

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Kim, Sabrina <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 30, 2020 4:32 PM  
**To:** Laycock, Tristan (SPAC/PSPC); Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Subject:** FW: Premier Ford comments on supplies / PPEs / testing capacity / re-tooling

FYI

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**From:** Kim, Sabrina  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** Stickney, Matt <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Valois, Jeff <Jeff.Valois@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Dhillon, Angad <Angad.Dhillon@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Zimmerman, Shannon <Shannon.Zimmerman@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Premier Ford comments on supplies / PPEs / testing capacity / re-tooling

Hello – I've highlighted everything below that is relevant to supplies / PPEs / testing capacity / re-tooling etc.:

### SUMMARY - REMARKS

#### **Premier Ford**

- I made a commitment to be upfront about what we are facing
- This weekend I went to a medical supplies warehouse in Ontario – we took a hard look at the inventory – these items are in short supply around the world
- We're in the process of securing massive amounts of new inventory
- We're working with the feds – we've purchased orders, we have businesses lining up to help Ontario against COVID-19
- Will take time for local production to ramp up & new supplies to come in
- If there is a massive surge of ppl, our supply lines will be seriously challenged
- If we push that surge as far away as possible – we will save lives
- The streets were packed this weekend and that is unacceptable
- Everyone needs to take a hard work at their habits and we're prepared to take further action if we do not see the spread of this virus slow down in the coming days
- Our story in ON can be diff from Italy's and Spain's but only if we take this seriously
- We need to protect our senior populations, we need to put an iron ring around our seniors and other vulnerable populations
- If you're over the age of 70 or you have an underlying medical condition, stay home and self-isolate
- Doubling commitment for seniors to a total of \$10m today

### SUMMARY - MEDIA QA

#### **Laura Stone – Globe**

**Q: You've talked about wanting to protect seniors and the vulnerable. We reported in our paper today a horrifying situation in a long-term care home in Bobcaygeon. 9 residents have died, staff have symptoms of coronavirus. What are you doing specifically to help this home and how many more care homes are facing this exact situation?**

#### **Ford**

- Condolences to the families

#### **Minister Fullerton**

- We started weeks ago understanding the risk in our long-term care homes & are working around the clock to create that iron ring around our long-term care homes
- Doing everything possible to ensure all measures are taken to address this particular issue

- Increased screening, increased self-isolation for staff, increased self-isolation for new people in the home

**Q: Will you commit to systemic reporting to outbreaks in nursing homes? This has only been revealed through journalism. Are you now going to post this publicly of where this is happening? And are you going to commit to testing more than three people in a home?**

**Min Fullerton**

- Discussing with Chief Medical Officer of Health
- There will be more intense screening, will be more ways to isolate new people coming into homes
- We're looking at other measures to address this issue, absolutely tragic

**Allison Jones – CP**

**Q: Can you be a bit more specific on any more measures you're looking at for long-term care homes? Is it too late now that the virus is in these homes?**

**Min Fullerton**

- Screening is critical
- Isolation, testing, treating & tracing priorities, as per WHO
- We are in shortage of test kits – we do have a supply, there will be a priority for long-term care, other measures taken into transfers into long-term care homes
- Looking into this tragic event

**Q: Case numbers are increasing, we're going to have some supply issues if we don't get self-isolation under control. What are you waiting for to take another step that you hinted at is possible? What do you need to see happen?**

**Premier Ford**

- As soon as we get the advice off our medical experts – we act immediately
- When we got advice re: schools – we acted within an hour
- We will be discussing emergency shutdowns
- Absolutely everything is on the table
- We are in a race when it comes to medical supplies that are in desperate need around the world and we're in a race against this virus
- The next few weeks are absolutely critical on which way this curve is going to go
- The more that ppl can help & practice social distancing, the quicker we can get through this
- I'll tell you a story about the supplies – both myself and Minister Elliott and Minister Phillips went to the supply depot – we saw the masks and gloves – we have enough to keep us going for the next few weeks but if there is a surge, it will put a strain on them
- We have orders for millions & millions of items coming in, and we are all over these people
- We are around the clock
- I had a call that there was this company in Markham that had face masks – company called dental brands – I got on the phone with them yesterday
- I said if you're free today I'd like to come by and pick these up today to get them in the system
- They donated 100,000 face masks (level 2 masks)
- Police took 10,000 and I took 90,000 and brought them over to the warehouse; this is the spirit
- Thank you to all the companies
- A lot of ppl coming forward with face shields – the ingenuity of ppl of Ontario is incredible
- There is no better army than what I have behind me – of the people in this province
- Our healthcare workers are maxed out, even the frontline responders

**Victoria Gibson – iPolitics**

**Q: We've heard a lot of appreciation from your gov in recent weeks towards frontline healthcare workers. At the end of 2019, we saw the Ontario Nurses association challenge your actions re: wage cap. Would you consider wage increases for these nurses that go above 1%?**

**Premier Ford**

- Don't want to be standing up here negotiating right now

- I have always appreciated nurses, and people who clean hospitals etc.
- If it was up to me – I would just give them the bank
- They are worth every single penny and ten times more but we're going to have to sit down & review that when we get through this
- I love the frontline folks out there, I want to help everyone and we'll do everything we can
- We'll sit down and have that discussion

