

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: October 16, 2020 7:23 PM
To: 'Zi-Ann Lum'
Subject: RE: Correction, please

Hi there,

First, the story still makes no mention whatsoever that nearly all of these contracts have since been posted. I check that site regularly from my laptop and phones and haven't encountered a problem – that said, I will flag to my IT dept.

For you clarification – virtually all of the past contracts have already been disclosed and are listed both on our website and also on the open government site.

The few exceptions are limited to 3 specific commodities that, as the website says: Given the intense competition for PPE and other supplies, and in the interests of Canadians, PSPC must protect the names of suppliers for certain commodities that are difficult to procure, including N95 respirators, gloves and swabs.

James

From: Zi-Ann Lum [mailto:ziann.lum@huffpost.com]
Sent: October 16, 2020 4:45 PM
To: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Correction, please

Hi James,

Thanks for your message. I tried calling you for clarification on some of the data points you mentioned. Are the 32 being withheld because a NSE was invoked?

I shared the memo with the deputy minister in my request for comment last week. It was subsequently transferred to the media relations team. It stated a "vast majority of contracts PSPC has put in place have included a National Security Exemption." I thought "at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic" time peg was clear, but I can see how your reading of the first two lines can be interpreted that way. It has been updated to past tense clarity.

Here's my request for clarification: Regarding that response provided to me by the department (re: "...we are now disclosing the majority of our COVID-19 contracting information on our web page as well as through normal proactive disclosure requirements) -- does that specifically mean new contracts going forward? Have the details of those early contracts alluded to in the May memo all been proactively disclosed?

Sidebar: I had a heck of a time opening that website on different devices. Heads up that if you're sending that link out, a lot of people will be unable to access it. I got several "This site uses an outdated security configuration" warnings.

I'm at 343-996-2251 if you prefer phone.

- Zi-Ann