

**Draft Remarks for Minister Anand  
Announcement of PPE and critical supplies contingency  
reserve for essential service organizations  
LOCATION TBD, July 21, 2020**

## **Opening**

Thank you, XX, and good morning, everyone.

I am very pleased to speak to you today.

I will begin by expressing my thanks to all Canadians who are helping our country manage through this challenging experience. Thanks to you, your respect for public health guidance, and your genuine caring for your fellow citizens, we are starting to see a gradual easing of restrictions across much of the country.

Without question, we have made tremendous progress in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and we must remain vigilant.

It is because of your efforts that we are now in a position to discuss how best to safely restart our daily routines and the economy.

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## **Procurement Strategy**

From the outset, my department has been focused on aggressively buying personal protective equipment in a highly competitive global market.

We at Public Services and Procurement Canada have made great strides in diversifying our supply chains in order to better adapt to global volatility around much sought-after commodities.

At the same time, we have also seen businesses from across the country answering the call to help supply life-saving PPE—much of which is being made right here at home—to fight COVID-19.

Companies such as Jacobs & Thompson, HP Canada and Windsor Mold Group have retooled their manufacturing lines, rehired staff and created new jobs to give an economic boost to regions across Canada while providing key supplies.

These efforts have been integral in our fight against COVID-19.

Because of those efforts and this two-pronged approach, today, we are seeing the results.

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To date, we have received more than **27 million** face shields, more than **56 million** pairs of gloves, more than **9 million** gowns, more than **11 million litres** of hand sanitizer, more than **22 million** N95 and KN95 respirators and **176 million** surgical masks.

Our top priority has been – and continues to be – procuring equipment and supplies for our frontline healthcare workers.

Of course, healthcare workers are not the only ones in need of these goods.

In order to safely restart our economy, millions of Canadian workers in key essential services sectors must be able to safely return to work while protecting themselves, their co-workers and the Canadians they are serving.

As the department responsible for federal procurement, we are also engaged in ensuring that federal departments and agencies have the PPE they need to work towards a safe re-opening.

In this procurement stream, we are purchasing a wide range of PPE from non-medical face coverings and face shields to

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disinfectants and hand sanitizer to support everyone from Parks Canada to Border Services.

## **Announcement**

As more businesses and other organizations re-open, demand for PPE, non-medical masks and disinfection products to keep workers safe is increasing. And while the market is catching up to this demand, finding PPE can still pose challenges.

Last week the Prime Minister announced the Safe Restart Agreement, a federal investment of more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and make our country more resilient to possible future waves of the virus.

I am pleased to announce today that we are establishing an Essential Services Contingency Reserve as part of the agreement's commitment to supporting essential services requiring access to PPE.

This will be a temporary reserve of critical supplies and equipment that can be purchased at cost by essential services sectors that have been unable to acquire these items elsewhere.

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The reserve will bridge urgent, short-term gaps for eligible organizations and businesses to avoid any significant disruptions in services to Canadians.

In many situations, organizations can now source the PPE they need. However, in situations where existing sources of supply are unavailable, delayed or disrupted, the reserve is there as an emergency backstop.

We have teamed up with SCI Logistics, and its network of warehouses across the country, to fulfill online orders from eligible organizations and businesses that find themselves urgently requiring a short-term supply of PPE.

SCI is the warehousing subsidiary of Canada Post, and it will leverage Purolator for deliveries. Detailed information on who is eligible to use the reserve and how to apply will be made available shortly on our web site.

I cannot underscore enough the importance and commitment of essential services workers across the country. We should all be proud and thankful for their contributions.

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Through the Essential Services Contingency Reserve, the Government is making sure these organizations can continue operating. This means Canadians can rest assured that they will continue to receive the essential services on which they depend as Canada continues its recovery from the pandemic.

### **In closing**

While the nature of the pandemic has been changing, we must still ensure that Canada is prepared for any eventuality in the short and longer term. We will continue to work with our partners in industry as well as those providing essential services to **get through this together.**

Thank you again to all of those who have been working so hard in such challenging circumstances to provide essential services, and thank you to everyone for joining me today.