

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** April 27, 2020 9:37 AM  
**To:** André Fillion  
**Cc:** Angela Intranuovo; Bryan Blom; Carole Charette; Caroline Audette; Lord, David (Ext.); Elizabeth Lindsay; Christensen, Esther (Ext.); Boulay, Francois (Ext.); Geneviève Côté; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Jeff Van Zyl; Jody Wood; Judith Rorai; Julie Hahn; Karim Adam; Maria Cama; Marie-Christine Lalonde; Marie-Claude Hurens; Media; Medias Sociaux / Social Media (TPSGC/PWGSC); Melissa Pacheco; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Mia Arruda; Nathalie Larocque; Nicholas Dorion; Pamela Eades; Renee Stephen; Rosemary Kinnis; Sara Lacasse; Sarah Moreau-Bélanger; Selma Mesri; Sonia Harvey; Usman Chaudhry; Amanda Semaan; Annie Scalis; Crystal Allan; Edith Dauphinais; Jenny Bascur; Michael Milito; Nathalie Bétoté Akwa; Nicolas Boucher; PA DGA Bureau SMA / AP PB ADM Office (TPSGC/PWGSC); Vanessa Audette  
**Subject:** Media Heads-Up / Tier 1 - COVID-19: Follow-up: Empty planes from China / Freelance

The following media request has been identified as **Tier 1**.

Communications sector will work with your group to develop the first draft response. New information not previously approved should be identified in purple.

Highest level of approval: MO  
Program ADM approved response: April-27-20 at 15:00

### **Media heads-up**

#### **Freelance**

**Derwentwater, Laura (Freelance)**

**Date call received: April-25-20 at 21:55**

**Deadline: April-28-20 at 16:00**

**Tier 1 - COVID-19: Follow-up: Empty planes from China**

**CONTEXT** (for your information): Not satisfied with the response we provided (Q1-Q5), the freelancer is coming back with the same set of questions and an additional one (Q6).

### **VALUE STATEMENT:**

#### **QUESTIONS / RESPONSES:**

**Q1. Since the shipments were not loaded on the Canadian planes, what happened to them?**

**Q2. Did Canada get a refund for the shipments?**

**Q3. Why did the planes not simply either take off and circle until they could land again or go to another Asian airport to wait until further landing rights could be arranged in order to pick up the shipments?**

**Q4. Mention is made of prior shipments not being up to standard when received in Canada and that the minister is looking to**

**"repurpose" them. Why were the goods not inspected in the factory and prior to on boarding since China is notorious for substituting goods of lesser quality? ( refer you to "Poorly Made in China" (Paul Midler, 2011)...a great read).**

**Q5. Has the Canadian government, or, to its knowledge, any provincial governments, lost shipments to 'pirates' out bidding them at the last minute for the necessary supplies?**

**\*\*Q6. In addition to the questions in my email below, could you please comment on the Chinese government's assertion, that the planes did not face restrictions on the amount of time on the ground. In particular, please address the issue that this presents that, if there was no restriction, then why did the planes take off empty?**

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Response provided on April 22:

We are taking an aggressive procurement approach to secure the life-saving equipment and supplies that Canada needs from a diverse range of suppliers both internationally and here at home, while recognizing the risks posed by fragile supply chains, the fluidity of the current situation around the world and high global demand.

We can confirm that four flights chartered by the Government of Canada arrived safely in Canada from China over the weekend carrying medical supplies like N95 and surgical masks, protective coveralls and a key component in testing reagent, as well as orders for other jurisdictions, including Quebec and the Red Cross. This is an offer that has been made to all provinces and territories. A number of federally chartered cargo flights are also expected to transit from China to Canada over the course of this week.

In addition to this, one federally chartered flight left China for Canada over the weekend without its intended cargo on board. This occurred due to on the ground congestion caused by a significant surge in cargo flights out of terminals at the Shanghai Airport. As a result, the intended cargo was unable to get to the plane before its required takeoff time.

We are closely monitoring this issue and continue to work closely with officials in China, including Ambassador Barton and other diplomatic staff to navigate the current, complex supply chain environment. Steps are being taken to ensure that this does not occur moving forward.

The federal government will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we have the supplies to meet both Canada's short and long-term needs.

Note that we cannot confirm information on the second flight organized by another jurisdiction.