**Q: I understand the OMA is in urgent negotiations with the ministry over supports for physicians over the next few months. Are you considering offering any additional compensation to docs at this time?**

**Minister Elliott**

- This is something that we will deal with once we're past this issue
- OMA, ONA and other employee reps – we're working well together
- Right now – we need everyone to participate & be involved in this fight

**Brian Lilley – Toronto Sun**

**Q: You declared an emergency on March 15<sup>th</sup> and it was to take effect until March 31<sup>st</sup>. Have you extended that, are you extending that?**

**Premier Ford**

- We will be extending that
- It goes two weeks at a time & we will be extending that

**Q: For how long?**

**Premier Ford**

- Yes, it goes two weeks at a time
- We will be renewing that

**Q: I know you've tried to bury political hatchets since the elxn. Fed carbon tax is set to go up by 50% on Wed. When I asked the PM an hour and a bit ago. He said no – it is important for the fight against pollution and puts more \$ in peoples' pockets. What are your thoughts?**

**Premier Ford**

- I am not going to get deep into this
- I want to do everything we can to put more money into peoples' pockets
- I want to thank the PM and the DPM and the fed gov
- They have rly stepped up to the plate
- They have rly put a lot of money in and I want to thank them
- That is a discussion that we can have when we get through this
- They have done tremendous work, they are working very collaboratively with us
- PM is on the phone right across the province right across the country, DPM too
- DPM is an absolute champion, I talk to her every single day
- We are on the same team, we're on Team Canada
- We're going to put all the politics aside

**Colin D'Mello – CTV News**

**Q: What would you need to experience in order to issue a mandatory stay home order? What do you need to use to take this next step?**

**Premier Ford**

- I need advice from our med professionals & chief medical officer
- I want to work hand in hand with the fed gov
- The next few weeks are extremely srs, I just cannot say anything about it
- This is about cooperation, not by forcing ppl to do things
- Pls do your best to stay at home

**Q: What type of PPE do staff and employees at nursing homes & long term care homes and if they want that equipment – how does that work?**

**Minister Fullerton**

- In contact with homes to understand what PPE issues are
- It is something we're working on with the Chief Medical Officer of Health to understand what is needed
- We're working with the ministry and public health ON & the chief medical officer of health

**Jamie – CP24**

**Q: You said the next couple of weeks will be extremely critical. Ppl disobeying instructions & guidelines. I see new guidelines from your chief medical officer of health – at what point will you implement stricter measures to get police to disperse large groups? And would you consider a hotline to get people to snitch?**

**Premier Ford**

- We don't have enough police in this province to monitor all these people
- But everything is on the table
- I will not hesitate to pull the trigger on that
- Yes – to be frank, yesterday was shocking

**Q: Last week I covered cases from a senior's home in Markham. Numbers continue to rise. Many nurses who tested positive were going back into common areas among nurses while still wearing the same PPEs. I am hearing some of these individuals had a lack of access / supply of PPEs. Given ppl in these facilities are the most vulnerable, how can we make sure ppl in these facilities have access to an abundance of these PPEs?**

**Min Fullerton**

- Looking at ways to cohort patients and staff so positive residents in one area
- PPEs is another issue and I am looking around at the outpouring in our communities and it is amazing outpouring from the community
- This is absolutely paramount

**Lisa – CBC**

**Q: Why haven't lab test results been provided to hospitals for more than 340 suspected cases of COVID-19 among ICU patients?**

**Min Elliott**

- We have a system of reporting, we report confirmed cases of course
- We also have a list of suspected cases that are being dealt with in hospitals as though they are active cases
- We have increased our testing capability – we have a centralized reporting system
- We have reduced the number of outstanding cases by about half
- We are at about 4,000 tests per day now
- We should be at 5,000 in the next day or so

**Q: What kind of directives the Ministry of Health has put into place about patients who are in care homes when they get COVID. Care in place vs. care in hospitals?**

**Min Fullerton**

- Depends on the circumstance in terms of the individual
- No discrimination based on age
- Policies, procedures and protocols driven by Chief medical officer of health

**CHCH TV**

**Q: Over the weekend, the FDA approved a 5 minute COVID test manufactured by Abbott Laboratories. They have a huge presence in Markham etc. Have you reached out to them and tried to acquire?**

**Premier Ford**

- We have an order with Spartan – we have 900,000 tests on order
- I believe HC approved it – we need those kits to be able to find out in mins rather than days
- We are surging the system, making sure we're testing as many people as possible, making sure the labs are ramped up

**Min Elliott**

- As the Premier indicated, we're reaching out to any suppliers including Spartan, Abbott, many others
- Trying to get supplies as quickly as possible
- Premier and I are getting on the phones ourselves and making calls and placing orders
- We will continue to reach out

**Q: Is any consideration being given to ramp up supports for personal care workers who are looking after elderly people and simply can't go out?**

**Min Elliott**

- Yes, looking at health human resources because we know there will be situations where some of the frontline workers may not be able to go to work etc.
- We are providing for that – we have set up a volunteer line, thousands of ppl have volunteered to help from nurses, medical students and volunteers who are willing to do whatever is needed
- Also looking at building PPE capacity