

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 15, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Harris, Emily (SPAC/PSPC); 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 - Follow-up: COVID-19 - Procurement of ventilators / Blacklock's Reporter

Good afternoon everyone,

For MO approval, please. [New info](#).

Merci

Marc
873-354-7219

Media response
Blacklock's Reporter
Korski, Tom (Blacklock's Reporter)
Date call received: May-13-20 at 13:30
Deadline: May-15-20 at 16:00
Tier 1 - Follow-up: COVID-19 - Procurement of ventilators

CONTEXT (for your information): The reporter has following questions on NSE and if the government has declined offers from suppliers to provide PPE.

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 limited-availability supplies that are 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 / RESPONSES:

Q1. What national security exceptions has the department applied to procurement of PPE? Specifically when, how often and why?

The Government of Canada is engaged in an unprecedented effort to acquire supplies and equipment to ensure that our front-line healthcare workers and Canadians stay safe and healthy. We are aggressively procuring in the global marketplace, while facing the risks posed by fragile supply chains, the fluidity of the current situation, and a surge in demand.

Some of the procurements being carried out in response to COVID-19 are being done under a national security exception (NSE), meaning that many solicitation documents are not published on Buyandsell. This allows us to move rapidly to purchase goods and services to protect the health and safety of Canadians as we face this pandemic. Similar procurement flexibilities are being applied by other countries around the world, due to COVID-19.

We are posting some solicitation documents for COVID-19 related procurements on Buyandsell, particularly in cases where we need to broaden our search for information or sources of supply. For example, we recently published a [Request for Proposal for logistics services](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Another example is the [Notice of Proposed Procurement for cloth face masks](#), which we recently published on behalf of the Department of National Defence.

We have also publicly announced several contracts over the past few weeks and will continue to do so. We are also providing information about our response, for example, by posting details of our orders and deliveries of personal protective equipment [online](#).

Q2. Has the department declined any provision for PPE, solicited or not, from any supplier with operations IN Canada or North America?

We are working directly with both new and existing suppliers and manufacturers, [in Canada and internationally, to support Canada's response to COVID-19. We are contracting for a range of supplies that meet our needs and meet Canadian standards.](#)

Response provided to the reporter on May 13:

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.

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

In response to your questions, we are aggressively procuring in the global marketplace, while facing the risks posed by fragile supply chains, the fluidity of the current situation, and a surge in demand. We continue to seek out all options to

get these medical supplies and equipment to our frontline workers. We are placing orders with existing suppliers as well as new suppliers at home and abroad.

Our priority is ensuring that front-line healthcare workers receive the supplies and equipment they need to stay safe and healthy. All products must meet the requirements or specifications established by Health Canada.

Recently, a significant portion of an order of N95 respirator did not meet our standards for this mask type. Further assessment of testing results is underway, but in the meantime we have suspended further shipments of N95 respirator from this supplier. We can confirm that none of the respirator that failed our standards were distributed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) for medical use; however, assessment is ongoing for other uses. Some of these respirator thus far have been redirected for use by other organizations.

We continue to diversify our supply chains internationally while also supporting Canadian companies that are retooling their lines to build up domestic supply, including for N95 respirator. For instance, we have 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.

Canadian officials are providing their expertise in reviewing offers from international companies in addition to the work done by PSPC procurement experts in partnership with PHAC. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada is also working with offers from manufacturers in Canada.

The Government of Canada is engaged in an unprecedented effort to acquire supplies and equipment to ensure our frontline health care workers and all Canadians stay safe and healthy. Considering the fragility of global supply chains, we need to exercise caution with the information provided about suppliers.