



August 3, 2020

Paul Cardegna
Clerk of the Committee
Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates
House of Commons
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Cardegna,

On behalf of Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, and Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), we are pleased to provide electronically, records requested under the 12 parts of the motion for production of papers adopted by the Standing Committee on Government Operations (the Committee) and Estimates on June 5, 2020.

As instructed by the Committee, the Government applied required redactions under the *Access to Information Act* (ATIA). These redactions protect information considered advice to the Minister, Cabinet confidences, commercially sensitive information, solicitor-client privilege and information that may harm Canada's negotiating position and ability to secure supplies through future procurements.

In order to respect the requirements of the ATIA, the Government of Canada is able to provide the Committee with the first page of contractual records for Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Committee's Motion. Contract amounts in foreign currencies were redacted in order to protect Canada's external supply chain partnerships.

For Part 12, the response is comprised of a list of domestic suppliers contacted by PSPC following their indication of interest through the Department's Buyandsell website.

In addition to the information provided within this package, progress on Personal Protective Equipment procurement is being updated weekly on the Public Services and Procurement Canada website (www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/comm/aic-scr/provisions-supplies-eng.html), and several contracts have been announced publicly. As supply chains for essential equipment and supplies stabilize, the Government is also working to provide more details relating to its procurement efforts.



During the process of retrieving documents for Part 8 of the motion, Health Canada noted that applications for medical device licences (MDL) would be covered by the motion. For the specified time period, Health Canada estimated it would have 18,000 pages of MDL applications. These would need to be translated at a cost of approximately \$2.7 million. Furthermore, it was estimated that it would take 2000 hours of staff time to retrieve the documents – which would have a significant negative impact on the issuance of MDL in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the translation costs and the burden on an important program, it was decided to provide the committee with a summary of the documents in lieu of providing the documents themselves. With respect to the other elements requested under Part 8 of the Motion, these have been disclosed in keeping with the instructions provided in the Motion.

Further documents from other federal institutions will follow in the coming days, accompanied by the formal response letter that outlines the Government's approach in responding to the motion.

We trust that the Committee finds the attached material useful for their work.

Sincerely,

Kendal Weber
Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Canada

James Stott
Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Services
Procurement Canada