

Follow-Up Information from PSPC Appearance at OGGO on April 14

1) BQ MP Julie Vignola: How many freezers and refrigerators have been used to date?

Excerpt:

***Mme Julie Vignola:** We also ordered 100 refrigerators and 700 freezers for storage. How many of those are currently in use?*

***Hon. Anita Anand:** You're exactly right. We have ordered a number of supplies—syringes, needles, gauze—and 700 freezers of different temperatures and sizes, with 433 freezers already deployed. We have to remember, as I said earlier, that Pfizer and Moderna are the workhorses in our vaccine portfolio and we*

need to have the supplies necessary, like freezers, to ensure that they can be administered across the country.

In terms of how many are being used and whether we have enough—

***Mme Julie Vignola:** I completely agree.*

***Hon. Anita Anand:** —I will ask Bill Matthews to add his knowledge on this question.*

***Mr. Bill Matthews:** Thank you, Minister.*

Not an excess, but the majority of freezers have been deployed out to provinces and territories. The Public Health Agency of Canada would be able to provide an exact answer on the numbers, but we do think things have gone quite well on the freezer front so far.

Response:

As of April 30, 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada has distributed 1,223 freezers, which includes 11 types of freezers, to provinces and territories. PHAC does not disclose the amounts of assets distributed to individual provinces and territories.

2) NDP MP Matthew Green: There are two million more square feet [of warehouse space] than before the pandemic started? Would that be more or less than we had in total prior to shuttering the three critical National Emergency Strategic Stockpile facilities? What's been distributed [in terms of PPE and other medical supplies] versus what's sitting in the warehouses?

Excerpt:

Mr. Matthew Green: *What I'll do now is go on to your statement back in July of 2020, where you had mentioned that you had secured a significant amount of PPE and other medical equipment and supplies to support frontline health care workers. What's the current level of our PPE and medical equipment that we've secured and have for our frontline health care workers?*

Mr. Bill Matthews: *Mr. Chair, I think it's over two billion items of PPE. In terms of what's been distributed versus what's sitting in warehouses owned or operated by the federal government, in this case the public health agency, we'd have to circle back to them to get an answer.*

Just to give you a sense of order of magnitude, Mr. Chair, in terms of the warehouse space that is being utilized by the Public Health Agency of Canada now, we're up over two million square feet in terms of warehouse space versus where we were when the pandemic started, just to give you a sense of the volume—

Mr. Matthew Green: *Just to be clear, through you, Mr. Chair, there are two million more square feet than before the pandemic started?*

Mr. Bill Matthews: *I believe that's the correct number.*

Mr. Matthew Green: *Would you then go on the record and just, in your own personal, professional opinion, acknowledge that it was perhaps a mistake to shutter three national emergency strategic stockpile facilities under the guise that we didn't need the square footage and we were going to save a couple hundred thousand bucks?*

Mr. Bill Matthews: *I think the only thing I would offer on that front, Mr. Chair, is the pandemic has certainly required an awful lot more joint procurement with the provinces so more is flowing through the public health agency than you would have seen in the past. That's required an increase in the amount of space available.*

Mr. Matthew Green: *Would that be more or less than we had in total prior to shuttering the three critical national emergency strategic stockpile facilities?*

Mr. Bill Matthews: *I'm not certain, Mr. Chair, because I don't know what the square footage of that particular space was.*

Mr. Matthew Green: *It would be interesting and I look forward to finding out.*

Response:

Prior to the closure of the three warehouses, the total warehouse space for the National Strategic Emergency Stockpile (NESS) was 214,818 square feet. To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the current total warehouse space for the NESS has increased to 2,102,500 square feet.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has distributed over 1 billion units of personal protective equipment, vaccine ancillary supplies and other medical

equipment and supplies to provinces and territories to support the needs of frontline healthcare workers.

The NESS currently maintains an inventory of approximately 1 billion units of personal protective equipment, vaccine ancillary supplies and other medical equipment and supplies.

3) LPC MP Patrick Weiler: How much is Canada's per capita level of investment in COVAX relative to other countries around the world?

Excerpt:

Mr. Patrick Weiler: *Maybe last question because my time's running out here.*

Getting back to COVAX, on a per capita basis, how much is Canada's per capita level of investment in COVAX relative to other countries around the world.

Mr. Bill Matthews: *Canada is one of the leading contributors in terms of financial contributions to COVAX, so we're right up there. We could probably come back if it's helpful, Mr. Chair, with an exact ranking if there's one available, but I know we are one of the leading countries.*

The Chair: *Thank you, Mr. Matthews, and thank you, Mr. Weiler.*

Response:

- Canada is a founding member and a strong supporter of the COVAX Facility. The COVAX Facility has two windows: a self-financing window for higher income economies and an AMC (Advance Market Commitment) window to support low and middle-income economies.

COVAX self-financing window:

- We are participating in the self-financing tranche to secure vaccines for Canada's population and to help the Facility to increase its buying power and provide volume guarantees across a range of promising vaccine candidates. This has allowed vaccine manufacturers to make early, at-risk investments in manufacturing capacity – providing participating countries and economies with the best chance at rapid access to doses of a successful COVID-19 vaccine.

