

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 21, 2020 4:41 PM
To: 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 / COVID-19 - Government's efforts to procure PPE / The Capital

Hi Cecely and James,

For MO approval, please.

Many thanks,

Marc
873-354-7219

Media response

The Capital

Marlan, Tori (The Capital)

Date call received: May-15-20 at 11:25

Deadline: May-19-20 at 17:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Government's efforts to procure PPE

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter is writing an article about the impact the pandemic has had on long-term care homes. He would like to obtain more information about the government's efforts to procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The reporter contacted Health Canada / Public Health Agency of Canada , who has reached out to PSPC for input. A joint response will be developed and PSPC's input will be sent to HC/PHAC.

PSPC will respond to Q1 and Q2.

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. Would you let me know what kind of PPE and how much of it, was acquired and from where? (PSPC)

As the Government of Canada's central purchaser, Public Services and Procurement Canada is leading efforts to purchase equipment, supplies and services required for Canada to combat COVID-19. We are working with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) which is consolidating the needs of provincial and territorial governments. We are placing as many orders as possible to ensure supplies are available for frontline healthcare workers, while ensuring products we are purchasing meet standards for medical use.

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

We are aggressively purchasing 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.

Details of our orders and deliveries of personal protective equipment have been posted [online](#).

Q2. How many contracts does the government have for domestic production of PPE, and how much PPE domestic manufacturers have supplied thus far? (PSPC)

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.

In order to protect the integrity of our procurement processes, as well as the integrity of global supply chains, we need to exercise caution at this time with information we are providing about specific suppliers.

Some of the procurements being carried out in response to COVID-19 are being done under a national security exception (NSE), meaning that the associated solicitation documents are not published on Buyandsell. This allows the response to move rapidly as we 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.

However, we are posting some solicitation documents for COVID-19 related procurements on Buyandsell, particularly where the timeline to secure the particular good or service allows for more flexibility. 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](#).

Q3. My understanding is that after the federal government procures PPE, it sends it to the provinces, and then the provinces farm it out to the health-care sector. Is that correct? If not, how does the process of getting PPE to the health-care sector work?

(HC/PHAC)

Q4. What were the biggest missed opportunities to save lives in long-term care homes?

(HC/PHAC)

Q5. What, if anything, does the federal government think it could have done better?

(HC/PHAC)

Q6. Why was the national stockpile insufficient?

(HC/PHAC)