

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** MacKnight, Aisling (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** May 1, 2020 7:48 AM  
**To:** Khalil, Samantha; Tojiboeva, Muna  
**Cc:** Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC); Pascuzzo, Matt (HC/SC); Davidson, Cole (HC/SC); Exton, Adam (HC/SC)  
**Subject:** Health lines: May 1

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning,

Happy May! Please see below for our lines:

### COVID-19 – NESS MANDATE

- Your governments are working **together** to ensure Canadians are safe against COVID-19.
- The provinces and territories are the **first front** for providing PPE for their workers. The federal stockpile is a resource for local authorities, should they have a sudden surge and need to supplement their own stock of PPE.
- The federal stockpile is **not** set up to hold PPE for the entire country, but instead serves as a backstop for urgent and time-sensitive needs.
- To ensure we have enough PPE in Canada, we work **with** provinces and territories to assess their needs, and support **suppliers and industry** to increase domestic production.

#### *If pressed on PPE supply:*

- Provinces and territories maintain their own stockpiles of PPE.
- How much each province or territory has is up to their own discretion, based on the needs of their health system
- So far, we have been able to fill **all requests** for PPE from the provinces and territories.

#### *If pressed on NESS mandate:*

- The mandate of the national emergency stockpile is not to supply PPE.
- That is because we work **with** the provinces and territories to **supplement** their own supplies.
- Rather, the stockpile focuses on national supplies of treatments like antivirals, to ensure a **swift** response to possible outbreaks of treatable viruses.

### COVID-19 – DATA MODELLING INITIATIVE (\$10M over 2 years)

- As we look to lifting public health measures, our response needs to focus on who in our country is most at risk
- On April 23, the Prime Minister announced **\$10M** for a Canadian data monitoring initiative.
- This initiative will establish a coordinated approach to COVID-19 modeling and access to data sets, through a national network of experts.
- The better we understand the virus, its spread, and its impact on different groups, the better we can fight it and eventually defeat it.

#### *If pressed on how it will work:*

- We need to invest in research and data, so we can understand how the virus has spread in Canada and how it is affecting vulnerable populations
- At least **one million samples** will be collected and tested **over the next two years**

- Through this large-scale testing, we can track the virus in the general population **and** in specific populations, including health care workers, Indigenous communities, and the elderly.

*If pressed on data collection:*

- Through this large-scale testing, we will be collecting **disaggregated data** that will help us understand the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations

### **COVID-19 – WHO CONCERNS**

- Canada is a founding member and a strong supporter of the WHO.
- The WHO is ensuring that the technical advice provided to countries is based on the best available science and evidence.
- Further, the WHO has an important leadership and coordination role in the **global** COVID-19 response, through driving efforts towards new vaccines and treatments to helping the most vulnerable countries with their response.
- We are **all** learning more about the virus and the effectiveness of measures to address the pandemic every day.

*If pressed: confidence in the WHO*

- The entire global community, including the WHO, is learning more about the virus every day.
- **Now is the time to work together.** An infectious disease **anywhere** can quickly become an infectious disease **everywhere**.
- While the international community works together to find a vaccine, **cooperation has never been more important**.
- There will many lessons that we will learn from this pandemic, and Canada would support a review of the global response post-crisis.

*If pressed on cuts to the WHO:*

- We have no plans to cut funding to the WHO.

### **COVID-19 – WHO AT HESA**

- We thank the Standing Committee on Health for their important work in studying Canada’s response to COVID-19.
- Committees are **independent** and inviting witnesses is **their decision alone**.
- I am thankful for the Health committee’s work and collaboration, but how they proceed with this matter is a decision for them.

*If pressed:*

- The Health committee is doing important work, which I am grateful for.
- How they proceed with this matter is up to them.

Bonus:

### **COVID-19 – REMDESIVIR**

- Canada is supporting the WHO and international efforts to find treatments for COVID-19.
- Last week, the Prime Minister announced **\$1.1B** in funding for Canadian researchers, so that we can work on finding effective treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.
- We are funding **multiple** promising Canadian research projects, including **three** studies using Remdesivir as a potential treatment.
- While we continue to support the Canadian and international scientific community in their research for treatment, we recommend that Canadians **do not take these medications for illnesses outside of their prescribed use**.

Thanks,  
Ash

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