

March 14, 2023

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Mr. Cédric Taquet
Clerk, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
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Dear Members and Clerk of the Committee,

On behalf of Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) and its membership, I am writing to raise concerns about the motion currently being considered to grant access to unredacted contracts for the for the supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

IMC is the national voice of Canada's innovative pharmaceutical industry. We represent 49 member companies, ranging from established organizations to fledgling start-ups, all of which are dedicated to improving the lives of Canadians. IMC advocates for policies that enable the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative medicines and vaccines for best possible patient outcomes.

We urge the Members of this Committee to carefully consider the precedent a decision to order the production of unredacted contracts may set, as well as the message it could send internationally.

Companies should have assurances that confidential business information in contracts negotiated with the Canadian government will remain confidential. Should the Committee require the production of unredacted, confidential contracts, and should the government provide them, it would send a strong message to our trading partners and companies looking



to invest here: confidentiality protections negotiated in good faith with the federal government may not be binding.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the need for large-scale and flexible biomanufacturing capacity to quickly produce vaccines. As a result, the government has been working to improve Canada's domestic biomanufacturing sector. As we collectively attempt to attract investment and talent in an effort to grow domestic capacity that will prepare us to face future pandemics, compromising confidential business information may undermine efforts to build a strong life sciences and biomanufacturing strategy for Canada, driving away future investments, jobs, as well as other significant economic contributions.

Once again, I would ask that you give appropriate consideration to the potential impact and dangerous precedent for the disclosure of confidential information, which is out of step with our closest trading partners. Such a decision could erode investor confidence and have reputational consequences for Canada that extend beyond the pharmaceutical sector to other businesses that provide sensitive confidential information under contracts negotiated with the federal government.

Please feel encouraged to contact me directly at pfralick@imc-mnc.ca or 613-986-8844 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Pamela C. Fralick
President

cc: Hon. Helena Jaczek, P.C., M.P., Minister of Public Services and Procurement
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