

PSPC Vaccine announcement  
Vaccine Task Force Q&A  
September 21, 2020

**Q. How are the Vaccine Task Force's recommendations made to the Government of Canada?**

The Vaccine Task Force (VTF) has been providing advice on prioritizing leading vaccine projects in Canada; identifying international vaccine candidates of interest to Canada; and considering options to manufacture the most promising COVID-19 vaccines.

Recommendations from the VTF are made to the Government of Canada via the Minister of Health and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.

The VTF has also reviewed the most advanced international vaccine candidates and related available data and recommended to the Minister of Health, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada a prioritized list for procurement. This advice has been used to inform Ministers' decisions on Canada's procurement strategy for COVID-19 vaccines.

**Q. Did Chris Procyshyn, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Vanrx Pharmasystems, recuse himself from discussions around the recommendation of the purchase of the Vanrx biomanufacturing machinery?**

Vaccine Task Force member Chris Procyshyn, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Vanrx Pharmasystems, formally recused himself from the discussion related to the potential purchase of Vanrx biomanufacturing machinery. He did not participate in any discussions related to the drafting, review or approval of the recommendation related to the purchase.

The Task Force has a robust conflict of interest process in place, which is consistent with the practices of other volunteer external advisory bodies to government and embodies international best practices. When assessing projects for funding, members are required to be transparent about their interests and potential for conflict. Those with conflicts must formally recuse themselves. Each Task Force member signed a Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement, and completed and signed a Conflict of Interest Declaration form. At the start of each meeting, the co-Chairs ask members to declare any conflicts with the agenda items of that meeting and ask members who have a disqualifying conflict to recuse themselves from that discussion. The conflict of interest protocol is publicly available on the National Research Council's (NRC) website.

Given the significant interest in the Vaccine Task Force's process, the Task Force is taking the exceptional step of publishing a [registry of declared interests](#). The registry will be updated on the NRC's website following each vaccine announcement by the government that is based on a Task Force recommendation.