

## **LOCAL COMPANIES BID TO MAKE NITRILE GLOVES IN MANITOBA**

### *Precision ADM and Tribal Councils Investment Group Join Forces as Part of Local Consortium*

**Winnipeg, MB** – February 18, 2021 – A consortium of Manitoba businesses, led by Precision ADM (PADM) and Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba (TCIG), have submitted a proposal as part of a Federal Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) for the manufacturing of nitrile gloves used by healthcare workers across Canada in the fight against Covid-19.

“TCIG and its subsidiary, the Spirit Healthcare Group, are the first 100% Indigenous owned and operated companies to enter into the healthcare products industry in Canada,” said Heather Berthelette, CEO of TCIG. “With the federal government’s commitment to have 5% of federal contracts awarded to businesses managed and led by Indigenous Peoples, this could be an incredibly exciting opportunity in terms of Indigenous procurement.”

The Government of Canada issued the ITQ in December of 2020 as part of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and for emergency preparedness. The ITQ seeks to establish a domestic Canadian source of non-sterile, powder-free, patient-examination nitrile gloves. The main goal of this envisioned project is to meet Canada’s future public health/pandemic needs, while encouraging longer-term establishment of domestic production capacity which could be in production within the next 12 to 18 months.

As a national leader in the supply of medical products that further support both Provincial and Federal interests in building a secure domestic supply chain, Precision ADM welcomed the opportunity, if selected, to bring covid-related manufacturing home to Canada.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has made abundantly evident Canada’s significant reliance on off-shore manufacturing of many critical supplies, especially Personal Protection Equipment (PPE),” said Martin Petrak, CEO of Precision ADM. “We hope to add nitrile gloves to our growing list of supplies that include nasopharyngeal 3D printed swabs, patented reusable N95-equivalent respirators for frontline health workers, and disposable procedure masks.”

Spirit Healthcare Group follows a business model known as Indigenomics, which is the practice of bringing an Indigenous perspective to the way they do business with an eye on both economic growth and social development. They offer a growing range of Indigenous-owned and branded ‘Spirit’ products that are sold nationally including their own Spirit Meter blood glucose monitoring system for people living with diabetes.