
SUBJECT /SUJET**B3 - PAYMENTS TO ACQUIRE PROTECTIVE GEAR AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PURSUANT TO THE *PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS OF NATIONAL CONCERN PAYMENTS ACT* - TABLING OF THE 2020–21 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A)**

ISSUE

Why is the Public Health Agency of Canada requesting \$1.8 billion to acquire protective gear and medical equipment pursuant to the *Public Health Events of National Concern Payments Act* in the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (A)?

RÉPONSE / RESPONSE

- **Personal protective equipment or PPE are essential to contain and mitigate the further spread of the virus, notably for health care providers and front line workers.**
 - **Federal, provincial and territorial stockpiles need to be regularly and urgently replenished to meet the growing demands of the COVID-19 pandemic on health system.**
 - **PHAC is exercising its role as the bulk purchaser of PPE and necessary medical equipment and supplies on behalf of the federal government and provinces and territories.**
 - **Additional funding of \$1.8 billion will support the rapid bulk procurement of essential PPE, medical equipment and supplies to meet urgent needs of federal partners and provinces and territories. This bulk procurement is in support of large-scale efforts to combat COVID-19.**
 - **In line with the requirement of the *Public Health Events of National Concern Payments Act*, funding would be accessed through the statutory authority.**
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- **L'équipement de protection individuelle (EPI) est essentiel à l'effort visant à limiter une plus ample propagation du virus, notamment chez les fournisseurs de soins de santé et les travailleurs de première ligne.**
 - **Les réserves fédérales, provinciales et territoriales doivent urgemment être reconstituées aux fins de la satisfaction de la demande croissante qui s'exerce sur le système de santé en raison de la pandémie de COVID-19, et le réapprovisionnement devra être régulier par la suite.**
 - **L'ASPC accomplit son rôle et achète en grande quantité au nom du gouvernement fédéral, des provinces et des territoires l'EPI ainsi que les fournitures et l'équipement médicaux requis.**

- **Un financement supplémentaire de 1,8 milliard de dollars appuierait l'acquisition rapide en grande quantité des fournitures, de l'équipement médical et de l'EPI essentiels à la satisfaction des besoins urgents des partenaires fédéraux, des provinces et des territoires. L'approvisionnement en grande quantité vise à soutenir les vastes efforts de lutte contre la COVID-19.**
- **Le financement serait obtenu par l'intermédiaire du pouvoir conféré par la Loi sur les paiements relatifs aux événements de santé publique d'intérêt national.**

KEY FACTS

- It is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic is presenting an unprecedented public health threat that will require increased efforts over a prolonged period of time.
- It is of critical importance that Canada continues to move quickly to ensure that sufficient supplies of health assets are secured for front-line workers.
- At this time, sourcing supply of PPE, medical equipment and supplies is challenging and highly variable with many suppliers requiring high up-front advance payments.

BACKGROUND

- Key anticipated purchases include: PPE, such as gloves, N95 respirators and equivalents (e.g., KN95; FFP2), surgical masks, face shields, and protective gowns; and medical equipment and supplies such as thermometers, ventilators, and testing kits and swabs. These priorities are subject to change as the situation continues to evolve and as opportunities and availabilities of health assets for purchase arise.
- Concerns regarding potential global shortages has prompted some countries to take proactive measures to ensure adequate supply. For example, as of March 15, 2020, the European Union (EU) imposed an EU-wide export ban for some medical PPE.
- Given these global actions, Canada needs to move quickly to ensure that sufficient supplies of health assets are secured for its front-line workers and citizens.
- The additional funding of \$1.8 billion will be used to address ongoing pressures that have surfaced with COVID-19 response. This includes:
 - additional PPE and supply purchases;
 - purchase of additional ventilators from domestic suppliers;
 - purchase of IV pumps necessary for use with ventilators;
 - purchase of mask sterilization units to enable the re-use of N95 masks; and
 - other items, including transport and logistics costs associated with transporting PPE from China.

Financial Details

(In dollars)	2020-21 Supps (A)	2021-22 ARLU	2022-23 ARLU	2023-24 ARLU	2024-25 and ongoing
Statutory Vote	1,800,000,000	0	0	0	0

Anticipated Results

- The initiatives outlined above will ensure that Canada continues to be well positioned to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the short and medium-term while more long-term solutions are developed.

Prepared by Préparé par	Key Contact Expert-conseil	Approved by Approuvé par	Date
Janet Marth Senior Financial Analyst, Resource Management and Analysis, OCFO	Tomasz Popiel Director, Resource Management and Analysis, OCFO 613-793-1322	Carlo Beaudoin Chief Financial Officer 613-948-5798	June 9, 2020