PROCEDURES FOR THE SALE AND INVESTMENT SOLICITATION PROCESS

Introduction

- A. Since May 2021, Harte Gold Corp. ("Harte Gold"), with the assistance of, *inter alia*, FTI Consulting Canada Inc. ("FTI"), has been conducting a strategic review process (the "Pre-Filing Strategic Process") with a view to finding an investor or a purchaser who would allow Harte Gold to pursue its operations as a going concern and maximize value for stakeholders (the "Opportunity");
- B. During the Pre-Filing Strategic Process, 1000025833 Ontario Inc. (the "Stalking Horse Bidder") expressed interest in the Opportunity, which culminated with the execution on December 6, 2021 of a Subscription Agreement (as amended and restated on December 15, 2021, the "Stalking Horse Bid") between Harte Gold and the Stalking Horse Bidder, pursuant to which the Stalking Horse Bidder agreed, among other things, to: (i) act as a "stalking horse bidder" in the context of a sale and investment solicitation process (the "SISP") to be undertaken within court-supervised proceedings to be commenced by Harte Gold under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA" and the proceedings commenced thereby, the "CCAA Proceedings"), and (ii) if the Stalking Horse Bidder is determined to be the Successful Bidder (as defined herein), to subscribe for and purchase from Harte Gold, the Subscribed Shares (as defined in the Stalking Horse Bid), on the terms and conditions set out in the Stalking Horse Bid, with the existing equity interests being cancelled on closing such that Stalking Horse Bidder would become the sole shareholder of Harte Gold (the "Stalking Horse Transaction");
- C. On December 7, 2021 (the "Filing Date"), Harte Gold sought and obtained an initial order (as amended, supplemented or amended and restated from time to time, the "Initial Order") under the CCAA from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) (the "CCAA Court"), pursuant to which, among other things, FTI was appointed as monitor in the CCAA Proceedings (in such capacity, the "Monitor");
- D. On December 20, 2021 the CCAA Court granted an order (the "**SISP Order**"), among other things, approving the Stalking Horse Bid and the procedures set out herein (the "**SISP Procedures**");
- E. The purpose of these SISP Procedures is to set out terms and procedures for a transparent, fair and efficient solicitation process to obtain the highest or otherwise best offer for Harte Gold's equity, assets, rights, undertakings and properties (collectively, the "**Property**"); and
- F. Accordingly, these SISP Procedures describe, among other things: (a) the manner in which prospective bidders may gain access to or continue to have access to due diligence materials concerning the Property and the Business, (b) the manner in which bidders and bids become Qualified Bidders, Qualified Bids, and Auction Bidders, as applicable, (c) the evaluation of bids received, (d) the guidelines for the ultimate selection of the Successful Bid and/or Back-up Bid, and (e) the process for obtaining such approvals (including the approval of the CCAA Court) as may be necessary or appropriate in respect of a Successful Bid.

Defined Terms

- 1. Capitalized terms used in these SISP Procedures and not otherwise defined have the meanings given to them below:
 - (a) **"Approval Hearing**" is defined in paragraph 2.
 - (b) **"Approval Motion**" is defined in paragraph 25.
 - (c) **"Auction**" is defined in paragraph 22.
 - (d) **"Auction Bidders**" is defined in paragraph 23.
 - (e) **"Auction Date**" is defined in paragraph 2.
 - (f) **"Back-Up Bid**" is defined in paragraph 24(i).
 - (g) **"Back-Up Bidder**" is defined in paragraph 24(i).
 - (h) "Bid" is defined in paragraph 18.
 - (i) **"Bid Deadline**" is defined in paragraph 2.
 - (j) **"Business**" means Harte Gold's business and activities as at Filing Date.
 - (k) **"Business Day**" means a day (other than Saturday or Sunday) on which banks are generally open for business in Toronto, Ontario.
 - (I) "CA" means the *Competition Act*, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-34, as amended.
 - (m) **"CCAA**" is defined in the introduction.
 - (n) "CCAA Court" is defined in the introduction.
 - (o) "CCAA Proceedings" is defined in the introduction.
 - (p) "Closing" means the completion of the transaction contemplated by the Successful Bid.
 - (q) **"Data Room**" is defined in paragraph 11.
 - (r) **"Deposit**" is defined in paragraph 18(h)(x).
 - (s) **"Filing Date**" is defined in the introduction.
 - (t) **"FTI**" is defined in the introduction.
 - (u) **"Harte Gold**" is defined in the introduction.
 - (v) "ICA" means the *Investment Canada Act*, R.S.C., 1985, c. 28 (1st Supp.), as amended.
 - (w) "Initial Order" is defined in the introduction.
 - (x) "Initial Overbid Amount" means \$500,000.

