



**BIIGTIGONG
NISHNAABEG**

March 17, 2022

Joint Review Panel for the Marathon Palladium Project
Debra Sikora – Chair, Joint Review Panel
c/o Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0H3

VIA EMAIL: marathonminereview-examenminemarathon@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Sikora,

This written submission is provided in response to numerous remarks by participants in the Joint Review Panel process who have suggested, either directly or indirectly, to represent the opinions and concerns of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation (“Biigtigong Nishnaabeg”) relating to the Project, as that term is described in Part 1 of the Terms of Reference (CIAR# [730](#)).

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is an “Indigenous governing body” as defined by section 2(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019*, an “aboriginal people” as defined by section 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and an “Indian Band” as defined by section 2 of the *Indian Act, RSC 1985*. It is a “participant” as that term is defined in section 1(d) of the Marathon Palladium Project Joint Review Panel Public Hearing Procedures (CIAR# [956](#)) as well as a “community”.

In these hearings, certain members of the administration of the Chief and Council of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg represent Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. These men and women are supported by consultants, including cartographers, scientists, and legal counsel. These representatives have been, and will continue to be, active participants in the Joint Review Process on behalf of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

It is not for other organizations or individuals to speak on or on behalf of, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. Their views do not necessarily represent ours. Nor is it appropriate for other organizations or individuals to speak on our behalf. Attempts by non-representatives of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg to speak on our behalf diminish, however inadvertently, our political

and social agency. By doing so, attempts to represent our views by non-authorized representatives are a step backwards for reconciliation.

We encourage participants to examine their language, and to ensure that their submissions do not purport to represent Biigtigong Nishnaabeg concerns or views.

Respectfully,

<Original signed by>

Chief Duncan Michano, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation

<email address removed>