

Date: May 2, 2020

Questions and Answers

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Supply Council

CONTEXT

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is inviting leaders from a wide range of industries, associations and philanthropic organizations to join the COVID-19 Supply Council.

Minister Anand will chair the Council, which will surface ideas for strengthening and streamlining the Government of Canada's efforts to procure critical goods and services required as part of Canada's COVID-19 response and recovery.

Key Messages

- The Government of Canada 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
 - Ramping up the domestic manufacturing capacity, through the Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, 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.
- To expand on these efforts, the government is standing up the COVID-19 Supply Council, with leaders from across the private and not-for-profit sectors, to help with efforts to build an innovative and agile supply chain for these scarce goods, including production, sourcing, shipping, allocation and distribution strategies.

Questions and Answers

What is the purpose of the COVID-19 Supply Council?

- The Council includes a diverse group of business and not-for-profit leaders that will provide the government with advice on the procurement of critical goods and services required as part of Canada's COVID-19 response.
- Leveraging their extensive expertise and networks, the Council will provide advice on building innovative and agile supply chains for goods in wide use such as masks,

gloves and disinfectants, including production, sourcing, shipping, allocation and distribution strategies as the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve.

Who is participating on the Supply Council?

- The Council will be made up of XX members from the private and non-profit sectors.
- The Minister of Public Services and Procurement will chair the Council and appoint its members.

How did you select participants?

- Council members were selected for their expertise and leadership in their respective fields.
- They will bring forward diverse perspectives that will help Canada generate innovative ideas to ensure access to the supplies needed to respond to COVID-19.

What will be the first priorities for the Council? What will they be working on in the short/medium/long term to help the fight against COVID-19 in Canada?

- The Council is an advisory body that will leverage their strong networks and expertise to provide the government with advice on a wide range of issues and government initiatives related to efforts to procure critical goods and services related to Canada's COVID-19 response and recovery.

What is the intended outcome of the Supply Council?

- The Council will bring ideas to the Minister for strengthening and streamlining the Government of Canada's efforts to procure critical goods and services required as part of Canada's COVID-19 response and recovery.

What is PSPC doing to support the COVID-19 response?

- Public Services and Procurement Canada, in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada, is leading efforts to purchase emergency supplies and services required to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- PSPC has stood up a team of procurement specialists who are implementing flexible approaches to make sure Canada has the equipment, supplies and services it needs now and into the future.
- We recognize that some of these goods are in high demand around the world, so in addition to leveraging existing sources of supply, PSPC has been proactively engaging industry to help meet Canada's needs.
- As a result of our call-out and through engagement with our supplier network, and by working directly with Canadian suppliers and manufacturers, we have already

purchased a broad range of personal protective equipment and supplies, including swabs, tests kits, gloves, masks and gowns.

- We are placing as many orders as possible 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.

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