

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 12, 2020 7:41 AM  
**To:** Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Cc:** Media; Jean-François Létourneau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Bryan Blom; Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Vivianne Soubhie; Sara Lacasse  
**Subject:** For MO Approval: Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Procurement of N95 masks / Blacklock's Reporter

Hello, bonjour,

For your approval please. The content is mostly taken from OGGO's Q&As. [New info.](#)

Thank you,

Michèle

**Media response**  
**Blacklock's Reporter**  
**Korski, Tom (Blacklock's Reporter)**  
**Date call received: May-06-20 at 17:00**  
**Deadline: May-08-20 at 17:00**

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Procurement of N95 masks

**CONTEXT** (for your information): The reporter is seeking information about Canada's procurement of N95 masks.

### **VALUE STATEMENT:**

The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories on an ongoing basis to identify their needs and purchase required equipment, supplies, and services to combat COVID-19.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is taking an aggressive approach to buying—especially when it comes to personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers. This includes:

- Ordering ahead in bulk on behalf of provinces and territories
- Supplementing those orders by purchasing [limited-availability supplies that are](#) immediately available;
- Ramping up the domestic manufacturing capacity, through the Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, being led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

This is over and above the efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supply.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

**Q1. Has the department suspended procurement of N95 units?**

**Q2. Has the department declined offers, solicited or not, from N95 suppliers that do not have operations in Canada?**

**A1-2.** We are operating within a highly volatile market where there's an intense global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), and we are exploring all options to get these medical supplies and equipment to our frontline workers. We are placing orders with existing suppliers as well as new suppliers at home and abroad.

Our priority is ensuring that front-line healthcare workers receive the supplies and equipment they need to stay safe and healthy. As such, all products must meet the requirements or specifications established by Health Canada.

Recently, a significant portion of an order of N95 masks did not meet our standards for this mask type. Further assessment of testing results is underway, but in the meantime we have suspended further shipments of N95 masks from this supplier. We can confirm that none of these masks that failed our standards were distributed by PHAC for medical use; however, assessment is ongoing for other uses. Some of these masks thus far have been redirected for use by other organizations.

Although we have N95 respirators and surgical masks coming from foreign countries, we are also diversifying our supply chains by supporting Canadian companies that are retooling their lines to build up domestic supply. For instance, we have recently signed an agreement with Medicom of Pointe-Claire, Quebec, to provide 20 million N95 respirators and 24 million surgical masks made in Canada a year, for the next 10 years.

We have also received an overwhelming show of support to help with Canada's response to COVID-19 through our Buyandsell call out to suppliers. To help industry help us, we posted technical requirements for things like medical-grade masks on our website. That said, there are a broad range of needs (the materials required by front line health care professionals aren't required by others, such as essential service providers), so we are not turning away those looking to help.

Global Affairs Canada is lending expertise in reviewing offers from international companies, to help give us a level of confidence in the supplies that are being offered. In addition, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada is lending expertise in reviewing offers from companies in Canada.

**Q3. Can you please name the People's Republic of China vendors who have been contracted for N95 units since January 1?**

**A3.** The Government of Canada is engaged in an unprecedented effort to acquire supplies and equipment to ensure our frontline health care workers and all Canadians stay safe and healthy. The global nature of this pandemic and demand for supplies has meant that we face severe competition for goods and a highly volatile supply chain.

To protect the integrity of our procurement processes, as well as the integrity of global supply chains, we need to exercise caution at this time with information we are able to provide about suppliers, so as not to jeopardize any of our orders.