- (y) **"Known Potential Bidder**" means any party identified as a potential bidder by Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, whether or not such party participated in the Pre-Filing Strategic Process, and for greater certainty shall include each party that has submitted a bid in the Pre-Filing Strategic Process.
- (z) **"Monitor**" is defined in the introduction.
- (aa) "Monitor's Website" means <u>http://cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/harte</u>.
- (bb) **"NDA**" means a non-disclosure agreement in form and substance satisfactory to Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor.
- (cc) **"Opening Bid**" is defined in paragraph 24(b).
- (dd) "**Overbid**" is defined in paragraph 24(e).
- (ee) **"Overbid Amount**" means \$500,000 or such higher amount as Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, may determine in advance of any round of bidding in the Auction to be applicable for that round of the Auction.
- (ff) **"Participation Letter**" is defined in paragraph 7(a).
- (gg) **"Potential Bidder**" is defined in paragraph 4.
- (hh) **"Pre-Filing Strategic Process**" is defined in the introduction.
- (ii) **"Property**" is defined in the introduction.
- (jj) **"Qualified Bid**" is defined in paragraph 18.
- (kk) "Qualified Bidder" is defined in paragraph 9.
- (II) **"Required Acknowledgement**" means the written acknowledgement in the form attached hereto as Schedule "[B]" to be executed by a party wishing to participate in the SISP.
- (mm) "SISP" is defined in the introduction.
- (nn) **"SISP Order**" is defined in the introduction.
- (oo) **"SISP Press Release**" means a press release to be issued by Harte Gold substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule "[C]".
- (pp) "SISP Procedures" is defined in the introduction.
- (qq) **"Solicitation Materials Distribution Date**" is defined in paragraph 2.
- (rr) **"Solicitation Notice**" means a notice describing the opportunity to participate in the SISP.
- (ss) "Stalking Horse Bid" is defined in the introduction.
- (tt) **"Stalking Horse Bidder**" is defined in the introduction.
- (uu) **"Stalking Horse Transaction**" is defined in the introduction.

- (vv) **"Subscription Agreement**" means the template subscription agreement, in a form substantially similar to the Stalking Horse Bid, to be placed in the Data Room.
- (ww) "Successful Bid" is defined in paragraph 24(i).
- (xx) "Successful Bidder" is defined in paragraph 24(i).
- (yy) "Superior Offer" means a credible, reasonably certain and financially viable offer made by a Qualified Bidder that (i) provides for consideration in excess of the aggregate of the "Subscription Price" as defined in and contemplated by the Stalking Horse Transaction plus the Initial Overbid Amount, including cash consideration sufficient to pay in cash the Cash Consideration (as defined in the Stalking Horse Bid) and amounts owing to the Stalking Horse Bidder under the BNPP Credit Agreement and under the DIP Term Sheet, and (ii) Harte Gold and the Monitor, each with the assistance of their legal advisors, consider to be better than the Stalking Horse Transaction.

Key Dates

2. The key dates for the SISP are as follows:

DATE	MILESTONE
By no later than 1 day following the issuance by the Court of the SISP Order	Distribution by the Monitor of the Solicitation Notice and the Required Acknowledgment to the Known Potential Bidders
("Solicitation Materials Distribution Date")	
January 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)	The deadline for the receipt by the Monitor of Bids and Deposits
("Bid Deadline")	
By no later than January 20, 2022	Date of the Auction (if any)
("Auction Date")	
Subject to the availability of the Court, no later than seven (7) calendar days following either the conclusion of the Auction or the date on which a determination is made by Harte Gold, with the consent of the Monitor, not to proceed with an Auction in accordance with paragraph 21 ("Approval Hearing")	Hearing of the Approval Motion

Supervision of the SISP

3. The Monitor shall supervise Harte Gold's conduct of the SISP as outlined herein. In the event that there is disagreement or clarification is required as to the interpretation or application of this SISP or the responsibilities of the Monitor or Harte Gold hereunder, the CCAA Court will have jurisdiction to hear such matter and provide advice and directions, upon application of the Monitor, Harte Gold or any other interested party with a hearing which shall be scheduled on not less than three (3) Business Days' notice.

Solicitation of Interest

- 4. For all purposes of this SISP, the following persons shall be considered as potential bidders (each, a "**Potential Bidder**"): (i) the Known Potential Bidders, and (ii) any other party that executes a Required Acknowledgement and is permitted by Harte Gold, with the consent of the Monitor, to participate in the SISP.
- 5. As soon as reasonably practicable after the granting of the SISP Order:
 - (a) the Monitor will post the SISP Order and the SISP Procedures on the Monitor's Website; and
 - (b) Harte Gold will issue the SISP Press Release with Canada Newswire designating dissemination in Canada and internationally.
- 6. By no later than the Solicitation Materials Distribution Date, the Monitor, on behalf of Harte Gold, shall distribute the Solicitation Notice and form of Required Acknowledgement to Known Potential Bidders inviting the Known Potential Bidders to submit a bid pursuant to these SISP Procedures.

Participation Requirements

- 7. Subject to paragraph 8, in order to participate in the SISP, each Potential Bidder must deliver the following information and executed documents to the Monitor, on behalf of Harte Gold, at the email addresses specified in <u>Schedule A</u> hereto:
 - (a) a letter (a "**Participation Letter**") setting forth (i) the identity, the type and the jurisdiction of organization of the Potential Bidder, (ii) the contact information for such Potential Bidder, (iii) full disclosure of the direct and indirect owners and principals of the Potential Bidder, and (iv) such financial disclosure and credit quality support or enhancement that allows Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, to make a reasonable determination as to the Potential Bidder's financial and other capabilities to consummate a transaction pursuant to a Superior Offer;
 - (b) an executed NDA; and
 - (c) a copy of the Required Acknowledgment executed by the Potential Bidder.
- 8. Harte Gold, with the consent of the Monitor may waive compliance with paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b) of these SISP Procedures for any Potential Bidder that is deemed by Harte Gold, with the consent of the Monitor, to have adequately satisfied the requirements set forth in paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), as applicable, during the Pre-Filing Strategic Process.

