

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: June 26, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Media; Bryan Blom; Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott; Jean-François Létourneau; Lucie Brosseau; Martine Skelton; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Rachel Lagacé; Sara Lacasse; Vivianne Soubhie
Subject: For MO APPROVAL - Media response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Purchasing of ventilators / The Logic

Afternoon Cecely, James,

For your approval.

Charles.

Media Response

The Logic

Hemmadi, Murad (The Logic)

Date call received: June-22-20 at 15:30

Deadline: June-25-20 at 15:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Purchasing of ventilators

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter contacted Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) as he had questions related to ventilators. He indicated in the context that in April, there were multiple media reports of ventilator mortality rates, medical analyses about the overuse of mechanical ventilation in the treatment of COVID-19 patients, and doctors reducing their use of mechanical ventilation to treat COVID-19 patients.

ISED reached out to Health Canada (HC) and Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) to redirect his request. It has been determined that PSPC will take the lead on Q1 and Q3 but with input from HC.

The reporter initially requested a response by today at 3 p.m. We are awaiting confirmation for a renegotiated deadline.

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 AND ANSWERS:

Q1. What is the total number of ventilators that the Government of Canada has committed to purchasing to date, and what is the total purchase price of those units? (PSPC)

Q3. Has the Government of Canada committed to purchasing ventilators in subsequent fiscal years under long-term agreements, as it reportedly has for surgical masks and N95 respirators with AMD Medicom? If so, how many annually, from which suppliers, and at what unit cost? (PSPC w/ input from HC)

A1 and 3.

The Government of Canada is engaged in an unprecedented effort to acquire supplies and equipment to support Canada's front-line healthcare workers. 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.

As of June 23, 2020, the Government of Canada has ordered more than 40 thousand ventilators. Most of these ventilators will be manufactured by Canadian companies, including Thornhill Medical, CAE Inc, Canadian Emergency Ventilators Inc. (Starfish), FTI professional grade inc. (Ventilators for Canadians) and Vexos. *The price paid per ventilator is considered commercial confidential information and as such, cannot be divulged.*

The Government of Canada contracts include delivery scheduled between May 2020 and early 2021. There is no commitment to long-term agreements for ventilators.

Transparency and accountability is critically important to the government, and we are committed to releasing a full account of our procurement efforts. However, the disclosure of procurement information and contract value could jeopardize orders and compromise Canada's negotiating position, in particular in international markets. Consequently, most information *has not yet been shared publicly and will only be* when our procurement of vital personal protective equipment (PPE) is no longer at risk.

Q2. Is the Minister concerned that the ventilators that the Government of Canada has ordered may not be utilized because of changing views in the medical community on the use of mechanical ventilation in treating COVID-19, as outlined above? (HC)

This question falls under the practice of medicine, which is subject to provincial or territorial oversight. Please contact the appropriate provincial or territorial college of physicians and surgeons. **(from Health Canada)**