

## McKenna, Neil

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**From:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <cecely.roy@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:37 PM  
**To:** Gagnon, Chantal; Kim, Sabrina  
**Cc:** Stickney, Matt; Clow, Brian; Ahmad, Cameron; Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Subject:** Re: Planes that returned empty -- China

Here is what we are proposing:

PSPC is working in collaboration with Ambassador Barton and his team on the ground in China, who are working closely with Chinese authorities as part of our efforts to ensure that Canada has the medical supplies we need in the fight against COVID-19.

There is a surge in global demand for PPE and medical supplies as a result of the current crisis, and as China is a leading producer of these goods, many nations and organizations including Canada, are working to buy these supplies in the Chinese marketplace. We thank them for their work with Canadian officials as we navigate the complexity of logistics on the ground.

### ***Cecely Roy***

*Press Secretary | Attachée de presse*

*Office of the Minister of Public Services and Procurement | Bureau de la ministre des Services publics et de l'Approvisionnement*

*(343) 549-7293*

On Apr 22, 2020, at 5:02 PM, Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC) <emily.harris@canada.ca> wrote:

I'm adding Cecely - we'll work on something.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gagnon, Chantal [mailto:Chantal.Gagnon@pmo-cpm.gc.ca]

Sent: April 22, 2020 4:55 PM

To: Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC) <emily.harris@canada.ca>

Cc: Kim, Sabrina <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Stickney, Matt <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Clow, Brian <Brian.Clow@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Ahmad, Cameron <Cameron.Ahmad@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Planes that returned empty -- China

Hi Emily,

See below. Could you guys draft something that doesn't contradict different versions here? Could be something along the lines of thanking Chinese authorities on the ground for their collaboration on such a complex environment in terms of logistics and organization.

Can we please see what it would look like?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Chase, Steven" <SChase@globeandmail.com<mailto:SChase@globeandmail.com>>  
Date: April 22, 2020 at 4:32:27 PM EDT  
To: "Gagnon, Chantal (Chantal.Gagnon@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Chantal.Gagnon@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>)" <Chantal.Gagnon@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Chantal.Gagnon@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>, "cameron.ahmad@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:cameron.ahmad@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>" <cameron.ahmad@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:cameron.ahmad@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>  
Subject: Planes that returned empty -- China

Hi. On Tuesday the Prime Minister talked at his briefing about the planes which returned empty. He cited "severe restrictions on the ground in China in terms of how long a plane can actually stay in their airports before having to leave whether it's full or not." China's foreign ministry, however, disputes this. They say there is no restriction on ground time. You can see below from China's MFA comments:

My question is: Can you please respond to China's comments.

1) Given what MFA is saying, does the PM want to revise his comments about ground time? Or do the comments stand? I am specifically asking you about the "severe restrictions on the ground ... in terms of how long a plane can actually stay in their airports before having to leave whether it's full or not."

Thanks

Steven Chase

PM Trudeau:

"We have - I got more information on the issue around the two planes that landed empty. One was a government of Canada charter. The other was chartered by a specific province for one of their orders. There are severe restrictions on the ground in China in terms of how long a plane can actually stay in their airports before having to leave whether it's full or not. And at the same time, supply lines and truck shipments to the airports are difficult and interrupted by checkpoints and quarantine measures.

Chinese Foreign Ministry:

AFP: Yesterday Canadian Prime Minister said that two planes sent to China to pick up shipments of medical supplies were forced to return to Canada empty. He said it was because of China's ground time limit for charter flights. Can you confirm this news and do you have any comment on that?

Geng Shuang: Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and Canada have been offering each other support and assistance and conducting anti-pandemic cooperation. Recently, the Canadian side has purchased medical supplies through various channels in China and sent charter flights to Shanghai to bring them home. China has been assisting and facilitating the Canadian side in its purchase, customs clearance and charter flight permits. The Canadian side has also expressed thanks for this on various occasions.

As to the incident involving two Canadian flights returning empty, we have checked with the competent department and found relevant reports to be inaccurate. Relevant airports and civil aviation authorities place no limit on the ground time of chartered cargo planes.

Steven Chase  
Globe and Mail  
Ottawa bureau  
Landline: 613-566-3612  
Cell: 613-297-3164  
Twitter: @stevenchase<<https://twitter.com/stevenchase>>