- 9. A Potential Bidder that has delivered the necessary documents and information in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 and that Harte Gold, in its reasonable business judgment, in consultation with the Monitor, determines is likely, based on the availability of financing, experience and other considerations, to be able to submit a Superior Offer by the Bid Deadline will be deemed to be a "Qualified Bidder".
- 10. Notwithstanding paragraphs 7 to 9, the Stalking Horse Bidder shall be deemed to be a Qualified Bidder for all purposes under, and at all times in connection with, this SISP.

Access to Data Room

- 11. Harte Gold, with the assistance of the Monitor, shall provide each Qualified Bidder with access to a secure online electronic data room (the "**Data Room**") containing due diligence information.
- 12. The Monitor shall coordinate all reasonable requests from Qualified Bidders for additional information and due diligence access; provided that the Monitor and Harte Gold may decline to provide (or elect to withdraw access to) due diligence information to any Qualified Bidder (other than the Stalking Horse Bidder) who, at such time and in the reasonable business judgment of Harte Gold, after consultation with the Monitor, has not established (or there is otherwise a reasonable basis to doubt), that such Qualified Bidder intends in good faith to, or has the capacity to, consummate a transaction.
- 13. Harte Gold also reserves its right, in consultation with the Monitor, to withhold any diligence materials that Harte Gold determines are sensitive or otherwise not appropriate for disclosure to a Qualified Bidder that Harte Gold determines is (or is affiliated with) a competitor or is otherwise an entity to which the disclosure of sensitive or competitive information, in Harte Gold's exercise of its reasonable business judgment (in consultation with the Monitor), may risk unduly placing Harte Gold at a competitive disadvantage or make it subject to regulatory scrutiny.
- 14. All due diligence and information requests must be directed to the Monitor at the email addresses specified in <u>Schedule A</u> hereto.
- 15. Harte Gold, the Monitor and their respective employees, officers, directors, agents, advisors and other representatives make no promise, representation, warranty, condition or guarantee of any kind, nature or description as to the information (a) contained in the Data Room, or (b) otherwise made available in connection with this SISP, except, in the case of Harte Gold only, to the extent expressly contemplated in any executed definitive sale or investment agreement with a Successful Bidder.
- 16. Without limiting the generality of any term or condition of any NDA between Harte Gold and any Potential Bidder or Qualified Bidder, unless otherwise agreed by Harte Gold or ordered by the CCAA Court, no Potential Bidder or Qualified Bidder shall be permitted to have any discussions with (a) any counterparty to any contract with Harte Gold, any current or former director, manager, shareholder, officer, member or employee of Harte Gold, other than in the normal course of business and wholly unrelated to Harte Gold, the potential transaction, the Confidential Information (as defined in the NDA), the SISP or the CCAA Proceedings, and (b) any other Potential Bidder or Qualified Bidder regarding the SISP or any bids submitted or contemplated to be submitted pursuant thereto. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall prohibit secured creditors of Harte Gold, and their respective affiliates and their legal and financial advisors, from communicating with each other, solely to discuss their secured interests in Harte Gold in their capacities as secured creditors, unless such secured creditors have been advised

by the Company or the Monitor that their secured indebtedness is proposed to be paid or otherwise satisfied in full by a Qualified Bidder, in which case, such communications and discussions from that point on shall be made in the presence of the Monitor. At no time shall such secured creditors be entitled to communicate or discuss with one another or with any other Potential Bidder, Qualified Bidder or Auction Bidder regarding the SISP or any bids submitted or contemplated to be submitted pursuant thereto.

Qualified Bids

- 17. A Qualified Bidder that wishes to make a bid must deliver their bid to the Monitor, on behalf of Harte Gold, at the email addresses specified in <u>Schedule A</u> hereto so as to be actually received by the Monitor not later than the Bid Deadline.
- 18. All offers submitted to the Monitor ("**Bids**") for consideration in accordance with paragraph 17, other than the Stalking Horse Bid which is deemed a Qualified Bid, must comply with all of the following requirements (any such complying Bid, a "**Qualified Bid**"):
 - (a) <u>Subscription/Purchase Price</u>: Each Bid must clearly set forth the subscription/purchase price in Canadian dollars, stated on a total enterprise value basis, (including the cash and non-cash components thereof, the sources of such capital, evidence of the availability of such capital and the steps necessary and associated timing to obtain the capital and consummate the proposed transaction and any related contingencies, as applicable);
 - (b) <u>Executed Subscription Agreement or other Transaction Agreement</u>: Each bid must be made by way of the submission of (a) a Subscription Agreement or (b) or such other form of transaction document as the Qualified Bidder may choose, in each case executed by the Qualified Bidder;
 - (c) <u>Mark-up</u>: Each Bid must include a full mark-up comparison of their executed Subscription Agreement or other form of transaction document against the form of Subscription Agreement (including all schedules and exhibits thereto) included in the Data Room, as well as any proposed forms of Orders to be sought from the CCAA Court.
 - (d) <u>Bid Deadline</u>: Each Bid must be received by the Bid Deadline as set forth herein;
 - (e) <u>Superior Offer</u>: Each Bid must represent a Superior Offer;
 - (f) <u>Capital Structure</u>: Each Bid must include information to enable Harte Gold and the Monitor to review and assess the financing/cash available post-closing to fund the business, and implement post-closing measures and transactions.
 - (g) <u>Irrevocable Offer</u>: Each Bid must be irrevocable until the earlier of (A) the approval by the CCAA Court of a Successful Bid (and the Back-Up Bid) and (B) 45 days following the Bid Deadline, provided that if such bidder is selected as the Successful Bidder, its offer will remain irrevocable until the Closing (or the outside date as set forth therein);
 - (h) <u>Executed Documents</u>: Each Bid must be accompanied by a duly authorized and executed Subscription Agreement or other form of transaction document and an electronic copy of such agreement, as well as duly authorized and executed transaction documents necessary to effectuate the transactions contemplated

thereby;

