



# Naicatchewenin First Nation

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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

Health, safety and wellness of Treaty 3 Community Members is of utmost priority. In light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I am requesting on behalf of my community, that Health Canada approve the rapid testing devices developed and tested by Precision Biomonitoring and Dr. Mario Thomas as quickly as possible. Rapid testing is needed in Treaty 3 communities. Through partnership with New Gold Inc. and Precision Biomonitoring, multiple rapid test devices are ready for deployment once an approval is given from Health Canada.

New Gold will be supporting testing efforts and offering testing services, through their trained nurses and medical professionals, to 16 communities in Treaty 3 that are partnered with their Rainy River Mine operation. New Gold has been transparent and collaborative in their approach against COVID-19 to ensure that employees and communities members are being kept safe. Rapid testing devices would give the ability to test all employees and extend to community members, easing stress and fear around the spread of COVID-19 in the Treaty 3 area.

I understand the role mining plays 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 partnership between Treaty 3 communities and New Gold.

As we continue to face effects of COVID-19 across the nation, it is at the forefront of my concern that some of the Treaty-3 communities 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 Treaty-3 communities at a greater risk, and situations like this that call for Precision Biomonitoring to receive Federal approval for their rapid testing kits.

Working together between Governments, Industry and individual communities we can flatten the curve of COVID-19 and need to have access to rapid testing kits to further these efforts.

I look forward to working with you.

Please contact me directly to discuss further at 807-486-3407 or 807-275-7802.

With all respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Smith', written in a cursive style.

Chief Wayne Smith