

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Andy Blatchford <ablatchford@politico.com>
Sent: July 22, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)
Subject: RE: PPE from China

Hi Cecely,

Thank you for this. I have a couple of questions for you related to this line in your response: "When awarding contracts, the department of Public Services and Procurement Canada requires suppliers to agree to terms and conditions prohibiting these labour practices, and is conducting an integrity check into each supplier's background."

- When making purchases from suppliers during the pandemic, especially those from China, has the government still been requiring them to agree to terms conditions prohibiting labour practices such as human rights abuses including forced labour?
- Has the government been conducting an integrity check into each supplier's background – including those in China -- during the pandemic?
- If so, have the integrity checks discovered anything concerning for Canadian officials? Have any purchases been cancelled due to these concerns?

Thanks again for your help.

Andy

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From: [Roy, Cecely \(SPAC/PSPC\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:54 PM
To: [Andy Blatchford](#)
Cc: [fitz-morris, James \(SPAC/PSPC\)](#)
Subject: Re: PPE from China

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Andy,

As mentioned in our conversation for your background information yesterday, please see below our response to both questions in writing - attributable to me or our office.

Thank you,

Cecely Roy

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1. Throughout the pandemic, there has been a surge in global demand for the PPE and medical supplies required in response to COVID-19. As a result, we continue to operate in a highly competitive marketplace, while facing the risks posed by the fragility of international supply chains.

While our work across government over the past months, including in partnership with Canadian officials and third-party logistics support on the ground in China, has helped to stabilize Canada's supply chains for PPE and medical supplies, we are not operating in normal circumstances and challenges continue to persist.

Considering the sustained pressure on supply chains as a result of the global competition for the same products, if we were to disclose information about specific contracts or suppliers, particularly with respect to international suppliers, we could jeopardize Canada's supply chains for these life-saving products. This would put our delivery to Canada and into the hands of frontline workers at risk, as we equip them in the immediate term and prepare for potential surges or future waves of the pandemic.

While we are not able to disclose specific details regarding suppliers and contracts related to Canada's procurement in response to COVID-19 at this time given the current environment, we intend to provide more information at a time when this risk has passed.

2. Our government is committed to ensuring the highest ethical standards for government procurement, and preventing human rights abuses including forced labour in federal-supply chains. When awarding contracts, the department of Public Services and Procurement Canada requires suppliers to agree to terms and conditions prohibiting these labour practices, and is conducting an integrity check into each supplier's background.

As part of our government's National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, we are taking steps to enhance oversight and scrutiny over our supply chains with the goal of ensuring that they are free from human trafficking and labour exploitation. We are working to add further protections against the use of forced labour in federal supply chains.

Canada remains deeply disturbed by the troubling reports on the situation in Xinjiang and have voiced our concerns. We have taken sustained action by publicly and consistently calling on the Chinese government to end the repression in Xinjiang.

This is an issue that we take very seriously, and will continue to address.

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On Jul 21, 2020, at 1:59 PM, Andy Blatchford <ablatchford@politico.com> wrote:

Hi Cecely,

I just want to make sure you saw this email from me earlier. I also have additional questions:

Is Canada taking precautions to ensure that PPE and other supplies purchased from China were not manufactured by forced labour? If so, what is being done?

Thanks so much,
Andy

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From: [Andy Blatchford](#)
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:04 AM
To: [Roy, Cecely \(SPAC/PSPC\)](#)
Subject: PPE from China

Hi Cecely,

Would you send me a list of the names of companies that Canada has purchased PPE from in China since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Or is it available online somewhere?

Thanks so much,
Andy

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