- (i) <u>Financial Wherewithal</u>: Each Bid must include (A) written evidence of a firm, irrevocable commitment for financing, or other evidence of ability to consummate the proposed transaction, that will allow Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, to make a reasonable determination as to the Qualified Bidder's financial and other capabilities to consummate the transaction, and (B) the identification of any person or entity who may provide debt or equity financing for the Bid and any material conditions to be satisfied in connection with such financing;
- (ii) <u>Authorization</u>: Each Bid must include evidence, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, of authorization and approval from the bidder's board of directors (or comparable governing body) with respect to the submission, execution, delivery and closing of the transaction contemplated by the Bid;
- (iii) <u>No Other Authorization, Diligence, Financing Conditions</u>: Each Bid must not be conditional upon the following:
 - A. any internal approval(s);
 - B. the outcome of unperformed due diligence by the Qualified Bidder; or
 - C. obtaining financing;
- (iv) <u>Identity</u>: Each Bid must fully disclose the identity of each entity that will be sponsoring or participating in the bid, and the complete terms of such participation;
- (v) <u>Contact Information</u>: Each Bid must contain contact information for any business, financial or legal advisors retained or to be retained in connection with the proposed transaction;
- (vi) <u>Regulatory Approvals</u>: Each Bid must outline any anticipated regulatory and other approvals required to close the transaction, including any approvals under the CA and ICA, and the anticipated time frame and any anticipated impediments for obtaining such approvals and confirms that the Qualified Bidder will make and submit all necessary and applicable regulatory filings and pay all fees associated therewith;
- (vii) <u>Disclaimer of Fees</u>: Each Bid must disclaim any right to receive a fee analogous to a break-up fee, expense reimbursement, termination fee, or any other similar form of compensation;
- (viii) <u>Treatment of Employees</u>: Each Bid must include full details of the Qualified Bidder's intention towards offering continued employment to Harte Gold's employees and by providing details on the terms and conditions of employment that will be offered to any continuing employees. For greater certainty, each Bid must include the proposed number of employees of Harte Gold who will become employees of the bidder or remain employees of the Business. Each Bid must also include details on how the Qualified Bidder intends to address Harte Gold's

contemplated actions towards its employee population in the context of the restructuring process;

- (ix) <u>Timeline</u>: Each Bid must provide a timeline to closing with critical milestones;
- (x) <u>Deposit</u>: Each Bid, including the Stalking Horse Bid, must be accompanied by a refundable deposit (the "Deposit") in the form of a wire transfer to an account specified by the Monitor, payable to the order of the Monitor, on behalf of Harte Gold, in trust, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the cash consideration contemplated by the Bid (including the Stalking Horse Bid), to be held and dealt with in accordance with the terms of this SISP;
- (xi) <u>Terms of Court Order(s)</u>: Each Bid must describe the key terms and provisions to be included in any order of the CCAA Court approving the contemplated transaction;
- (xii) <u>Precedent Investments in the Mining Industry</u>: Each Bid must provide any relevant details of the previous investments or acquisitions, or any other experience a Qualified Bidder has and deemed relevant by such Qualified Bidder, in the mining industry, including the date, nature of the investment, amount invested, geography and any other relevant information related to such investment;
- (xiii) <u>Prospective Plans</u>: Each Bid should include the Qualified Bidder's proposed plans for Harte Gold following consummation of a potential transaction, including intentions for Harte Gold's operations as well as for management, employees and facilities;
- (xiv) <u>Confirmation of no Collusion</u>. Each Auction Bid should include confirmation by the Qualified Bidder that it has not engaged in any discussions or any other collusive behaviour with any other Potential Bidder or Qualified Bidder regarding the SISP or any bids submitted or contemplated to be submitted in the SISP; and
- (xv) <u>Other Information</u>: Each Bid must contain such other information as may be reasonably requested by Harte Gold or the Monitor from time to time.
- 19. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, will review and assess each Bid to determine whether such Bid is a Qualified Bid. In performing such review and assessment, Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, may evaluate the following non-exhaustive list of considerations: (a) the subscription/purchase price and net value (including assumed liabilities and other obligations to be performed by the bidder); (b) the firm, irrevocable commitment for financing of the transaction; (c) the claims likely to be created by such Bid in relation to other Bids; (d) the counterparties to the transaction; (e) the terms of transaction documents, including, if applicable, the proposed revisions to the Stalking Horse Bid; (f) the closing conditions and other factors affecting the speed, certainty and value of the transaction (including any regulatory approvals required to close the transaction); (g) planned treatment of stakeholders; (h) the assets included or excluded from the Bid; (i) any restructuring costs that would arise from the Bid; (i) the likelihood and timing of consummating the transaction. (k) the financing or cash pro forma available post-closing to fund Harte Gold's Business; (I) the capital sufficient to implement post-closing

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measures and transactions; and (m) proposed treatment of the employees.

20. Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, may reject any Bid that is (i) inadequate or insufficient; (ii) not in conformity with the requirements pursuant to these SISP Procedures; (iii) contrary to the best interest of Harte Gold; or (iv) not a Qualified Bid; provided that Harte Gold may, in consultation with the Monitor, waive strict compliance with any one or more of the requirements specified in paragraph 18 above and deem a non-compliant Bid to be a Qualified Bid.

Auction; Successful Bid

- 21. In the event that no Qualified Bid other than the Stalking Horse Bid is received, then (a) there will be no auction, (b) the Stalking Horse Bid will be deemed to be the Successful Bid, and (c) Harte Gold shall seek approval and authority to consummate the Stalking Horse Bid and the transactions provided for therein at the Approval Hearing.
- 22. If one or more Qualified Bids other than the Stalking Horse Bid are received, then Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, shall conduct an auction to determine the highest or otherwise best Qualified Bid (the "**Auction**").
- 23. If the Auction is to take place, then as soon as practicable prior to the Auction, Harte Gold shall provide the Stalking Horse Bidder and all Qualified Bidders having submitted a Qualified Bid (the Stalking Horse Bidder and all Qualified Bidders, together, "Auction Bidders") with details of the time and place for the Auction and a copy of the Opening Bid for the Auction.
- 24. The Auction shall commence on the Auction Date and shall be held at the Toronto office of Stikeman Elliott LLP or by videoconference or such other arrangement acceptable to the Monitor. If the Auction is held at the Toronto office of Stikeman Elliott LLP and any Auction Bidder requests to participate by videoconference, Harte and the Monitor shall facilitate participation by videoconference. The Auction shall be conducted according to the following procedures:
 - (a) <u>Participation</u>: Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, shall direct and preside over the Auction. Only Auction Bidders are eligible to participate in the Auction. Each Auction Bidder must have, present or available, the individual or individuals with the necessary decision-making authority to submit Overbids and to make such necessary and ancillary decisions as may be required during the Auction. Only the authorized representatives, including counsel and other advisors, of Harte Gold, the Monitor, and each of the Auction Bidders shall be permitted to attend the Auction.
 - (b) <u>Rounds</u>. Bidding at the Auction shall be conducted in rounds. The Qualified Bid determined by Harte Gold and the Monitor to have the highest and/or best value shall constitute the "**Opening Bid**" for the first round of bidding. The highest and/or best Overbid at the end of each round shall constitute the "**Opening Bid**" for the following round. Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, shall determine what constitutes the Opening Bid for each round in accordance with the assessment criteria set out in paragraph 24(d) below. In each round, an Auction Bidder may submit no more than one Overbid. Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, may impose such time limits for the submission of Overbids as it deems reasonable. For clarity, the Stalking Horse Bidder may submit an Overbid.

- (c) <u>Failure to Submit an Overbid</u>. If, at the end of any round of bidding, an Auction Bidder (other than the Auction Bidder that submitted the Opening Bid for such round) fails to submit an Overbid, then such Auction Bidder may not participate in any future round of bidding at the Auction. Any Auction Bidder that submits an Overbid during a round (including the Auction Bidder that submitted the Opening Bid for such round) shall be entitled to participate in the next round of bidding at the Auction. Any Auction Bidder that fails to submit an Overbid in a round (other than the Auction Bidder that submitted the Opening Bid for such round) may be required by Harte Gold and the Monitor to leave the Auction.
- (d) <u>Bid Assessment Criteria</u>. Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, shall determine which Qualified Bid constitutes the Opening Bid for the first round of bidding and the determination of which Overbid constitutes the Opening Bid for each subsequent round of bidding, taking into account all factors that Harte Gold and the Monitor, with the assistance of their advisors, reasonably deem relevant to the value of such bid, including, among other things, those considerations listed in paragraph 19, above.
- (e) <u>Overbids</u>. All bids made during the Auction must be Overbids and shall be submitted in a form to be determined by Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor. The identity of each Auction Bidder and all material terms of each Overbid may be fully disclosed by Harte Gold to all other Auction Bidders participating in the Auction. The Monitor shall maintain a record of the Opening Bid and all Overbids made and announced at the Auction, including the Successful Bid (as defined below) and the Back-Up Bid. To be considered an "Overbid", a bid made during the Auction must satisfy the following criteria:
 - (i) <u>Minimum Consideration</u>. The overall amount of consideration of any Overbid shall not be less than the value of the Opening Bid of the applicable round of bidding, plus the Overbid Amount; and
 - (ii) <u>Remaining terms are the same as for Qualified Bids</u>. Except as modified herein, an Overbid must comply with the conditions for a Bid set forth in paragraph 18 above (provided, for greater certainty, that the Bid Deadline shall not apply and Overbids need not be accompanied by additional cash deposits (subject to subsection (h) hereof)). To the extent not previously provided (which shall be determined by Harte Gold in consultation with the Monitor), an Auction Bidder submitting an Overbid must submit, as part of its Overbid, evidence acceptable to Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, demonstrating such Auction Bidder's ability (including financial ability) to close the transaction contemplated by its Overbid;
- (f) <u>Overbid Alterations</u>: An applicable Overbid may contain alterations, modifications, additions, or deletions of any terms of the prior Overbid so long as, after giving effect to the same, the terms of the new Overbid are no less favorable than any prior Overbid of such Auction Bidder, as determined by Harte Gold in consultation with the Monitor.
- (g) <u>Announcing Highest Overbids</u>. At the end of each round of bidding, Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, shall (i) review each Overbid made in such round; (ii) identify the highest and/or best Overbid; and (iii) announce the terms of such highest and/or best Overbid to all Auction Bidders entitled to participate in the next round of bidding. Such highest and/or best Overbid shall be the Opening

Bid for the next round of the Auction.

