Dear Members of the Tribunal,

Canada is writing to inquire if the Tribunal has a preference on whether the 15-19 November 2021 hearing should be held virtually or in-person, given the global circumstances of the pandemic. While recognizing that the pandemic has created much uncertainty with respect to hearing locations and travel, such an indication would be of great assistance to all parties in their respective preparations.

It is Canada’s preference to hold the hearing in-person in Toronto, Canada. Paragraph 3.2 of Procedural Order No. 1 provides that hearings may be held in locations other than the seat of arbitration. With all parties’ health and safety in mind, Toronto would also reduce or remove the need for some parties to travel, and has an airport with frequent international flights. There are also high quality facilities that could serve as a hearing venue. However, Canada remains available to discuss other potential locations, as contemplated in paragraph 3.2 of Procedural Order No. 1.

Kind regards,

Krystal Girvan
Paralegal / parajuriste
(she/elle)

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