

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Parmar, Dovejot (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: March 30, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Marcus.Powlowski; P
Subject: FW: procurement process

Hi Marcus,

I think my VPN/email were being finicky last week.

Just wanted to touch base to ensure you received my note? Happy to connect with you at your earliest convenience.

P or 647-825-4894.

Dove Parmar

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From: Parmar, Dovejot (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: March-23-20 10:53 AM
To: Powlowski, Marcus - P
Subject: RE: procurement process

Hi Marcus,

I am happy to answer any questions you might have. Could you give me a ring at your earliest convenience? P
P or 647-825-4894.

Dove

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Special Assistant - Ontario | Adjoint spécial - Ontario
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From: Powlowski, Marcus - P
Date: March 22, 2020 at 3:51:58 PM EDT
To: Duncan, Kirsty - P
Subject: procurement process

Kristy sorry to bug you about this but it is hard to have faith we are addressing the issue of procuring ventilators as soon as we have to. Because;

1. I spoke to the owners of the two companies that actually make things in Canada. CPR- I wrote to you about yesterday. They have orders in from the Israeli government and Switzerland for their devices, specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have not even got over the suspension issue here in Canada and his only talks with Government have been two discussions last week on the suspension issue. Nothing regarding purchases or ramping up production.

As to the other company OTwo they have been contacted but no purchase order yet and as of yet, it seems, no real substantial plans as to how to ramp up production. According to the guy there Canada is “way behind” other countries. He says “we have other countries with planes on the ground here in Canada wanting to take the ventilators and fly home.” There is also, it seems, some confusion as to who will do the procuring- the federal government or the provinces.

2. As for the tender process as I said the plant manger at Bombardier says that even putting in a tender would take a month. They need specs and then they have to figure out how they would build it, and then they would have to establish the supply chains for parts that they can not manufacture. In addition he said if you do not figure out the supply chain issues beforehand and a number of companies rush bids you might end up with a big mess with one necessary part going to one company and another to another company, so in the end nothing is built.

I, and I think a lot of people, would have more faith in our ability to do this quickly, and effectively, if we know there is a transparent process as to how we are doing things. As I have said it is hard now to accept reassurances that we are prepared, that we are doing all of the right things, when we can never, ever, get any specifics as to what we are doing and how we are going to do it. Compare what we hear about the health response to what we get in terms of the economic response on things like EI, taxes, student loans, business assistance. There we get specifics not just “we assure all Canadians that we are doing the things necessary...”

Furthermore with respect to ventilators it seem we have hardly moved on this at all. I am sorry the party may be pissed off I actually talked to companies but I have reason to doubt are preparedness. We should have moved on this over a month ago. Over the weekend nothing has happened. Sorry pandemics don 't take the weekend off.

I, and others I have spoken to, both in the medical profession and in industry think we ought to have a transparent process where it is not just the Ministry but medical experts (I am pretty sure the federal MOH has no Intensivists or Anesthetists), Industry representatives, Engineers, Government official and maybe Army personal making decisions on things like;

1. Ventilators- what kinds to get (full fledged ICU models, cheaper portables, resuscitator), who to make them, how many, how fast
2. PPE- same issues, recommendations on things like N95 mask use
3. Planning for training personal to act as nursing assistants, RT assistants etc. Already number of Toronto medical people affected by the virus there will be more cases and more healthcare dropping out
4. Insuring surge capacity ie community backup beds whether in gymnasiums, community centres, hotels etc
- 5 Planning for the needs of isolated (often indigenous) communities
- 6 Treatment options
7. Travel restrictions and precautions

Now maybe the government has already established such things. If so I am sorry to bother you. If they have then I sure hope they have brought in outside expertise to assist. If they have done this it would help to know that they have.

I don't mean to offend the members of the Canadian government bureaucracy but no one is an expert in what we are dealing with we need to be sure we are getting the best advice. I can not see how we could possibly have the manpower in the Ministries to deal with the logistic involved in responding to this epidemic and to all of these urgent problems.

Sorry to bother you.

Regards,

Marcus