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To: Securitles & Exchange Commission - Washington, D.C.
Attention: Compliance
From: Debra Watkins
Re: Pure Gold News Release

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NEWS RELEASE

PURE GOLD MINERALS INC.

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December 20, 2002

TSX SYMBOL: PUG

Exploration Update - Slave Joint Venture

Donald R. Sheldon, President of Pure Gold Minerals Inc. ("Pure Gold") is pleased to announce that it has elected to participate in the 2003 exploration program under the Slave Joint Venture, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, with Ashton Mining of Canada Inc. ("Ashton"). The program has an estimated budget of \$2,000,000. Most of the work will be conducted on the Joint Venture's properties in the Coronation Gulf region of Nunavut where 11 diamondiferous kimberlites have been identified since 1999.

The 2003 program will include heavy mineral sampling ground geophysics and, where warranted, drilling. Field activities will commence in late March or early April when a ground geophysical program will be conducted to refine airborne geophysical anomalies associated with indicator mineral anomalies. Any priority targets identified as a result will be drilled before spring break-up in mid-May. The summer phase of the program will include a follow-up indicator mineral sampling program to better define known indicator mineral trains and upgrade geophysical targets.

The Joint Venture currently holds approximately 238,000 hectares of mineral claims in areas of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut known to be prospective for diamonds. Six of these properties totaling approximately 222,000 hectares are located in the Coronation Gulf region, including the 8,600 hectare Fairy River property staked in 2002.

The approximate current beneficial interests in the Joint Venture are Pure Gold (PUG:TSX), 10.6 percent and Ashton (ACA:TSX), 89.4 percent. Each party has elected to contribute its *pro rata* share of the costs of the 2003 program. Ashton is the operator of all programs and Brooke Clements, Professional Geologist and Ashton's Vice President, Exploration, is responsible for their design and conduct.

For further information, please contact:

Donald R. Sheldon – President

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