

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO COVID-19**

**SYNOPSIS**

The Government of Canada has addressed this unprecedented situation with an equally unprecedented response. Since Canada received its earliest warning of an illness originating in Wuhan, China at the end of December 2019, the Government has been working collaboratively with provinces and territories as well as leveraging international partnerships to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

**POTENTIAL QUESTION**

What are the key accomplishments related to the COVID-19 response in Canada?

**KEY MESSAGES**

- The Government of Canada has addressed this unprecedented situation with an equally unprecedented response – with our Public Health Agency of Canada driving critical parts of our response.
- Canada is recognized internationally as a model example of working across jurisdictions to support a collaborative, whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Canada has effectively leveraged domestic and international partnerships to share technical expertise, exchange information, and learn from the experiences of other countries.
- This has helped us build a robust and agile response to the exceptional challenges that we are facing.
- None of these accomplishments would be possible without the strong partnerships that exist at all levels of governments, across jurisdictions and with key stakeholders, who are equally invested in protecting the health and safety of Canadians.

***IF PRESSED ON SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS***

- To reduce the risk of imported cases, the Public Health Agency of Canada enhanced screening measures at Canadian airports, and implemented travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine.
- Also, for the first time in our history, we undertook large-scale and controlled repatriation of Canadians from overseas and established temporary housing at designated quarantine sites.
- We offered public health guidance on how to protect the health and safety of Canadians and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- We have worked with provinces and territories and other stakeholders to accelerate diagnostic testing capacity in order to

detect cases of COVID-19 more quickly.

- We have also established a coordinated approach to the bulk purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment, to ensure that the right supplies get to the right places in Canada.
- We have developed a national approach to data collection and surveillance, to support the continued monitoring of COVID-19 across the country.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada, along with partners, is also working to support the development of a vaccine and treatment.

***IF PRESSED ON COMMUNICATIONS***

- The Public Health Agency of Canada has been proactive and transparent in its communications with Canadians.
- We have directly addressed the questions and concerns of tens of thousands of Canadians on various aspects of COVID-19 since the beginning of January.
- We have also initiated new ways to connect with Canadians, including the Canada COVID-19 App, an information phone line, and a centralized website.

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**BACKGROUND**

The Government of Canada’s top priority is the health and safety of Canadians. The overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic is based on the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events, with the goal to support collaboration and engagement amongst federal/provincial/territorial public health, health care delivery and emergency management authorities.

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