

**DRAFT**

**Speaking Notes**

**For**

**The Honourable Anita Anand,  
Minister of Public Services and Procurement**

**Announcement:  
Agreements for Access to Potential Vaccines**

**August 28, 2020**

## Introduction

Thank you, XXX, for that introduction, and thank you all for joining us today.

Alors que la fête du Travail approche, et que les parents, les enseignants et le personnel du secteur de l'éducation vivent un retour à l'école sans précédent, nous réalisons à quel point la COVID-19 a affecté nos vies.

J'apprécie sincèrement les efforts déployés par les travailleurs de première ligne dans les domaines de la santé et des services essentiels. C'est inspirant de voir autant de Canadiennes et de Canadiens faire leur part, en travaillant ensemble dans la lutte contre la COVID-19.

*As Labour Day approaches and parents, teachers, and education staff across the country are experiencing a return to school unlike any we have ever seen before, we are all reminded of the depth to which COVID-19 has affected our lives.*

*I sincerely appreciate the efforts of workers on the frontlines in both healthcare settings and organizations providing essential services. It is inspiring to see so many Canadians doing their part, working together to help fight COVID-19.*

## **Progress to date**

My department, Public Services and Procurement Canada, has been working to ensure that this country has sufficient supplies and personal protective equipment to battle the spread of the virus.

Along with procuring supplies on the global stage, our Government has taken concrete measures to increase Canada's capability to produce vital personal protective equipment here at home.

Just last week, the governments of Canada and Ontario announced investments so that the 3M facility in Brockville will soon be manufacturing millions of N95 respirators—a collaborative effort with the province of Ontario that will help protect our healthcare workers for years to come.

This transaction is an important example of the progress that Canada has made over these past months to ramp up domestic production of PPE and medical supplies right across the country.

La lutte contre la COVID-19 est un effort de l'Équipe Canada. Depuis le mois de Mars, nous avons conclu des ententes pour l'acquisition de plus de 2 milliards d'articles d'équipement de protection individuelle de toutes sortes, et nous avons travaillé main dans la main avec nos partenaires provinciaux et territoriaux pour livrer des blouses, des gants, des écrans faciaux et des masques aux travailleurs de première ligne.

*Fighting COVID-19 is a Team Canada effort and since March we have secured more than 2 billion articles of various personal protective equipment, working with our provincial and territorial partners to ensure that gowns, gloves, face shields and masks are available for frontline healthcare workers..*

In addition, acting on the advice of the Government's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force and Health Canada officials, we continue to work hard to ensure that Canadians will be at the front of the line as soon as a safe and effective vaccine becomes available.

Our strategy here is to secure agreements with developers of vaccine candidates so that Canadians are well positioned as clinical trials advance.

It is important to take a moment to highlight the complexity of the environment in which vaccine procurement is taking place. This is not simply a matter of distributing a standard form contract and having vaccine suppliers agree to our preferred terms.

The environment is intense, the demand is high and each negotiation is unique. We must take into account science and take into account doses, price, manufacturing and finishing needs of each company.

What this means is that we are announcing the agreements, and the details of these agreements, separately. We have been and continue to act aggressively, with tenacity and determination in order to be able to make these announcements about our vaccine procurements.

Our efforts are producing results. We are investing in a diverse portfolio of vaccines to ensure that as the science progresses, Canadians have access to a safe, effective, proven vaccine.

Recently, I announced the Government of Canada's agreements with Moderna and Pfizer to acquire their vaccine respective candidates.

The agreement with Moderna gives Canada access to up to 56 million doses of the vaccine.

The agreement with Pfizer provides access to a minimum of 20 million doses - and we are in advanced negotiations with Pfizer to add options for more.

## **Announcement**

Today, I am pleased to announce that Canada is adding to its portfolio lineup of potential vaccines, through the signing of agreements with Johnson & Johnson and Novavax.

The agreement with Johnson & Johnson will provide Canada with up to 38 million doses of its vaccine.

The agreement with Novavax adds up to 76 million doses.

Aujourd'hui, j'annonce que le Canada fait un ajout à sa gamme de vaccins potentiels, grâce à la signature d'ententes avec les compagnies Johnson & Johnson et Novavax.

L'entente conclue avec Johnson & Johnson nous donnera accès à un nombre de doses pouvant aller jusqu'à 38 millions.

L'entente conclue avec Novavax nous procure soixante-seize millions de doses supplémentaires.

All vaccine candidates must undergo successful clinical trials and receive Health Canada authorization prior to being distributed to Canadians.

We now have access to four potential vaccines and have secured a guaranteed minimum of 88-million doses with options for an additional 102-million doses, at Canada's discretion, for a total of 190-million doses.

Canada is also actively pursuing additional vaccine candidates. Our government has remained proactive so that we are prepared to protect Canadians who choose to be vaccinated.

In addition to the vaccine candidates themselves, we are also procuring supplies that will be needed in the manufacturing and packaging stages of vaccine production in Canada – this includes the materials needed to support safe and efficient immunization such as syringes, needles, and alcohol swabs.



Also, today I am pleased to announce we have procured three fill and finish vaccine systems from VanRx based in Burnaby, British Columbia.

These systems are the last portion of a vaccine production line which allows vials to be filled and finished without human intervention, thus allowing a rapid roll out of vaccines while minimizing waste.

In short, when a vaccine is ready, Canada will be ready.

Bien entendu, cela ne constitue pas la fin de notre travail. Au-delà du développement continu, des essais ainsi que de la fabrication et de la distribution de millions de doses à travers le pays, ces vaccins devront également recevoir l'approbation réglementaire de la part de Santé Canada.

Ces étapes prendront du temps, mais elles veilleront à ce qu'un vaccin sécuritaire et efficace soit accessible à toute la population canadienne.

*Of course, this does not represent end of the work at hand. Beyond the continued development, testing, and the manufacturing and distribution of millions of doses throughout the country, these vaccines will also require regulatory approval from Health Canada.*

*These steps will all take time, but will ensure a safe, effective vaccine is ready and available to all Canadians.*

## **Closing**

In closing, today's announcement about additional vaccine procurements is another critical step in Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, placing Canadians at the front of the line for a vaccine.

Les Canadiennes et les Canadiens peuvent être assurés que nous continuerons de faire tout notre possible pour les garder en santé et en sécurité.

Je continuerai de vous garder au courant de nos progrès à mesure que nous allons de l'avant.

Nous devons, pour le bénéfice de toutes les Canadiennes et de tous les Canadiens, explorer toutes les possibilités pour les vaccins, et c'est exactement ce que nous continuerons de faire.

*Canadians can rest assured that we will continue to do everything possible to keep them healthy and safe.*

*I will continue to share updates on our progress on this front as we move forward.*

We owe it to Canadians to explore every option for vaccines, and that is exactly what we will continue to do.

I will now turn to my colleague, Minister Hajdu, who will tell you more about the way forward.