

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: March 26, 2020 8:57 PM
To: Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC); Laycock, Tristan (SPAC/PSPC); Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC)
Subject: Re: For approval: Media response / COVID-19 - Procurement of ventilators, masks, swab kits and PPE

Hi Leslie,

Here are the responses for the same requests including changes from PMO, we're looking to get this out shortly but please let us know if you have any concerns or changes.

Thanks!
Cecely

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The Hill Times

Mazereeuw, Peter (The Hill Times)

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Ventilator contracts

Q1. Can you please tell me how many contracts the government has awarded for the production of medical ventilators since the beginning of January?

RESPONSE:

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is supporting the whole-of-government response to COVID-19 by spearheading the consolidated purchase of emergency equipment, supplies and services for federal, provincial and territorial needs.

As the COVID-19 situation is very fluid and evolving rapidly every day, so too are our the requirements and orders. We are placing as many orders as possible with suppliers who have the capacity to meet our needs — and the needs of the provinces and territories —now and well into the future. We are exploring all opportunities to secure available supply, including in both large and small quantities.

The Government of Canada is engaging both new and existing suppliers, as well as are working with the more than 14,000 supplier submissions to our proactive call-out to businesses who may have the supplies we need on [BuyandSell.gc.ca](https://buyandsell.gc.ca). We are also working directly with Canadian industry to scale-up and re-tool to produce essential medical supplies like masks and ventilators needed in Canada's fight against COVID-19.

As a result of our [call-out](#) and through engagement with our supplier network, we have already purchased a broad range of personal protective equipment and supplies, including swabs, tests kits, gloves, masks and gowns, as well as ventilators. While delivery timelines vary, additional deliveries began in mid-March.

We continue to work with all available suppliers who have the capacity to respond to Canada's needs.

In addition, we are continuously working with the Public Health Agency of Canada to determine their technical specifications and requirements, as well as those for provinces and territories.

For any questions related to technical specifications and requirements and regarding the distribution of material please contact the Public Health Agency of Canada.

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La Presse

Leclerc, William (La Presse)

Tier 1 - COVID-19: Number of contracts awarded and employees affected

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

Q1. Could you provide me with a list of all contracts related to COVID-19 and coronavirus that have been granted within the last 90 days up to today, March 25, 2020? I would like the name of each supplier, the dollar value of each of these contracts, the type of medical supplies or equipment purchased and/or medical devices/equipment, masks and/or other services.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) supports the government-wide response to COVID-19 by leading the consolidated procurement of emergency supplies and services for federal, provincial and territorial communities.

Given the situation with COVID-19 is extremely fluid and changes rapidly every day, so do our requirements and orders. We place as many orders as possible with our suppliers who are able to meet our needs and those of the provinces and territories now and in the future. We are looking at all possibilities to secure available supplies, including large and small quantities.

The Government of Canada is soliciting new and existing suppliers, and is working with the more than 14,000 bids from suppliers through our proactive call for tenders to companies that may have the supplies we need on the Web site buyandsell.gc.ca/. We are also working directly with Canadian industry to increase and retool production of essential medical supplies, such as masks and ventilators needed to support Canada's fight against COVID-19.

As a result of our [call for tenders](#), and through our commitment with our supplier network, we have already purchased a wide range of personal protective equipment and supplies, including swabs, test kits, gloves, masks and hospital gowns, and respirators. Delivery times vary, but some additional supplies began to be delivered in mid-March.

We continue to work with available suppliers who are able to meet Canada's needs. We also work with the Public Health Agency of Canada on an ongoing basis to determine the technical specifications and needs of the Public Health Agency of Canada, as well as those of the provinces and territories.

Q2. I also want to know how many of your employees at PSPC have contracted COVID-19 to date?

A2. We are aware that there have been a few confirmed cases of COVID-19 among civil servants, and given the rapid evolution of the situation, we are being careful not give an inaccurate picture of the situation.

The departments respond appropriately to any suspected or confirmed cases and follow Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines.

On Mar 26, 2020, at 5:30 PM, Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <cecely.roy@canada.ca> wrote:

I am also adding a similar request with the same response en français for La Presse. This is copied below under the response in English for your reference.

Cecely Roy

Press Secretary I Attachée de presse

Office of the Minister of Public Services and Procurement I Bureau de la ministre des Services publics et de l'Approvisionnement

(343) 549-7293

On Mar 26, 2020, at 5:07 PM, Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <cecely.roy@canada.ca> wrote:

Hi Leslie,

For your context we are holding off on sending this response to David at Reuters. I spoke with him today to provide the context that we may have more to say in the coming days, and he is fine with waiting.

That being said, please let me know if you have changes to the response below to be sent to the Hill Times.