- (h) <u>Adjournments</u>. Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, may, in its reasonable business judgment, make one or more adjournments in the Auction to, among other things: (i) facilitate discussions with individual Auction Bidders, including any discussion, negotiation or clarification of any Overbid; (ii) allow individual Auction Bidders to consider how they wish to proceed; (iii) consider and determine the current highest and/or best Overbid at any given time during the Auction; (iv) give Auction Bidders the opportunity to provide such additional evidence as Harte Gold may require, in its reasonable business judgment, that the Auction Bidder has sufficient internal resources or has received sufficient non-contingent debt and/or equity funding commitments to consummate the proposed transaction at the Overbid amount; and (v) subject to such rules and guidelines as Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, may consider appropriate, facilitate any appropriate consultation by Harte Gold and/or Auction Bidders with third party stakeholders.
- (i) <u>Closing the Auction</u>. If, in any round of bidding, no Overbid is made, the Auction shall be closed and Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor and legal advisors: (i) declare the last Opening Bid as the successful Bid (the "Successful Bid" and the party submitting such Successful Bid, the "Successful Bidder"); (ii) immediately review the other Overbids made in the previous round (or the Qualified Bid if no Overbids were made at the Auction) and identify and record the next highest and/or best Overbid (or Qualified Bid) (the "Back-Up Bid" and the party submitting such Back-Up Bid, the "Back-Up Bidder"); and (iii) advise the Successful Bidder and the Back-Up Bidder of such determinations and all other Auction Bidders that they are not a Successful Bidder or a Back-Up Bidder. If a Back-up Bid is identified in accordance with this SISP, then such Back-up Bid shall remain open until the closing of the transaction contemplated by the Successful Bid.
- (j) <u>Executed Documentation</u>: The Successful Bidder and the Back-up Bidder (if any) shall, within two (2) Business Days after the conclusion of the Auction, or such longer delay acceptable to Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, submit to Harte Gold executed revised documentation memorializing the terms of the Successful Bid and the Back-up Bid (if any). The Successful Bid and the Back-up Bid may not be assigned to any party without the consent of Harte Gold.
- (k) <u>Reservation of Rights</u>.
 - (i) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, Harte Gold shall be under no obligation to accept the highest or the best Overbid or any Qualified Bid (other than the Stalking Horse Bid if no higher or better Qualified Bid is accepted) or to pursue or hold an Auction or to select any Successful Bid and/or Back-up Bid.
 - (ii) Harte Gold reserves its rights to modify the conduct of the Auction at any time, acting reasonably, in consultation with the Monitor, in any manner that would best promote the goals of the Auction process, including to select the Successful Bid and/or Back-up Bid prior to the completion of the Auction.
- (I) <u>No Collusion.</u> Each Auction Bidder shall be required to confirm that it has not engaged in any discussions or any other collusive behaviour with respect to the

submissions of Overbids. Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, may permit discussions between Auction Bidders at the Auction, subject to such rules and guidelines as Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor, considers appropriate. The parties agree that discussions between secured creditors of Harte Gold, including their affiliates, and their legal or financial advisors, regarding their secured interests in Harte Gold, shall not constitute collusive behaviour provided that such secured creditors comply with the requirements of paragraph 16 hereof.

Approval Motion

- 25. Harte Gold shall apply to the CCAA Court (the "**Approval Motion**") for an order approving the Successful Bid and authorizing Harte Gold to enter into any and all necessary agreements with respect to the Successful Bid and to undertake such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to give effect to the Successful Bid. Such order shall also approve the Back-Up Bid, if any, in the event that the Successful Bid does not close for any reason.
- 26. The hearing of the Approval Motion will be held on the date of the Approval Hearing. The Approval Motion may be adjourned or rescheduled by Harte Gold or the Monitor, in consultation with the Successful Bidder, without further notice by an announcement of the adjourned date at the Approval Motion, or by notice to the service list in the CCAA Proceedings.
- 27. All Qualified Bids (other than the Successful Bid and the Back-Up Bid) will be deemed rejected on the date of approval of the Successful Bid by the CCAA Court.

Closing the Successful Bid

28. Harte Gold and the Successful Bidder shall take all reasonable steps to complete the transaction contemplated by the Successful Bid as soon as possible after the Successful Bid is approved by the CCAA Court. If the transaction contemplated by the Successful Bid has not closed by the outside date provided for in the Successful Bid or the Successful Bid is terminated for any reason prior to the outside date provided for in the Successful Bid, Harte Gold may elect, with the consent of the Monitor, to seek to complete the transaction contemplated by the Back-Up Bid, and will promptly seek to close the transaction contemplated by the Back-Up Bid. The Back-Up Bid will be deemed to be the Successful Bid and Harte Gold will be deemed to have accepted the Back-Up Bid only when Harte Gold has made such election and provided written notice of such determination to the Successful Bidder and the Back-Up Bidder.

