



Competition Bureau
Canada

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Canada

COVID-19 Competition Bureau Response Initiatives

Competition Forum for the Arab Region | March 23, 2021

Presented by: Majid Charania, Director of Compliance

Canada 

Outline

1. CCB Response to COVID-19

- Response Team
- Competitor Collaborations Guidance

2. Focus on Bid-rigging and Public Procurement

CCB Response to COVID-19

COVID-19 Response Team

- Enhanced coordination at the working level to identify issues and raise them with management or address them proactively and quickly
- Information sharing on COVID-related enforcement and advocacy initiatives, including activities by international counterparts
- Composed of enforcement, advocacy, legal, international and internal support representatives

CCB Response to COVID-19

Competitor Collaborations Guidance

- Limited to the exercise of the Commissioner's enforcement discretion (prosecutorial model)

“Where there is a clear imperative for companies to be collaborating in the short-term to respond to the crisis, where those collaborations are undertaken and executed in good faith and do not go further than what is needed, [the Bureau] will generally refrain from exercising scrutiny”

- Created a mechanism for parties to rapidly seek the Bureau's informal guidance on proposed collaborations

Bid-rigging and Public Procurement

“Internal” Initiatives

- High-level awareness building
 - Short presentations to procurement managers across all levels of government through existing working groups
- Resources for officials
 - Bid rigging training videos
 - Proactive approach to training presentations

Bid-rigging and Public Procurement

Proactive Outreach

- Awareness-building
 - *Competition Advocate* – short publication targeted at consumers and businesses on competition issues in public procurement
 - Upcoming virtual compliance bootcamp for small and medium sized businesses on collusion and bid-rigging
- Procurement outreach strategy
 - Remote work is an opportunity to lower the costs of outreach
 - Leverage training platforms with broader reach (e.g., Canada School of Public Service, Canadian Institute for Procurement and Material Management)

Thank you

