

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 19, 2020 9:51 AM  
**To:** Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Lucie Brosseau; Martine Skelton; Media; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Rachel Lagacé; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie  
**Subject:** For MO Approval: Media Response / Tier 1 - COVID-19: N95 masks / CBC News (Regina)

Good morning James and Cecely – Happy Friday!

For MO approval please.

New content in purple. HC content in yellow.

Please note the reporter has followed up with us yesterday afternoon and is eager to obtain a response.

Thanks,

Marc  
873-354-7219

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**Media Response**  
**CBC News (Regina)**  
**Leo, Geoff (CBC News (Regina))**  
**Date call received: June-15-20 at 10:30**  
**Deadline: June-16-20 at 17:00**  
**Tier 1 - COVID-19: N95 masks**

**CONTEXT** (for your information): The reporter is working on a story about N95 masks and has a few questions for PSPC and HC.

**PSPC lead on Q1 and Q4.**

**HC will lead on Q2-Q3 and Q5.**

### **VALUE STATEMENT:**

The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories on an ongoing basis to identify their needs and purchase required equipment, supplies, and services to combat COVID-19.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is taking an aggressive approach to buying—especially when it comes to personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers. This includes:

- Ordering ahead in bulk on behalf of provinces and territories
- Supplementing those orders by purchasing everything that is immediately available;
- Ramping up the domestic manufacturing capacity, through the Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, being led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

This is over and above the efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supply.

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

**Q1. On April 30 Ottawa reported that it had received just over 9 million n95 masks. Now, a month and a half later we have just 3.5 million more — about 12.5 million despite the fact Ottawa has about 100 million masks on order. Why have we received so few masks and why are they just trickling in? (PSPC)**

**Q4. When will n95 masks be produced in Canada? Please provide the timeline and how many are expected to be produced on a monthly basis. (PSPC)**

The reality is that all countries—including us—are facing stiff global competition when it comes to securing supplies. That's why, where possible, we continue to aggressively buy needed supplies that meet our requirements. We are working with a range of suppliers and distributors, both domestically and internationally.

As we are placing as many orders as possible to meet both short-term and long-term needs of Canada, our orders are not all fulfilled at once and we are receiving regular deliveries. Supplies are arriving by air, land and sea, and the volume of deliveries is increasing on a daily basis for all PPE, including masks.

For example, we are receiving regular shipments of 500k respirators from 3M every month. We also recently signed an agreement with Medicom of Pointe-Claire, Quebec, to provide 20 million N95 respirators and 24 million surgical masks made in Canada a year, for the next 10 years, starting this summer. We expect deliveries of domestically-produced surgical masks from Medicom to start in July and deliveries of N95 respirators to start in August. Under the agreement, we will receive between 250,000 and 2.5 million masks monthly.

**Q2. Of the 12.5 million masks received so far, how many have been provided to the provinces as per Ottawa's arrangement with the provinces. Please advise how many masks have been sent to each province. As part of that breakdown please indicate how many masks were provided that are actually useable by medical professionals. And please indicate how many defective KN 95 mask's were provided to the provinces. (HC)**

To date, the Government of Canada has allocated over 3.1M N95 respirators and equivalents (e.g., KN95; FFP2) to provinces and territories. This is in accordance with the allocation strategy approved by the federal-provincial-territorial Ministers of Health that distributes 80% of deliveries received to provinces and territories on a per capita basis, with the remaining 20% held at the National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS) to facilitate response to critical requests for assistance.

If the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) cannot account for the quality, product is not allocated to the provinces and territories for frontline healthcare response. To that end, because of PHAC's due diligence, approximately 10M KN95 respirators were found to not meet the technical specifications for healthcare settings. To date, close to 2M of these respirators have been redirected to other organizations outside the health system.

**Q3. What has been done with the remainder of the masks not provided to the provinces? (HC)**

Product that does not meet the Government of Canada technical specifications for healthcare settings is subsequently assessed for potential use in non-healthcare settings.

**Q5. Does Ottawa currently have any orders with Chinese manufacturers? What is being done to ensure the quality of the products received? Is any testing being done in China? If so please describe? Is Ottawa or its suppliers paying any money up front for mask orders. If so what percentage is being paid up front? (HC)**

Personal protective equipment and medical supplies received by the Government of Canada, whether procured internationally or domestically, is verified by PHAC that it meets the Government of Canada technical specifications for COVID-19 response. This process may include receiving samples of the product and verifying the quality before an order is shipped to Canada. (HC)

PSPC is working with a range of suppliers and distributors, and we have strong processes in place to help ensure that the supplies we receive meet all necessary standards. The large majority of the products that we have received to date have met PHAC standards for use.

Controls are in place at various points of our procurement process.

- First, PSPC is working closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Health Canada on all purchases, to ensure they meet standards and requirements. Suppliers are required to verify that the products they are selling meet specific standards and requirements for that product type, as is set out by Health Canada.
- Second, measures implemented by the exporting nation require additional inspections before products are cleared for export. We have also put in place on-the-ground oversight from factory to flight. We hired on-the-ground support, including from Bolloré Logistics Canada Inc., to provide transportation, receiving, storage services and support for customs clearances. This includes providing oversight and monitoring of products from the time they leave the manufacturing facility, until they are secured on the plane.
- Finally, as supplies arrive in Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) conducts stringent testing of items before they go out to provinces and territories.