- While Canada has publicly committed approximately CA\$220 million to the Facility in total to procure up to 15 million vaccine doses for Canadians, many self-financing participants have not publicly indicated their total investment or population coverage targets. This information is treated as confidential by the COVAX Facility unless it is self-disclosed by the country, making international comparisons difficult.
- As such, for the self-financing mechanism of COVAX, no per capita level of investment calculation is possible.

COVAX AMC:

- Canada is also a donor to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment. Sovereign donors including Canada, provide contributions through official development assistance to procure and deliver vaccine doses for the AMC's 92 eligible low and lower-middle income economies.
- Canada has committed approximately CA\$325M to the COVAX AMC. This includes an initial contribution of approximately CA\$30 million in June 2020, CA\$220 million announced on September 25 to support the procurement of vaccine doses; and CA\$75 million to facilitate the delivery and distribution of COVAX vaccines for low- and middle-income participants, including a targeted investment to establish a mechanism within the COVAX Facility so countries are able to share any surplus vaccine doses.
- The attached table provides the per capita breakdown of investments that sovereign donors have made to the COVAX AMC. Based on current contributions, Canada is the sixth highest per capita contributor to vaccine procurement, distribution and delivery in support of the COVAX AMC.

4) CPC Kelly McCauley: Whose decision was it to advertise on the Super Bowl for COVID awareness?

Excerpt:

Mr. Kelly McCauley: *Let me ask you, whose decision was it to advertise on the Super Bowl, \$182,000 to advertise COVID awareness?*

Mr. Bill Matthews: *Typically, Mr. Chair, and I can't speak specifically to this one, the actual content or the advertising choices' responsible department, and then there's—*

Mr. Kelly McCauley: *And that was PSPC.*

Mr. Bill Matthews: *In terms of the sponsoring department, I think, if I recall correctly, it would have been Health on this one, because it's COVID awareness, in terms of the actual content. But we can check back on that, Mr. Chair.*

Mr. Kelly McCauley: *Yes, if you could. I'm pretty sure it was PSPC, or it got billed to PSPC.*

Mr. Bill Matthews: *PSPC may have been involved in the contract, itself, as the executing agency working with our agency of record, but the actual content of advertising material would land with the program holder.*

Response:

It was the decision of the Public Health Agency of Canada to advertise on the Super Bowl 2021.

PSPC manages the contract of the Agency of Record (AOR), the private sector organization that plans and buys media on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The AOR booked the space on the Super Bowl and issued invoices for the space to the Public Health Agency of Canada once they were verified.

Country	Total Contribution (million USD)	Population (millions)	Per capita donation (USD)	Ranking per capita
Sweden	281	10.38	27.071	1
Norway	141	5.291	26.649	2
Germany**	1,093	83.166	13.142	3
United States***	4,000	331.449	12.068	4
United Kingdom	735	67.886	10.827	5
Canada*	250	38.048	6.571	6
Iceland	2	0.364	5.495	7
Netherlands	83	17.469	4.751	8
Saudi Arabia	153	34.218	4.471	9
Qatar	10	2.795	3.578	10
Denmark	16	5.837	2.741	11
Liechtenstein	0.1	0.038	2.632	12
Monaco	0.1	0.038	2.632	13
Switzerland	22	8.57	2.567	14
Australia	61	25.788	2.365	15
New Zealand	12	5.126	2.341	16
Kuwait	10	4.42	2.262	17
France	118	67.399	1.751	18
Italy	103	60.317	1.708	19
Japan	200	125.41	1.595	20
Luxembourg	1	0.633	1.580	21
Spain	59	47.45	1.243	22
European Commission	477	447.706	1.065	23
Ireland	5	4.977	1.005	24
Singapore	5	5.793	0.863	25
Belgium	5	11.492	0.435	26
Finland	2	5.518	0.362	27
Austria	2	8.935	0.224	28
Korea	10	51.709	0.193	29
Greece	2	10.724	0.186	30
Portugal	1	10.28	0.097	31
Estonia	0.1	1.329	0.075	32
Colombia	1	50.372	0.020	33
Bhutan	0.01	0.754	0.013	34
Philippines	0.1	108.1	0.001	35

Notes

Source for contribution data: Gavi, 5 May 2021, <https://www.gavi.org/sites/default/files/covid/covax/COVAX-AMC-Donors-Table.pdf>

* Canada's contribution includes funds for procurement and delivery

** Germany pledged an additional EUR 980m on 19 February 2021 of which EUR 700m for purchase of vaccines supplies for LICs/LMICs via COVAX AMC, EUR 100m for obtaining vaccines for humanitarian purposes, via COVAX AMC humanitarian buffer, and EUR 180m for vaccines logistics (UNICEF)

*** The United States approved US\$ 4bn for Gavi to procure and deliver COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries. Of this total, US\$ 2.5bn will be provided for the AMC in 2021 for vaccine procurement