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From: Lucie Brosseau <Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 4, 2020 11:57 AM
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Subject: FW: Transcripts Delivery from J&A Media (Public Works & Gov't Services-B (NAT))

Hello, as requested...
Thanks.
Lucie

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To: Lucie Brosseau <Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
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Good morning.

Here's the transcript of this morning's interview. We'll send it to both scan lists shortly.

Thank you.

SM

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Program:	The Rob Snow Show	DATE: 2020-May-04 9:52AM	Time:	9:00AM - 12:00PM
Station:	CIWW AM (1310 News)	Network: Rogers Radio	City:	Ottawa

HEADLINE: Minister Anand to chair Supply Council

ROB SNOW (REPORTER): The federal government has announced the creation of the COVID-19 Supply Council and it is going to be chaired by the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Anita Anand, and the Minister joins me this morning here on 1310 News. Good morning.

ANITA ANAND (MINISTER OF Good morning, Rob.

**PUBLIC
SERVICES AND
PROCUREMENT):**

SNOW: Yeah, ifs vert' nice to hear from you, Minister. What is the COVID-19 Supply Council?

ANAND: The Supply Council's another tool in our toolbox to make sure that our response to the COVID-19 crisis is effective and widespread. We are, with the Supply Council, bringing together a group of leaders from the private and non-profit sectors to ensure that Canada is well equipped with PPE and medical supplies that we need today and moving forward. So, the council will provide advice on establishing further diversified and adaptable supply chains for key items like masks, gloves, and disinfectants from point A to point Z as the circumstances around COVID-19 continue to evolve.

SNOW: Okay.

ANAND: So we are -- we're moving forward in another direction to complement what we're already doing.

SNOW: Okay. What is -- how would you describe or what is the current state of PPE and the government -- the federal government's ability to procure PPE for front-line workers right now? What's the state of affairs right now?

ANAND:

Its a great question. We are facing markets -- global markets characterized by a surge in demand and we are buying existing inventory where we can, placing large orders to create and maintain a steady stream of goods flowing from diverse sources over the coming months. We are buying in bulk, we are being aggressive because we need to compete in this market, and so the approach has been effective to date and as I said, the Supply Council's another tool in our toolbox to ensure that our response is effective, broadly speaking.

SNOW:

Okay. How does it work -- we have federalism in Canada of course and we have provincial governments, and they're trying to find PPE too and they're trying to do the same things that you at the federal level are doing, so how do you coordinate because this has been a great frustration in the United States where you have individual states and bidding wars against one another, and then they find themselves -- that they're in a bidding competition with the federal government. How do you make sure that doesn't happen in Canada?

ANAND:

Exactly, Rob. Very insightful question. In Canada, we have taken a different approach, a collaborative approach with the provinces and territories, so the provinces and territories provided their request for PPE through the Public Health Agency of Canada which then feeds as the basis for procurement processes going forward and we buy based on a request coming in from the provinces and territories, and we actually go over and above those buys so that we can make sure that we are well stocked for the short and the long term, and I will say that I have had incredible collaboration with my provincial and territorial counterparts. I meet with them every two weeks, virtually of course, and we discuss how we can better collaborate, so this weekend, Nunavut indicated that it was in need of swabs and we arranged to have swabs flown up to Nunavut in a 24 hour period. That's the type of cooperation that is going on here in Canada. It is a Team Canada approach.

SNOW:

Okay, is the longer term goal to essentially rebuild or even create a domestic supply chain for this kind of equipment that can then be stockpiled in this country for the next emergency so we're not left vulnerable and left to rely on countries like China for example?

ANAND:

Without question. We are taking an aggressive procurement approach to secure lifesaving equipment and supplies that Canada needs from a diverse range of suppliers around the world and right here at home, so Canadian businesses of all sizes right across the country have truly stepped up to meet our needs in the fight against COVID- 19. For example, we have agreements with companies to produce gowns and masks and test kits and face shields. These are all coming from Canadian companies.

SNOW:

Yeah, but ifs -- is it gonna be for the long term because we heard a lot of this 15, 16 years ago with SARS

ANAND: We actually already have -- we already have Canadian companies producing PPE. Gowns, hand sanitizers, face shields, ventilators have already come off a line here in Canada. There are companies that are producing right now in the medium term and in the long term.

Okay.

SNOW:

So this is a full-court press on procurement domestically and internationally.

ANAND:

SNOW:

Minister, I thank you for your time this morning, very generous with your time.

ANAND:

Thank you so much, Rob. Have a great day.

SNOW:

Yeah, that's the Federal Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Anita Anand. Not bad.

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