

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in
Advance of the 2021 Federal Budget**

**Submitted by:
Category 5 Imaging
CCTV Direct**

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: That the government create predictable funding envelopes for small and medium-sized enterprises to access capital for the implementation of COVID-19 safety measures, including thermal cameras.

Recommendation 2: That the government implement thermal camera screening in all federal correctional facilities and military bases.

Recommendation 3: That the government implement thermal camera screening in all airports.

Recommendation 4: That the government implement thermal camera screening at all sea and land ports of entry.

Recommendation 5: That the government provide funding to airport authorities for the installation and use of thermal camera screening.

Recommendation 6: That the government provide funding to port authorities for the installation and use of thermal camera screening.

Recommendation 7: That the government implement thermal camera screening in all federal buildings.

Overview of Thermal Camera Screening

As a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, active thermal screening measures must be part of ensuring safety and security to the general population. Understanding that travel and large crowds played a major role in the transmission of COVID-19, the active screening for COVID-19 related symptoms must be part of the federal government's response to managing the spread of the virus.

As Canadian-based companies, Category 5 Imaging and CCTV Direct have created a viable solution to be part of comprehensive strategies to combat the pandemic. Certified by Health Canada as COVID-19 medical devices, thermal cameras such as those provided by Category 5 Imaging and CCTV Direct, should be part of a comprehensive system that helps safeguard safety of both employees and the general population.

Thermal camera screening provides several advantages that contribute to better safety measures. Unlike conventional, handheld, temperature-screening devices, thermal camera screening can be used to screen up to 30 people per minute for abnormal temperatures. Using technology that triangulates on the forehead, operators can accurately screen and monitor temperatures from a distance to ensure proper adherence to physical distancing measures.

As government considers further budget allocations towards re-start, the federal government should consider the minimal cost to implement comprehensive safeguards as part of the upcoming budget. The cost of thermal camera screening can be scaled to work for any workplace or congregate space. Small, individual handheld units range from \$2000-5000 while medium-sized autonomous solutions range from \$12,000-15,000. Higher-end autonomous solutions for mass crowd scanning range from \$15,000-20,000. The minimal costs to implement safety measures also come with cost-effective benefits to operators through longer-term cost savings and risk mitigation. Thermal camera screening is less labour-intensive than conventional temperature screening and puts fewer workers at risk of exposure from direct contact.

Funding for SMEs and COVID-19 Safety Measures

As SMEs re-think their workplaces and add safety measures, the federal government should ensure accessible funding envelopes are available to SMEs for the purpose of implementing safety measures like thermal camera screening. While emergency funds like the Emergency Processing Fund have created preliminary funding envelopes in the height of the pandemic, more predictable funding channels with better qualification timelines should be created through the upcoming budget. Predictable and long-term funding streams for COVID-19 safety measures should be a priority for government as such measures will allow SMEs to make more secure investments to scale up safety measures. Unlike short-term emergency funds like the Emergency Processing Fund, longer-term predictable funding envelopes will provide better certainty for SMEs and ensure safety is part of their long-term strategic plans. Predictable funding channels will also provide necessary capital for upgraded safety measures at SMEs that faced significant difficulties as a result of closure but remain high-risk workplaces. As a result of predictable and accessible funding measures, significant obstacles will be alleviated for SMEs looking to procure measures to safeguard their workplaces.

Thermal Camera Screening in Federal Corrections and Military Bases

The benefit to implementing thermal camera screening can be most effective in high-risk, federally operated congregate settings like federal correctional facilities and military bases. At the onset of the pandemic, prisons and corrections facilities were seen as major hotspots for outbreaks and transmissions. Congregate settings where physical distancing measures are already challenging to implement pose a high-risk for COVID-19 transmission, especially when restrictions are lessened. Outbreaks such as those previously experienced at the Federal Training Centre in Laval, QC and the Mission Institution in Mission, BC can be mitigated through the use of safety measures like thermal camera screening. This should be an important consideration for the 2021 budget as government must implement comprehensive safety measures to safeguard the health of federal inmates and military personnel.

Thermal Camera Screening and Travel

As government plans for a return to more regular travel, it will be important for government to implement comprehensive safety measures, such as thermal camera screening. Advanced technology used in thermal camera screening can be best used to screen large crowds, such as those at airports, land crossings, and sea ports of entry. Efficiency and safety of both passengers and employees are integral parts of the thermal camera screening system. With capabilities of up to 30 people per minute, thermal camera screening helps avoid bottlenecks and longer wait times for passengers. Through the display of temperature readings on a computer screen instead of a handheld device, operators can screen passengers from afar instead of at arm's length.

The federal government should also ensure funding envelopes exist for airport authorities and port authorities to implement the use of thermal camera screening. Through airport authorities and port authorities, government can centralize implementation and ensure consistency of protection. Consistency and proper protection measures are even more important when the operating bandwidth of smaller airports and port authorities are put into consideration. Smaller airports and port authorities have faced even greater pressure on their budgets but still remain high risk areas for transmission. This should be an important consideration for government in the upcoming budget to ensure safety screening measures remain consistent and properly protect the population.

Thermal Camera Screening and Federal Buildings

As an employer, the federal government should consider the high-risk to its workforce should COVID-19 transmission happen within a federal building. As government's return-to-work measures are being thought out, comprehensive strategies to safeguard the federal workforce should be included. With the federal government re-thinking its own workspaces to ensure better safety and physical distancing, thermal camera screening should play an integral role in return-to-work plans. The implementation of thermal camera screening in federal buildings will help safeguard the federal government's workforce and develop another layer of added safety. Budgetary

allocations for thermal camera screening will also ensure better active screening of any person entering a federal building without putting specific screening personnel at added risk. As the federal government returns to more normal business, the risk of COVID-19 transmission can be mitigated through proper thermal screening of both federal employees and visitors to federal buildings. These measures should be key considerations for budget allocations as investments in safety in federal buildings will help ensure government can return to conducting regular business.