

Speaking notes for 3M announcement

Minister Anita Anand

Brockville, ON 21 August 2020

Good afternoon,

Welcome Prime Minister, Premier Ford, Minister Fideli, Minister Clark – and thank you all for joining us here today on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and the Haudenosaune [ho-DEE-no-SHO-nee].

Depuis le début de cette pandémie, nos gouvernements ont travaillé avec diligence pour s'assurer que les travailleurs de la santé de première ligne et les services essentiels disposent de l'équipement de protection individuelle et des autres fournitures vitales dont ils ont besoin pour assurer notre sécurité à tous.

Au niveau fédéral, provincial, municipal - tous les ordres de gouvernement - travaillent à l'unisson pour une cause commune contre une menace qui ne reconnaît pas les juridictions ou les limites.

From the outset of this pandemic, our governments have worked diligently to ensure frontline healthcare and essential workers have the personal protective equipment and other vital supplies they need to keep all of us safe.

Federally, provincially, municipally – all levels of government are working in unison for common cause against a threat that does not recognize jurisdictions or boundaries.

At Public Services and Procurement Canada, we have pursued an aggressive and ambitious procurement strategy to sign long-term contracts in a hyper-competitive global market characterized by high demand across goods.

We have focused on diversifying supply chains in order to draw on multiple sources of PPE in this turbulent global marketplace.

This strategy is producing results as is evidenced by the orders and deliveries of PPE Canada has secured to date.

PPE Update

Canada has in place contracts for more than 2-billion articles of various PPE for delivery over the course of the current fiscal year.

And, I can report that, in the 5 months since we began to execute these contracts, we have received approximately three quarters of the face shields and surgical masks ordered, more than half of the gowns and more than 80 per cent of the hand sanitizer.

As health practitioners across the country will attest, N95s respirators have been a critical piece of our PPE preparedness.

By working with a wide variety of international suppliers, we have to date received more than 61-million N95 and KN-95 respirators.

This includes a steady supply of between 300-thousand to 500-thousand respirators a month from 3M's US facilities. It is a testament to a productive and collaborative relationship.

Throughout this process, it has become evident that when it comes to long-term solutions to Canada's needs – domestic production is a reliable and effective solution.

Vaccine update

SPAC poursuit également une stratégie d'achat agressive pour s'assurer que tous les Canadiens aient accès aux vaccins au fur et à mesure qu'ils seront disponibles.

Nous avons déjà annoncé des ententes pour des millions de doses en provenance de deux des principaux candidats-vaccins, et nous sommes dans les dernières étapes de négociation avec d'autres développeurs et fournisseurs.

J'espère avoir plus à dire au sujet de l'achat de vaccins supplémentaires dans un avenir proche.

PSPC is also pursuing an aggressive strategy to procurement when it comes to making sure that all Canadians will have access to vaccines as they become available.

We have already announced agreements for millions of doses from two of the leading vaccine candidates, and we are in advance negotiations with a number of other developers and suppliers. I expect to have more to say on additional vaccine procurements in the near future.

In addition, we have already signed contracts for 76-million needles and syringes and we expect to soon execute further contracts for other supplies necessary for the production and administration of vaccines on a large scale.

Conclusion

Il y a encore beaucoup de travail à faire, mais nous avons fait d'énormes progrès grâce aux sacrifices des Canadiens pour aplatir la courbe, aux milliers d'entreprises canadiennes qui ont répondu à l'appel de réoutiller leur chaîne de production et de produire de l'équipement et des fournitures essentiels, et à l'étroite collaboration entre tous les ordres de gouvernement à s'unir dans la lutte contre la COVID-19.

There is much more work to be done, but we have made enormous progress thanks to the sacrifices of Canadians to flatten the curve, the thousands of Canadian businesses that have answered the call to retool and produce vital equipment and supplies, and the close cooperation between all levels of government to unite in the fight against COVID-19.

This fight against COVID will continue for some time to come and we must be ready for the long-term.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and Premier Ford for supporting the work we are doing, and Penny Wise, the head of 3M Canada, for her advocacy and commitment to in bringing us all here today.

Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch.