

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Parmar, Dovejot (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: May 20, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Tabbara, Marwan - Riding 1
Cc: Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC)
Subject: RE: Request for Response: N95 and NIOSH Certification

Hi Danny:

I am copying my colleague Chelsea here. She has been working on this file from the PSPC side. As of right now the file is with the team at ISED. Rest assured, our team is aware of this case.

Dove Parmar

Special Assistant - Ontario | Adjoint spécial - Ontario
Office of the Honourable Anita Anand | Bureau de l'honorable Anita Anand
Public Services and Procurement Canada | Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada
dovejot.parmar@canada.ca

From: Tabbara, Marwan - Riding 1 [mailto:Marwan.Tabbara.C1@parl.gc.ca]
Sent: May-20-20 3:15 PM
To: Parmar, Dovejot (SPAC/PSPC) <dovejot.parmar@canada.ca>
Subject: Request for Response: N95 and NIOSH Certification
Importance: High

Good afternoon Dove,

I am writing to you today in order to seek the assistance of Public Services and Procurement regarding a company in our riding.

The company in question is Racer Machinery International.

They reached out to us in March with an offer to retool and had gotten their MDEL application approved early on, however, they seem to be having trouble and encountering obstacles in their efforts.

It seems that the main obstacle they are currently facing is the requirement for NIOSH certification.

I have attached their latest correspondence below.

If you could take a look and provide a response it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I am sure you are extremely busy at this time, and we truly appreciate the support of your department.

Best regards,

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Danny Moufti

Manager, Office of Marwan Tabbara
Member of Parliament, Kitchener South – Hespeler

E-mail | Courriel: Marwan.Tabbara.C1@parl.gc.ca

From: Alex Vojinovich - Racer Machinery International Inc <alex@racerinternational.com>

Sent: May 12, 2020 1:48 PM

To: Tabbara, Marwan - M.P.; Tabbara, Marwan - Riding 1; Tabbara, Marwan - Assistant 1

Cc: 'O'Neill, Sean Matthew (IC)'; 'Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC)'; celine.caira@canada.ca; don@racerinternational.com

Subject: Plan for N95 Masks MADE IN CANADA - Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19 Racer Machinery International Inc.

Hello Marwan,

I have spoken with individuals at Health Canada, Cambridge Materials, McMaster University and the NRC. In discussion with everyone I have a summary I would like to share and get an understanding from procurement on this matter.

We have made proposals and have put all plans in action that we can to ensure that we can manufacture masks and materials here in Canada. Considering the number of masks that are continuously being rejected coming from abroad and the current shortage, I find it hard to understand why we have not gotten support from the government to produce these supplies locally.

As we are trying from March 24, 2020 to assist in this pandemic and additionally as RACER is a critical enabler of Canada's Key Industrial Capabilities (KICs), help move some critical manufacturing back to Canada, there are some hurdles and red tape we are all trying to work together to overcome for the greater good of our citizens.

The current request of NIOSH masks is setting a very tight limit on procuring Canadian made devices. As the United States is starting to open their economy and companies resume normal operations again, the American certifying body (NIOSH) is occupied with their own domestic requests and issues.

I have also received confirmation that no entity in Canada is authorized to issue NIOSH certification even though they can perform the testing.

Health Canada, however, is in discussions with NIOSH to be that entity, but they are also able to provide domestic CANADIAN certification of masks that can be used in the appropriate settings which are equal to or better than NIOSH. Even NIOSH N95 (Europe calls them FFP2 and China calls them KN95) have various grades.

There is an N95 commercial and a N95 medical, so just requesting NIOSH N95 masks is not enough to ensure that the right masks are being used in the correct settings.

With procurements support and the Prime Ministers support of Canadian made products, we can and will provide the province with the proper equipment to keep Canadians safe. We are asking for red tape reduction in ensuring that we use Canadian ingenuity, creativity, and manufacturing power to ensure the safety of our citizens. If China can build a mask factory in 12 days to produce 8 million masks a day, I would hope we can come close to doing the same for our country with our tax money.

Best regards

Alex

RACER

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