<u>General</u>

29. All Deposits will be retained by the Monitor and deposited in a trust account. The Deposit (without interest thereon) paid by the Successful Bidder and Back-Up Bidder whose bid(s) is/are approved at the Approval Motion will be applied to the subscription/purchase price to be paid or investment amount to be made by the Successful Bidder and/or Back-Up Bidder, as applicable upon closing of the approved transaction and will be non-refundable, other than in the circumstances set out in the Successful Bid or the Back-Up Bid, as applicable. The Deposits (without interest) of Qualified Bidders and Auction Bidders not selected as the Successful Bidder and Back-Up Bidder will be returned to such bidders within five (5) Business Days after the selection of the Successful Bidder and Back-Up Bidder or any earlier date as may be determined by Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor. The Deposit of the Back-Up

Bidder, if any, shall be returned to such Back-Up Bidder no later than five (5) Business Days after Closing.

- 30. If a Successful Bidder breaches its obligations under the terms of the SISP, its Deposit shall be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- 31. All bidders (including Auction Bidders and Qualified Bidders) shall be deemed to have consented to the exclusive jurisdiction of the CCAA Court and waived any right to apply to another jurisdiction in connection with any disputes relating to the SISP, including the qualification of bids, the Auction, if any, the construction and enforcement of the SISP, the transaction documents and the Closing, as applicable.
- 32. For the avoidance of doubt, the approvals required pursuant to the terms hereof are in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other approvals required by the CCAA or any other statute or as otherwise required at law in order to implement a Successful Bid.
- 33. There will be no amendments to this SISP without the consent of the Monitor and Harte Gold and, if such modification or amendment materially deviates from the key dates contemplated in Section 2 hereof, with the written consent of the Stalking Horse Bidder, or with the approval of the CCAA Court.
- 34. This SISP does not, and will not be interpreted to, create any contractual or other legal relationship between Harte Gold and any Qualified Bidder or Auction Bidder, or any obligation to enter into any contractual or other legal relationship between Harte Gold and any Qualified Bidder or Auction Bidder, other than as specifically set forth in a definitive agreement that may be signed with Harte Gold.
- 35. Neither Harte Gold nor the Monitor shall be liable for any claim for a brokerage commission, finder's fee or like payment in respect of the consummation of any of the transactions contemplated under the SISP arising out of any agreement or arrangement entered into by the parties that submitted the Successful Bid and Back-Up Bid.

SCHEDULE A

Contact Information

Monitor

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.

TD South Tower, 79 Wellington Street West Toronto Dominion Centre, Suite 2010 P.O. Box 104, Toronto, ON Canada, M5K 1G8

Attention of:

Nigel Meakin Tel: (416) 649-8065 Email: nigel.meakin@fticonsulting.com

Jeffrey Rosenberg Tel: (416) 649-8073 Email: jeffrey.rosenberg@fticonsulting.com

Dean Mullett Tel: (416) 816-0733 Email: dean.mullett@fticonsulting.com

SCHEDULE B

Required Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement of the Sale and Investment Solicitation Process

TO: Harte Gold Corp. ("**Harte Gold**")

AND TO: FTI Consulting Canada Inc., as monitor in the CCAA proceedings (the "Monitor")

RE: Sale and Investment Solicitation Process in respect of Harte Gold

On December 7, 2021, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice [Commercial List] (the "**CCAA Court**") granted an initial order (the "**Initial Order**") in respect of Harte Gold pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, and FTI Consulting Canada Inc. was appointed as Monitor of Harte Gold.

On December 20, 2021, the CCAA Court granted, *inter alia*, an order (the "**SISP Order**") approving the conduct of a sale and solicitation process (the "**SISP**") by Harte Gold, with the assistance of the Monitor, in accordance with the procedures attached to the SISP Order (the "**SISP Procedures**").

The undersigned hereby acknowledges having received a copy of the SISP Order and of the SISP Procedures, and that in order to participate in the SISP and submit a Bid (as defined in the SISP Procedures) that will be considered by Harte Gold, in consultation with the Monitor and their respective advisors, the undersigned must comply with the terms and provisions of the SISP Order and the SISP Procedures, which the undersigned hereby agrees to do.

This ______ day of ______ , 2021.

[Insert Interested Party name]

By: Title:

SCHEDULE C

SISP Press Release

Toronto – December 20, 2021 – As previously announced, on December 7, 2021, HARTE GOLD CORP. ("Harte Gold" or the "Company") (TSX: HRT / OTC: HRTFF / Frankfurt: H4O) was granted creditor protection pursuant to an order (the "Initial Order") granted by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) (the "Court") under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "CCAA"). Pursuant to the Initial Order, the Company obtained protection from its creditors for an initial period of ten (10) days (the "Stay Period") and FTI Consulting Canada Inc. was appointed as monitor of the Company (in such capacity, the "Monitor").

On December 16, 2021, the Court granted an order pursuant to which the Stay Period was extended until December 21, 2022 and the amount authorized for borrowing under the DIP Financing Agreement approved by the Court in the Initial Order was increased to \$2.5 million,

On December 20, 2021, the Court granted an Amended and Restated Initial Order (the "**ARIO**") pursuant to which, *inter alia*, the Stay Period was extended until January 31, 2022 and the amount authorized for borrowing under the DIP Financing Agreement approved by the Court in the Initial Order was increased to \$10.8 million.

