We have placed significant order for PPE and we are working hard to make sure we have that equipment to distribute to Quebec, and every province and territory that needs it, as quickly as possible.
- This is a Canada-wide effort and the Premiers are doing extraordinary work. We are working through every possible channel at all levels of government in order to secure the essential medical supplies that Canada needs. Our goal is to be over prepared and we are ordering supplies in anticipation of future needs.

PMO ISSUES CALL

- Finance: Morneau wanted taxation power in legislation as leverage over big 6 banks
- Finance: Aid packages for certain industries still work in progress
- Finance/GHL: Parliament may have to be recalled to approve wage subsidy
- Int'l Dev: developing countries not prepared and few resources to help them
- HC: Provinces building make-shift hospitals, preparing for worst
- HC: Mental health is missing piece in our response
- HC: Best case scenario, everything shut down until July
- Small Business: Federal wage subsidy might not be enough
- DPMO: revised NAFTA will not take effect as scheduled

LIBERAL RESEARCH BUREAU

Key Messages:

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.
- 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 three Canadian companies to make medical supplies such as ventilators, surgical masks, 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 are mobilizing all of Canada to protect our healthcare workers so they can continue to protect all Canadians. All hands on deck.

Share this [link](#) where Canadian companies can submit their plan to help Canada in meeting the need for medical supplies.

Economic Impact and Response

Canada's Emergency Response Plan

Lead: Finance

- Our Government will be unwavering in our support for Canadians, our healthcare system, and our economy.
- The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act ensures that the government can provide Canadians with the support they need when they need it.
- As a first step, we are providing immediate help to those Canadians and businesses that are most in need – including those who are without pay because of COVID-19 whether they are sick, caring for a loved one, unemployed or sent home
- At the same time, we will ensure that we have the tools and flexibility to respond to any emerging challenges.

- These measures are of national urgency, and we thank all Parliamentarians for their cooperation to get people the help they need immediately.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

Lead: Employment

- Protecting the health and safety of Canadians, jobs, and our economy, is our top priority.
- 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 income support, even if they don't qualify for EI.
- No one should have to worry about paying the bills during this time.
- We are continuing to plan for all scenarios and support all Canadians affected by COVID-19.

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.
- Together, they represent an additional \$65 billion in direct support, and \$30 billion in additional tax deferrals.
- 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.

If pressed – affected sectors

- Our Government understands that some sectors have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- We will continue to carefully monitor all developments, and take further action.
- Our Government is working around the clock to ensure that all Canadians and small businesses get the support they need to weather this crisis.

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 of \$30 billion in interest-free loans as we deal with this unprecedented challenge.

If pressed – details

- Remittances of the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) and payments of customs duties due in March, April and May may now be deferred, until the end of June 2020.
- This will provide Canadian businesses with significant liquidity to continue operations.

Wage Subsidy

Lead: Finance/ Small Business

- Canadians should be confident that their jobs are safe as we go through this unprecedented challenge.
- To help employers weather COVID-19, and keep their employees our Government is taking significant action by subsidizing wages.
- Our Government will provide an up to 75% wage subsidy for qualifying employers, for up to 3 months.
- This will help businesses to keep and return workers to the payroll.
- More details on eligibility criteria will be shared before the end of the month.

Canada Emergency Business Account

Lead: Small Business

- The new Canada Emergency Business Account will provide up to \$25 billion to eligible financial institutions so they can provide interest-free loans to small businesses and not-for-profits.
- These loans – guaranteed and funded by the Government of Canada – will ensure that small businesses have access to the capital they need, so they can pay for rent and other important costs over the next couple of months.
- Valued at a maximum of \$40,000 to qualifying businesses, the program will support Canadian employers – including not-for-profits – with \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019.
- Loans may be repaid over 2 years with no interest with an option for another three years with interest.
- Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022, will result in loan forgiveness of 25 percent (up to \$10,000).

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.

Canada Emergency Response Scam

Lead: Employment

- No Canadian should have to choose between protecting their health and putting food on the table, paying for their medication, or caring for a family member.
- That's why our government has taken action to support workers and their families with the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.
- We are aware that there are individuals who are preying upon the vulnerable during this difficult time.
- Please be aware that the Government of Canada does not make unsolicited attempts to contact Canadians and does not facilitate direct deposits through text messages.
- When in doubt, contact 1 800 O-Canada and ask them to verify the validity of any communication you have received.

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.

Travel, Canadian Borders, Trade and the International Community

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.
- To date, we have facilitated 24 flights from 17 countries to bring Canadians home. We will continue to work hard this week to bring more Canadians home.
- 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. In the past week WestJet, Air Transat and Sunwing brought home tens of thousands of Canadians from around the world, with more flights on their way.
- We continue to work around the clock to bring back Canadians and Minister Champagne remains in close contact with his counterparts.

Layoffs in Air Industry

Lead: Transport

- Our Government is continually updating its responses to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic.
- We are reminding Canadians to avoid all nonessential travel outside of Canada until further notice.
- Our strong fiscal position gives us the firepower needed to respond to potential challenges.
- We have been in touch with airlines and we understand the impact COVID19 is having on their industry and we are with the workers who are facing uncertainty and layoffs in these unprecedented times.
- All Canadians should know that this government has their back, and we will not hesitate to act further.

