

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: April 28, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Bryan Blom; Elizabeth Lindsay; Emmanuelle Gallays; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Martine Skelton; Media; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie
Subject: For MO approval - Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - PPE shortages and price gouging in Canada / The Washington Post

Afternoon Cecely, Emily,

For your approval.

Charles.

Media response

The Washington Post

Hamburger, Tom (The Washington Post)

Date call received: April-27-20 at 11:10

Deadline: April-27-20 at 17:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - PPE shortages and price gouging in Canada

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter had an interview over the weekend with a former deputy health minister from the Netherlands, who described that country's struggle to locate masks and other PPE, one that has far less price gouging and confusion than what they are experiencing in the U.S. The reporter is looking for an overall assessment of how things are going.

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.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Q1. Has Canada, with more centralized purchasing and administration, also been relatively successful in fighting price gouging and distribution inequities?

As the Government of Canada's central purchaser, our sole objective is to secure the supplies that healthcare workers need to protect themselves and Canadians.

Our procurement specialists are working around the clock, in close collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada, to secure needed equipment and supplies. We are working directly with both new and existing suppliers and manufacturers and mobilizing Canadian industry to increase domestic capacity.

We are placing as many orders as possible in anticipation of future needs, to ensure supplies are available for provinces, territories, frontline health workers and Canadians. This is over and above the efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supply.

While it is much too early to speculate about total costs, we recognize that we are operating within a highly volatile market and there is intense global demand for scarce supply and this, without question, is translating into higher costs.

With regard to the distribution of supplies, we are working with provinces and territories to provide assistance in shipping supplies by air from China. Orders for provinces and territories have been included on our flights **and transported back to Canada** before being distributed to provinces and territories as quickly as possible, under the oversight of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

For more information on how supplies are being distributed, please contact the Public Health Agency of Canada.