Thanks,

Cecely

~~1) Media response~~

~~Reuters Canada~~

~~Ljunggren, David (Reuters Canada)~~

~~Date call received: March 25 20 at 12:50~~

~~Deadline: March 26 20 at 11:00~~

~~Tier 1 COVID-19 Procurement of ventilators, masks, swab kits and PPE~~

~~QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS~~

~~Q1. Who did you buy ventilators from? Have they been delivered yet or just committed?~~

~~Q2. How did you pull this off when so many other governments are struggling?~~

~~Do you think you got an order in before the US federal or state governments?
Q3. Any progress on N95 masks? We have heard a rumour that 3M is refusing to ship to Canada, have you run into anything like that on masks or other equipment?~~

~~Q4. What is the solution on N95 masks? Are there lesser known suppliers that you think we can turn to, or is this a problem that will only be solved with new domestic production?~~

~~Q5. Who did you buy the swabs/kits from?~~

~~Q6. Is the personal protective equipment that you have promised Ontario (and presumably other provinces) going to come from the federal stockpile where it has been in storage, or are those new purchases?~~

2) Media response

The Hill Times

Mazereeuw, Peter (The Hill Times)

Date call received: March-25-20 at 17:15

Deadline: March-26-20 at 16:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Ventilator contracts

Q1. Can you please tell me how many contracts the government has awarded for the production of medical ventilators since the beginning of January?

RESPONSE:

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is supporting the whole-of-government response to COVID-19 by spearheading the consolidated purchase of emergency equipment, supplies and services for federal, provincial and territorial needs.

The COVID-19 situation is very fluid and evolving rapidly every day, as are our requirements and orders. We are placing as many orders as possible with suppliers who have the capacity to meet our needs—now and into the future. It would be **very** difficult to provide an accurate number at any given time. We are exploring all opportunities to secure available supply, including **in both** large and small quantities.

As a result of our [call-out](#) and through engagement with our supplier network, we have already purchased a broad range of personal protective equipment and supplies, including swabs, tests kits, gloves, masks and hospital gowns, **as well as respirators**. While delivery timelines vary, **some additional** deliveries began in mid-March.

We continue to work with all available suppliers who have the capacity to respond to Canada's needs. In addition, we are continuously working with the Public Health Agency of Canada to determine their technical specifications and requirements, as well as those for provinces and territories.

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La Presse

Leclerc, William (La Presse)

Date call received: March-24-20 at 7:30 PM

Deadline: March-27-20 at 4:00 PM

Tier 1 - COVID-19: Number of contracts awarded and employees affected

BACKGROUND: The researcher would like information on coronavirus-related contracts awarded and the number of departmental employees affected by COVID-19.

La Presse reported on the number of people affected regularly in various organizations.

Q1 will come from Commercial Procurement.

Q2 was forwarded to Health Canada.

Q3 comes from an approved response from TBS. However, for the record, the answer is NIL as of this morning.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

Q1. Could you provide me with a list of all contracts related to COVID-19 and coronavirus that have been granted within the last 90 days up to today, March 25, 2020? I would like the name of each supplier, the dollar value of each of these contracts, the type of medical supplies or equipment purchased and/or medical devices/equipment, masks and/or other services. (AB-COMMERCIAL)

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) supports the government-wide response to COVID-19 by leading the consolidated procurement of emergency supplies and services for federal, provincial and territorial communities.

The situation regarding COVID-19 is extremely fluid and changes rapidly every day, which is also the case for our requirements and orders. It would be **extremely** difficult to provide exact figures at any time.

We are placing as many orders as possible with our suppliers who are able to meet our needs, now and in the future. We are looking at all possibilities to secure available supplies, including large and small quantities.

As a result of our [call for tenders](#), and through our commitment with our supplier network, we have already purchased a wide range of personal protective equipment and supplies, including swabs, test kits, gloves, masks and hospital gowns, **and respirators**. Delivery times vary, but some **additional** supplies started to be delivered in mid-March.

We continue to work with available suppliers who are able to meet Canada's needs. We also work with the Public Health Agency of Canada on an ongoing basis to determine the technical specifications and needs of the Public Health Agency of Canada, as well as those of the provinces and territories.

Q2. I would also like to know the cost of advertising campaigns? (Health Canada/PHAC)

Q3. I would also like to know how many of your employees at SPAC have contracted COVID-19 to date?

A3. As mentioned by the Treasury Board Secretariat last week, work is underway to centralize information on confirmed cases within the public service, and more official information will be available in due course. We are aware that there have been a few confirmed cases of COVID-19 among civil servants, and given the rapid evolution of the situation, we are being careful not to give an inaccurate picture of the situation.