On December 20, 2021 also, the Court also granted an order (the "SISP Order") authorizing the Company to conduct, with the assistance of the Monitor, a sale and investment solicitation process (the "SISP") in accordance with certain terms and conditions relating thereto (the "SISP Procedures"). As part of the SISP Order, the Court approved the Company's execution of a subscription agreement (the "Subscription Agreement") with 1000025833 Ontario Inc. (the "Investor"), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Silver Lake Resources Limited ("Silver Lake") (ASX: SLR) and the use of the Subscription Agreement as a "stalking horse bid" (the "Stalking Horse Bid") in the context of the SISP, in order to establish the baseline consideration for the Company's business and assets. Interested parties are invited to participate in the SISP and submit a superior proposal (each a "Superior Proposal") to the Stalking Horse Bid. If no Superior Proposal is submitted to the Company and the Monitor as part of the SISP, the Investor shall be declared the successful bidder at the conclusion of the SISP and, if the transaction contemplated in the Subscription Agreement is subsequently approved by the Court, the Investor will become the sole shareholder of Company, which will continue its business and operations as a going concern. The SISP is intended to secure the highest or otherwise best offer for the Company's business and assets, for the benefit of all stakeholders.

In order to participate in the SISP and obtain access to a virtual data room, all interested parties must comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the SISP Procedures, a copy of which is attached to the SISP Order and is also available on the Monitor's website at http://cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/harte. Parties interested in participating in the SISP, should contact the Monitor at http://cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/harte.

All bids must be submitted to the Monitor by no later than January 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).

Additional Information

Further updates will be provided as appropriate. A copy of the Initial Order, the ARIO, the SISP Order, the SISP Procedures and all materials related thereto, as well as any other information regarding the CCAA proceedings, are available on the Monitor's website at http://cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/harte.

About Harte Gold Corp.

Harte Gold holds a 100% interest in the Sugar Zone mine located in White River, Canada. The Sugar Zone Mine entered commercial production in 2019. The Company has further potential through exploration at the Sugar Zone Property, which encompasses 81,287 hectares covering a significant greenstone belt. Harte Gold trades on the TSX under the symbol "HRT", on the OTC under the symbol "HRTFF" and on the Frankfurt Exchange under the symbol "H4O".

For further information, please visit <u>www.hartegold.com</u> or contact:

Shawn Howarth Vice President, Corporate Development and Investor Relations Tel: 416-368-0999 E-mail: <u>sh@hartegold.com</u>

Cautionary note regarding forward-looking information:

This news release includes "forward-looking statements", within the meaning of applicable securities legislation, which are based on the opinions and estimates of management and are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those projected in the forwardlooking statements. Forward-looking statements are often, but not always, identified by the use of words such as "seek", "anticipate", "budget", "plan", "continue", "estimate", "expect", "forecast", "may", "will", "project", "predict", "potential", "targeting", "intend", "could", "might", "should", "believe" and similar words suggesting future outcomes or statements regarding an outlook. Specific forward-looking statements in this press release include, but are not limited to, the Stay Period expiring on January 31, 2022; the Investor, if it is the successful bidder at the conclusion of the SISP and is approved by the Court, becoming the sole shareholder of Company in a transaction which provides for the continuation of its business and operations as a going concern; the DIP Financing providing Harte Gold with the liquidity required to continue the operations of Sugar Zone Mine until closing of a transaction; there being no recovery for holders of existing equity interests in the Company unless the successful bid at the conclusion of the SISP provides for significantly higher value than the Subscription Agreement; further updates being provided as appropriate; and the Company having further potential through exploration at the Sugar Zone Property. Forwardlooking statements are necessarily based upon a number of estimates and assumptions including material estimates and assumptions related to the factors set forth below that, while considered reasonable by the Company as at the date of this press release in light of management's experience and perception of current conditions and expected developments, are inherently subject to significant business, economic, and competitive uncertainties and contingencies. Known and unknown factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements, and undue reliance should not be placed on such statements and information. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the Strategic Review Process failing to result in a transaction that provides value to the Company's stakeholders; the Company being unable to secure sufficient financing to complete the Strategic Review Process; the Company being unable to continue as a going concern; the risk that the Company will not have adequate sources of funding to finance the Company's operations in the near future; the risk that the Company will not be able to obtain sufficient financing for working capital, capital expenditures, debt service requirements, and general corporate or other purposes; the risk that the Company has insufficient assets to meet its liabilities or satisfy its creditors; the Company being able to attract and retain qualified candidates to join the Company's management team and board of directors, risks associated with the mining industry, including operational risks in exploration, development and production; delays or changes in plans with respect to exploration or development projects or capital expenditures: the uncertainty of reserve estimates; the uncertainty of estimates and projections in relation to production, costs and expenses; the uncertainty surrounding the ability of the Company to obtain all permits, agreements, consents or authorizations required for its operations and activities; and health, safety and environmental risks, the risk of commodity price and foreign exchange rate fluctuations, the ability of Harte Gold to fund the capital and operating expenses necessary to achieve the business objectives of Harte Gold, the uncertainty associated with commercial negotiations and negotiating with contractors and other parties and risks

associated with international business activities, as well as other risks and uncertainties which are more fully described in the Company's Annual Information Form dated March 30, 2021, and in other filings of the Company with securities and regulatory authorities which are available on SEDAR at <u>www.sedar.com</u>. Due to the risks, uncertainties and assumptions inherent in forward-looking statements, prospective investors in securities of the Company should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned that the foregoing list of risks, uncertainties and other factors are not exhaustive. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release are made as of the date hereof and the Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or in any other documents filed with Canadian securities regulatory authorities, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except in accordance with applicable securities laws. The forward-looking statements are expressly qualified by this cautionary statement. The Toronto Stock Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this news release.