

RESPONSE PACKAGE

PSPC responses to Questions Taken on Notice Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO) Government's response to COVID-19 pandemic (Vaccine and PPE procurement) April 14, 2021

Question 1: (NDP MP Matthew Green): Requested details regarding the Essential Services Contingency Reserve, including when it became operational and how many requests there have been to access it.

Response:

The Government of Canada created the Essential Services Contingency Reserve (ESCR) to provide essential service businesses or organizations, from a variety of sectors, with access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and critical supplies at cost to address urgent, short-term needs.

The ESCR has been fully operational since August 3, 2020. As of May 31, 2021, the ESCR has received a total of 278 requests for registration from the following sectors: health, safety, manufacturing, information and communication technologies, food, transportation, energy and utilities, water, and finance.

Of the businesses registered, 27 have placed orders, of which 12 were cancelled, and 15 approved. A portion of the cancelled orders were redirected to supply available through provinces and territories.

While there were significant shortages of PPE when the ESCR was developed and implemented, market availability has increased, and the need for an emergency supply of PPE has reduced. However, recognizing that PPE remains in heavy use, the Government of Canada is expanding eligibility for the ESCR to increase the number of organizations that can access this service. Specifically, organizations serving Indigenous communities and the social service sector can now apply to access PPE and critical supplies at no cost. As of May 31, 2021, there have been 10 orders fulfilled through the ESCR for organizations serving Indigenous communities.

Question 2: (BQ MP Julie Vignola): Requested details regarding the UPS logistics contract with references to a letter of interest and request for information posted on the buyandsell.gc.ca website in May 2020.

Response: The referenced BuyandSell posting and the UPS logistics contract are not related.

BuyandSell posting:

On May 4, 2020, PSPC posted a Request for Information to identify potential suppliers to address a Public Health Agency of Canada requirement for National Warehousing

and Logistics Services (“logistics”). This posting indicated that it was not a tender process, nor a request for proposal, but only an inquiry to identify potential suppliers.

Subsequent to this posting, PSPC developed a Request for Proposal that was posted on the BuyandSell website on July 16, 2020, and closed on August 4, 2020. The resulting contract was issued to Metro Logistics Inc. on September 11, 2020.

The May 4 Request for Information posting includes the requirement description found in this link: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-20-00913882>. Information related to the subsequent RFP posting can be found at National Warehousing and Logistics Services (6D024-202295/A): [National Warehousing and Logistics Services \(6D024-202295/A\) - Buyandsell.gc.ca](#).

UPS logistics contract:

In late April 2020, PSPC negotiated and issued an emergency services contract to UPS to provide freight forwarding (also “logistics”) services from China to Canada to support five chartered cargo flights between May 5, 2020 and May 8, 2020. This contract was required on an emergency basis to supplement freight forwarding services provided by Bolloré during that period.