

McKenna, Neil

From: Kim, Sabrina
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:07 PM
To: PMO.F ExecutiveTeam / Équipe Executive F.CPM; Gagnon, Chantal; Ahmad, Cameron
Cc: PMO.O.IM All Staff / Tout le personnel GE.O.CPM
Subject: Summary: Empty PPE planes

Hi,

As you may know, two Air Canada charter flights that were intended to bring PPE back to Canada from China left empty over the weekend due to congestion issues at the Shanghai airport.

Mr. Scheer said in the House today that three empty planes had arrived empty over the weekend, but we are only aware of two.

Please see below for a summary of what we currently know:

One of the planes was supposed to carry medical supplies that we had procured at the federal level, and the other was supposed to have supplies destined for Manitoba (that we had offered to assist them with).

Volumes at the Shanghai airport are considerably higher than normal and trucks outside the airport now have a 40+ hour wait to be able to unload supplies from the warehouse. Further, due to strict Chinese quarantine rules, Air Canada air crew can't stay long at the airport.

There was a crew switch in Tokyo, but the combination of the congestion & quarantine rules meant that two flights had to leave Shanghai empty.

Our next four flights are with Cargo Jet, not Air Canada and officials are considering alternate airports if congestion at Shanghai can not be solved. Ambassador Barton is very engaged on this issue.

We have asked Manitoba for more information at the officials and political level, and there is a 4C tonight with officials where we expect to receive new updates.

Mia Rabson (Canadian Press) reached out to PMO and PSPC for comment after she heard Mr. Scheer's comments in the House today. We are working on a response.

Thanks.

Sabrina Kim
Issues Advisor
Office of the Prime Minister
613-795-7803