

April 15, 2020

Minister Patty Hadju
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

CC: Minister Bains, Minister Seamus O'Regan & Minister Rickford

RE: Access to Rapid Testing Kits in partnership with Precision Biomonitoring Inc.

To Minister Hadju

At New Gold the health, safety and wellness of our employees and host communities is of utmost priority. In light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic New Gold, along with our Indigenous partners, is requesting that Health Canada approve the rapid test devices developed by Precision Biomonitoring and Dr. Mario Thomas based in Guelph Ontario in order to mitigate any potential risks and be able to identify potential carriers of COVID-19 within our workforce and in surrounding Indigenous Communities.

New Gold Inc. is a Canadian-focused intermediate gold mining company engaged in the operation, development and exploration of mineral properties: 1) Rainy River in Ontario; 2) New Afton in BC and 3) Blackwater in BC and is committed to excellence in the management of health, safety, environmental and sustainability. As we continue our operations at New Afton and Rainy River, we are committed to establishing and maintaining excellent operating practices with focus on maintaining the health and safety of our employees. We have established a Pandemic Response and Business Plan Committee comprised of leadership from our project operations and corporate. This committee meets regularly and continues to assess all potential risks and identify viable contingency plans to ensure we stay ahead of any potential safety and health risks to our employees and members of our host communities. Along with this committee, we have set up regular meetings with Chief's and Metis Representatives to discuss the plans New Gold is taking, share ideas on how to work collaboratively to keep COVID-19 cases low in areas around the mine, and share concerns around testing and health facilities in the area. We understand the role we play in the Canadian economy and at the same time it is crucial to consider the substantial number of jobs, training and business opportunities that are made possible through the partnerships established with host Indigenous communities. Mining plays an integral role to the economy of these communities.

It is important to emphasize the need for these rapid test kit devices as a preventative measure to support the local host Indigenous communities with whom we maintain strong relationships. Our Rainy River mine operates on the traditional land of 16 Indigenous Communities, making our operation one of Canada's most partnered mines with Indigenous communities. As we continue to face the effects of COVID-19 across the nation, it is at the forefront of our concerns that some of the Indigenous communities we work with are located within remote regions and are living in substandard conditions with limited access to health care services. It is factors such as this that place Indigenous communities at a greater risk.

We understand the federal government is undertaking a massive effort to expand testing capacity to handle the rising number of COVID-19 cases and in light of this and as an essential business, it is imperative that we have the means necessary to detect and interrupt the chain of transmission. It is now widely known that individuals can be a carrier of COVID-19 and be contagious without being symptomatic. In order to be preventative in managing COVID-19, rapid testing devices are needed to test every individual on site, not just those who are showing symptoms.

As New Gold, we want to work with the Federal Government to help fill the gap in testing needs while other devices are being developed and procured for health facilities across the country. We are committed to supporting the efforts of the Federal Government and can work at providing rapid testing devices immediately within Indigenous communities surrounding our mine.

Through a partnership with Precision Biomonitoring and Dr. Mario Thomas, we are ready to purchase and deploy multiple rapid test devices to our operations. These devices will allow us to administer tests through our registered healthcare professionals on site, to all of our employees. With approval from Health Canada for Precision Biomonitoring rapid test devices, we will also be able to expand our testing efforts to surrounding Indigenous Communities, supporting the efforts of the Government of Canada. We are ready and able to purchase and train our registered nurses on these devices and together can help stop the spread of COVID-19 in some of Ontario's most vulnerable areas.

New Gold believes that together, we can flatten the curve and in doing so urgently requests a plan to obtain testing kits before the next wave of COVID-19 hits these communities.

We look forward to working with you to identify solutions to access additional testing kits. Please contact me directly to discuss further at 1-416-520-1658 or Renaud.adams@newgold.com.

Sincerely,



Renaud Adams
President & CEO
New Gold Inc.