

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 20, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Media; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Rachel Lagacé; Renee Harden; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie  
**Subject:** For MO Approval: Media Response / Tier 1 - COVID 19 - Supply chain pressure / Global

Cecely, James,

For MO approval, please.

Many thanks,

Marc

### Media response

#### Global

Jarvis, Carlyne (Global)

Date call received: **October-16-20 at 13:45**

**Deadline: October-19-20 at 13:00** (firm)

Tier 1 - COVID 19 - Supply chain pressure

**CONTEXT** (for your information): The reporters are working on stories about the pressures Covid testing labs are facing.

For this piece, they're looking at supply chain issues. This piece will air on Global National, and they would like an on camera interview. They would like the interview anytime today or early Monday, October 19.

Although they would prefer an on-camera interview, they would accept a written response, and they have also already been informed that an on-camera interview is not likely.

### QUESTIONS / RESPONSES:

**Q1. What is the Federal government doing to secure the supply chain for Covid testing labs? (from gloves, to plastic consumables, to reagents, to machines)? (PSPC)**

**Q2. What role does the Federal government play in procuring supplies used by Covid testing labs? (PSPC)**

Since March, On behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has been working hard to support the needs of provincial and territorial governments by securing equipment and supplies to combat COVID-19. This includes action to ensure Canadians can quickly and easily access COVID-19 testing—be that through conventional or rapid tests.

Each province and territory decides how to test residents in alignment with a common, national approach to testing, as discussed under the COVID-19 Special Advisory Committee. The Public Health Agency of Canada publishes the number of people tested in Canada every day.

To support this pan-Canadian effort, the Government of Canada is providing \$4.28 billion to provinces and territories to fund testing, contact tracing, and sharing of public health data. The goal is to enable provinces and territories to have the capacity to test up to 200,000 people per day, nationwide.

As the Government's central purchaser, PSPC has procured 200,000 serological tests, as well as equipment and lab consumables. We have also purchased more than 39 million swabs, 13 million of which have been delivered so far. Additionally, we have signed several contracts for the purchase of chemicals to support the production of reagents.

With regards to rapid testing, the Government of Canada has signed agreements with the following companies for COVID-19 rapid tests authorized by Health Canada:

- o Abbott Rapid Diagnostics ULC will supply up to 7.9 million ID NOW rapid tests, and up to 20.5 million Panbio COVID-19 Antigen rapid tests.
- o Biomérieux Canada will supply up to 699,750 RP2.1 Diagnostic test kits.
- o Inter Medico will supply up to 1.2 million GeneXpert rapid tests.

COVID-19 testing technologies are advancing as the pandemic continues. On behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada continues to pursue additional agreements to secure access to the most promising candidates.

**Q3. Should the federal government be leading a domestic solution, to supply chain issues for Covid testing labs (manufacturing in Canada)? (PHAC/ISED TBC)**

**Q4. Have any of the provinces reached out for assistance in securing a steady supply chain for Covid testing labs? (PHAC/ISED TBC)**