

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Media <[media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** April 17, 2020 11:01 AM  
**To:** Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Cc:** Media; Jean-François Létourneau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Elizabeth Lindsay; Bryan Blom; James Stott; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie; Martine Skelton; Rachel Lagacé  
**Subject:** FOR MO APPROVAL: Media Response LEAD: ABs-DMPB & Commercial / Tier 1 - COVID-19: Origin of masks / Radio-Canada

Ladies,

For MO approval please.

[New info](#)

We consulted PHAC, which provided answers for Q3-4.

Thank you,

Stéfanie  
819-576-4705

### Media Response

#### Radio-Canada

Vu Van, Binh An (Radio-Canada)

Date call received: April-14-20 at 4:00 PM

**Deadline: April-15-20 at 4:00 PM (she has been informed that we are working on our response)**

Tier 1 - COVID-19: Imported masks

**BACKGROUND:** The researcher has factual questions about the origin of masks following today's announcement by PM Trudeau that 1.1M masks have arrived.

**STATEMENT OF VALUES:** The Government of Canada is working on an ongoing basis with the provinces and territories to determine their needs and to purchase the equipment, supplies and services needed to combat COVID-19.

Public Services and Procurement Canada is taking an aggressive approach to purchasing, particularly with respect to personal protective equipment for front-line healthcare workers. Our approach involves:

- Ordering in bulk in advance for the provinces and territories;
- Completing these orders by buying everything that is immediately available;
- Increasing domestic production capacity through [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19](#).

This goes above and beyond the provinces' and territories' efforts to ensure their own supply.

## QUESTIONS / ANSWER:

**Q1. Where did these masks come from?**

**Q2. How many are N95 masks?**

**A1-2.** We are exploring all options for securing the necessary equipment and supplies to fight COVID-19, through both domestic and international supply chains, to ensure that front-line healthcare workers across the country are equipped and protected.

By working directly with both new and existing suppliers and manufacturers, including several in China, we have placed orders and received millions of **PPE** supplies including masks, gloves and gowns. *As the Prime Minister announced April 14, over the weekend we received four new shipments of essential personal protective equipment, including certified N95 masks.* It is important to note that all deliveries are quality tested by the Public Health Agency of Canada once received in Canada before they are allocated and distributed.

**Q3. How many will go to Quebec? Q4. Are they NIOSH-certified?**

**Answer 3-4 provided by PHAC:**

The Public Health Agency of Canada is sending personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators to the provinces and territories based on requests from each jurisdiction and to meet immediate and short-term needs. Please contact the Province of Quebec for details on their stockpile.

Most respirators are certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) or meet a NIOSH-equivalent standard. Equivalent specifications for masks and other equipment are available at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/specifications-for-COVID-19-products>