

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: April 11, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Media; Jean-François Létourneau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Emmanuelle Gallays; Elizabeth Lindsay; Vanessa Audette
Subject: FOR MO APPROVAL: Media response / Tier 1 - COVID-19 - PPE Deliveries from China / CBC News (Parliamentary Bureau)

Bonjour à vous deux,

For your approval please. There are only 2 new sentences, the rest has already been approved and delivered.

Thank you,

Michèle

Media response
CBC News (Parliamentary Bureau)
Harris, Kathleen (CBC News (Parliamentary Bureau))
Date call received: April-10-20 at 10:45
Deadline: April-10-20 at 17:00 (*reporter is informed that more time is needed, but may file at any point today*)
Tier 1 - COVID-19 - PPE Deliveries from China

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter heard that there are cargo flights from Air Canada going from Shanghai to Canada using Boeing 777 aircraft. The reporter is under the impression that the first flight is leaving Toronto for Pudong airport today (Friday).

The request was referred to PSPC by GAC. The latter confirmed that it was not a flight to bring back Canadians home.

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 everything that is 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 / RESPONSES:

Q1. What are they transporting? Is it medical or other supplies?

Q2. What is being done to protect the crew?

Q3. What is the arrangement with China?

Q4. What are the warehouses in China for?

A1-4: 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 frontline healthcare workers across the country are equipped and protected in the fight against COVID-19.

By working directly with both new and existing suppliers and manufacturers, mobilizing Canadian industry and ensuring that suppliers have a clear pathway to supply goods and services that may be of use in response to COVID-19, we have placed orders and received millions of PPE supplies including masks, gloves and gowns. This includes engaging suppliers through the more than 22,000 submissions received to our call-out to suppliers at BuyandSell.gc.ca.

With regard to shipments from China, the Government of Canada has secured on the ground support, including an agreement with Bolloré Logistics Canada Inc. to provide transportation, receiving, storage services and customs clearances. This will be an ongoing process as orders are ready to be shipped to Canada.

The first two flights organized by Bolloré Logistics Canada Inc. arrived in Toronto on April 1 and 6, carrying essential goods, including personal protective equipment such as masks, required for our fight against COVID-19. On Monday's flight we received roughly 8 million surgical masks, and orders made directly by Nova Scotia and Quebec were also on board.

On April 9, a CargoJet Boeing 767 departed from Vancouver to Shanghai and is scheduled to return to Canada Saturday. It is expected to include a significant order of masks. Air Canada flights have also been arranged and are expected to return this weekend or early next week with additional PPE shipments. It is important to note that all deliveries are quality tested by PHAC once received in Canada before they are allocated and distributed.

The Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to provide assistance in shipping supplies by air from China. Orders for provinces and territories may also be included on these flights.

The health and safety of Canadians is the government's top priority as we respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Information on preventative measures, and guidelines and resources for industries and employers to use in the prevention of COVID-19 have been released by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, provinces, and industry associations. We fully expect all employers to follow the guidelines put forward by these public health organizations to protect their employees during this crisis.