

McKenna, Neil

From: Kim, Sabrina
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:11 PM
To: Telford, Katie; Clow, Brian; Broadhurst, Jeremy; Stickney, Matt; Chin, Ben; Ahmad, Cameron
Cc: Belliveau, Sébastien; Khalil, Samantha
Subject: UPDATE: Empty PPE plane issue

Please see below for an update on the empty PPE plane issue:

- We can confirm that only one empty plane arrived over the weekend from China that was supposed to contain supplies procured by the GoC
- The second empty plane that was intended to contain supplies for Manitoba **was not related** to the GoC in any way
 - o AND while the GoC has offered to help other jurisdictions with transporting supplies that they've procured independently of us, officials confirmed that we had **not** offered that assistance to Manitoba in this instance (in other words, the second empty plane is not related to the GoC in any way)
- As previously mentioned, there is a 40+ hour wait for trucks en route to the airport & China has strict quarantine rules for ppl entering the country, meaning air crews cannot stay at the airport for an extended period of time to wait for supplies to be unloaded onto planes
- Officials say the congestion is related to:
 - o 1) an increase in checkpoints at their terminal
 - o 2) an increase in volume in the amount of supplies leaving the country
- China has also been ratcheting up quality control inspections on medical-grade PPEs before they leave the country, which may have also led to an increase in the # of the checkpoints that they have instituted at their terminal
- As previously mentioned, the next four flights leaving from China are via Cargo Jet (rather than Air Canada)
- We are told that the 40+ hour lineups are for the passenger terminal that Air Canada flies out of, and that the cargo terminal that Cargo Jet flies out of is not facing the same congestion issue
- Steve Chase, Glen McGregor, Tonda MacCharles and Mia Rabson asked PSPC for comment and PSPC said that: 1) Canada had multiple flights over the weekend bringing in millions of items; 2) there was an issue with congestion at the airport and with pilot hours; 3) we're working with our teams on the ground to address and mitigate this issue for going forward

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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.

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