

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** MacKnight, Aisling (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** March 31, 2020 8:05 AM  
**To:** Khalil, Samantha; Tojiboeva, Muna  
**Cc:** Saini, Sabina (HC/SC); Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC); Pascuzzo, Matt (HC/SC); Davidson, Cole (HC/SC); Exton, Adam (HC/SC)  
**Subject:** Health lines - March 31

Good morning,

Please see below for our lines.

### COVID-19 – CRITICAL CASES

- We are seeing an increase in the number of critical cases of COVID-19 in Canada.
- While our healthcare professionals work to keep us safe, **everyone needs to do their part** to stop the spread of COVID-19:
  - **Stay at home**
  - If you must leave, **practice social distancing**
  - If you are sick, **do not go outside** and **isolate yourself from others in your home**
  - Wash your hands regularly and clean commonly-used surfaces
- **Now more than ever**, our individual actions **matter**. These coming days and weeks will determine how we **work together** to flatten the curve.

### COVID-19 – DONATED MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- We are grateful for the donations of medical supplies from countries and organizations across the world.
- Health Canada is conducting thorough checks of any donated equipment before being used by Canadians, to ensure they are appropriate for use.
- We must make sure that the equipment that our healthcare workers rely on is high quality, so they can stay safe, and keep us safe too.

### COVID-19 – MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- We are **all working together** to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier this month, we announced funding towards the purchase of personal protective equipment and other necessary medical supplies and equipment.
- Your governments at **all** levels are **working together** to promote the appropriate use of personal protective equipment, assess potential shortfalls, identify priority items, and collaborate on procurement.
- We are **taking all action** to secure necessary equipment in real time, in direct collaboration with all provinces and territories, and with industry to identify suppliers to meet our shared needs.

#### *If pressed:*

- Products are being sourced from a number of suppliers from various countries.
- Procurement efforts will support the ramping up and building of domestic capacity, protecting jobs and securing long-term investment in Canada.
- We are building Canadian industrial capacity to serve our needs for the short and long terms. These efforts will help keep Canadians safe and healthy, while also ensuring a reliable domestic supply over the years to come.

#### *If pressed on getting products approved:*

- We are committed to expediting the review of products and safe alternatives, while maintaining the health and safety that our regulatory system is based on

- Regulatory review and approval timelines will be **accelerated** to ensure that personal protective equipment is readily available for our frontline healthcare workers.

Holding lines on COVID-19 death planning:

#### **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING**

- Medical assistance in dying is a difficult, complex and deeply personal issue. Canadians have diverse and evolving views, all of which need to be heard and respected.
- We brought forward legislation that proposes changes to the current law which have been informed by consultations with Canadians, experts, and the courts.
- The proposed amendments aim to reduce suffering and protect vulnerable persons, while supporting individual autonomy and freedom of choice.
- We will continue to work closely with provinces and territories, and engage with stakeholders and Canadians on this important issue.

Bonus: upcoming April religious observances (we are planning to share these with LRB for distribution to Caucus)

#### **COVID-19 – APRIL RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

- Many Canadians are preparing for important religious observances, like Passover, Easter, Vaisakhi or Ramadan.
- This year will look different than years past. We **all** have a role to play to stop the spread of COVID-19, which is why we are asking **all** Canadians to **stay home** and **practice social distancing**
- We must do this to keep our loved ones safe. Those that are celebrating should make arrangements to connect with friends and family virtually, over the phone or internet.

*Lines on the LTCFs and death planning to follow.*

Thanks,  
Ash

**Aisling MacKnight**

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