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April 05, 2022

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Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Attn: Debra Sikora, Panel Chair

Dear Ms. Sikora:

**RE: GenPGM Project – In-Camera Sessions for Community Session**

This letter is in anticipation of Pays Plat First Nation's ("PPFN") April 08 Community Session.

Some of our community members have expressed discomfort with their testimony being shared with the Proponent and otherwise being made public. We would request the opportunity to have an in-camera session for these community members, pursuant to section 2 of the Final Procedures for Requesting Confidentiality ([CIAR 212](#)).

Akin to PPFN's 2012 Report and the 2022 Report, some community members will be relying on collected familial traditional knowledge, oral family histories, and genealogical records to share their rich connection to PPFN's traditional territories with the Panel.

The disclosure of this sensitive information may cause mental distress to these community members if it is made public and in a recorded forum.

Additionally, it has become clear that some of our community members have a deep and profound emotional connection to the Angler Creek and Hare Lake area. Members have stories sharing how the area represents a cleansing and healing space from the inter-generational trauma suffered from Residential Schools. Others have expressed that sharing close family connections with the area would be traumatizing.

These members have stepped forward to participate because of the significance that the Angler Creek and Hare Lake area has to them. However, they understandably have conflicted feelings about this situation.

Forcing them to make their testimony public and in a recorded forum, as well as sharing these stories with the Proponent – the very party serving as the impetus for them confronting their trauma, would be needlessly cruel.

Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 encompasses the right of PPFN members to actively participate in the process of any projects which may impact their traditional territory, and communicate their legitimate concerns as a part of the ongoing consultation process.

Progressing in a manner that forces some community members to weigh their legitimate concerns regarding confidentiality against their equally important concerns regarding the Project may mean that they will opt to not participate. The result is a negative impact on the ability of PPFN community members in exercising their s.35 rights.

***Consequently, we would request that in-camera sessions be held for these community members during our April 08 Community Session.***

Out of respect for the Proponent and other Participants, and in the interests of Procedural Fairness, we will be making a redacted copy of our 2012 Report public so that all interested parties may be informed of PPFN's legitimate interest in the Project and its impact on our traditional territories.

We look forward to your response.

Regards,  
<Original signed by>



Chief & Council 