Manufacturing and Services, Building Response Capacity, and Emergency Preparedness

Military preparing to help authorities deal with spread

Lead: DND

- The health and safety of Canadians and the women and men of the Canadian Armed Forces is our government's top priority.
- That's why, the Minister of National Defence announced that he has directed the Chief of Defence Staff to develop a response plan that will support vulnerable communities across Canada, and assist our provincial and territorial partners to help slow the spread of COVID-19
- This plan will mobilize up to 24,000 Regular, Reserve Force members, including Rangers across the Canadian Armed Forces to assist with this crisis.

- Canadians can rest assured that their women and men in uniform stand ready to support them where and when they need it.

Service Canada Closures

Lead: Families

- Our government is committed to ensuring that Canadians have access to the benefits provided by Service Canada that they rely on.
- After reviewing our operations, we are closing “in person” Service Canada offices, so that we can redeploy our focus to online and telephone services, which continue to remain open, to better serve Canadians.
- Our top priority is to ensure that Canadians can get the benefits they need, while protecting their health and safety. This decision will help ensure that more Canadians get the services they need.

Quarantine Act Measures

Lead: Health

- The number of cases of COVID-19 is increasing daily – both at home and globally.
- Earlier this month, we asked travellers entering Canada to self-isolate for 14 days to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Canada.
- Effective immediately, we are strengthening our measures at the border. Travellers returning to Canada will be subject to a mandatory 14-day isolation under the Quarantine Act.
- With this, we are protecting the health and safety of returning Canadians and those who are around them.

Drug Shortages

Lead: Health

- Our top priority is the health and safety of Canadians.
- We recognize the serious impact drug shortages can have on patients and their families.
- Health Canada takes an active role in identifying drug shortages and mitigating their impact on Canadians, working closely with provinces, manufacturers, and others in the drug supply chain,
- We have asked the industry to proactively report any signal that would indicate the start of a shortage because of the current situation.

Exports of Medical Goods to China

Lead: GAC

- As Doctor Tam said, one of the most important things to fight this virus globally is to contain it at the onset
- Global cooperation on pandemics is critical to ensuring the health and safety of people around the world.
- This includes protecting people here in Canada, as support of this kind can help to slow the spread of the virus.
- In early February, when the spread of COVID-19 was primarily limited to China, Canada facilitated sending equipment there through the Canadian Red Cross to the Red Cross Society of China in response to the WHO’s call.
- Canada will continue to work to ensure that we have the equipment we need to fight this virus.

CBSA Employees

Lead: Public Safety

- We are aware of reports that an employee at Pearson Airport has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The employee is in isolation at home and following direction from local health officials, and we wish them a quick and full recovery.
- We recognize the difficult work performed by our front-line officers who work tirelessly to keep all Canadians safe by facilitating trade and travel, all while detecting possible risks and threats.
- Our government will continue work to ensure that all officers are protected by equipping them with the necessary equipment to mitigate the risks of COVID-19.

Please see a [statement](#) from John Ossowski, President of the Canada Border Service Agency for additional messaging.

Mandatory Standards to Protect Health Workers

Lead: Labour

- Our government believes that every Canadian has the right to a safe and healthy workplace.
- Employers have the responsibility and duty to protect the health and safety of their employees at work. They are required to implement preventative measures to ensure employees are not exposed to conditions that could be harmful to their health or safety.
- In a conversation with our provincial and territorial partners, there were discussions on information sharing to improve worker protection across various industries during this crisis.
- In order to ensure employers have access to information on any preventative measures that should be taken, as well as best practices for their industry, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety will be releasing further resources.
- We urge all employers during this critical time to go above and beyond standard health and safety measures to make sure that workers are safe in this extraordinary situation, and accommodate reasonable requests from employees.
- We will continue to monitor the ongoing situation, and examine any and all options that could further help our workers and industries.

CRA Service Delivery

Lead: CRA

- This is a difficult time for Canadians and our government will do what it takes to support them.
- CRA employees are highly experienced, competent professionals who deliver quality service to Canadians all year round.
- The CRA is working diligently to ensure Canadians get the services they need while also ensuring its employees remain safe and doing its part to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- The CRA remains committed to putting People First and to delivering high quality services to Canadians.

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 Métis 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 dollars 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.

Helping Vulnerable Canadians

Lead: Families

- We are committed to helping all Canadians through this difficult time, and make sure that no one is left without help.
- Tough times fall first, and hardest, on the most vulnerable in our communities.
- That's why we're supporting those who need it the most, and helping vulnerable Canadians with the health, social, and economic impacts of this crisis.
- We're working to help some of our most vulnerable through:
 - Investments in the Kids Help Phone for more counsellors and trained volunteers, to make sure youth have the help they need in this crisis.
 - Increased support for Canadians experiencing homelessness and for women and children fleeing violence.
 - Supports for seniors through the New Horizons Program to United Way, to help with everything from delivering medications to groceries.
- We promised to help everyone get through this tough time. Whomever you are, whatever you need, we're here for you.

Canadian Tourism

Lead: Tourism

- The health and safety of Canadians is our top priority at all times.
- We know that the tourism industry is hard hit by COVID-19 and we are working tirelessly to mitigate its impact on the Canadian economy.
- As a first step, we are providing immediate help to those Canadians and businesses that are most in need – including those who are without pay because of COVID-19 whether they are sick, caring for a loved one, unemployed or sent home.
- Our tourism sector is strong and resilient and we will always be there to support it.

Tristan Laycock

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