

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

The following charter is adopted in compliance with *Regulation 52-110 respecting Audit Committees*.

### **OVERALL ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

The Audit Committee shall:

1. Assist the Board of Directors of the Company (the “**Board**”) in its oversight role with respect to:
  - (a) the quality and integrity of financial information;
  - (b) the independent auditor’s performance, qualifications and independence;
  - (c) the performance of the Company’s internal audit function, if applicable;
  - (d) the Company’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; and
2. Prepare such reports of the Audit Committee required to be included in the information/proxy circular of the Company in accordance with applicable laws or the rules of applicable securities regulatory authorities.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS**

The Audit Committee shall consist of three (3) or more Directors appointed by the Board, the majority of whom shall not be officers or employees of the Company or any of the Company’s affiliates. Each of the members of the Audit Committee shall satisfy the applicable independence and experience requirements of the laws governing the Company, and applicable securities regulatory authorities.

The Board shall designate one (1) member of the Audit Committee as the Chair of the Audit Committee. Each member of the Audit Committee shall be financially literate as such qualification is interpreted by the Board in its business judgment. The Board shall determine whether and how many members of the Audit Committee qualify as a financial expert as defined by applicable law.

### **STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

The affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Audit Committee participating in any meeting of the Audit Committee is necessary for the adoption of any resolution.

The Audit Committee shall meet as often as it determines, but not less frequently than quarterly. The Audit Committee shall report to the Board on its activities after each of its meetings at which time minutes of the prior Audit Committee meeting shall be tabled for the Board.

The Audit Committee shall review and assess the adequacy of this Charter periodically and, where necessary, will recommend changes to the Board for its approval.

The Audit Committee is expected to establish and maintain free and open communication with management and the independent auditor and shall periodically meet separately with each of them.

## **SPECIFIC DUTIES**

### **Oversight of the Independent Auditor**

- Make recommendations to the Board for the appointment and replacement of the independent auditor.
- Responsibility for the compensation and oversight of the work of the independent auditor (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Audit Committee.
- Authority to pre-approve all audit services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees, terms and conditions for the performance of such services) to be performed by the independent auditor.
- Evaluate the qualifications, performance and independence of the independent auditor, including: (i) reviewing and evaluating the lead partner on the independent auditor's engagement with the Company; and (ii) considering whether the auditor's quality controls are adequate and the provision of permitted non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence.
- Obtain from the independent auditor and review the independent auditor's report regarding the management internal control report of the Company to be included in the Company's annual information/proxy circular, as required by applicable law.
- Ensure the rotation of the lead (or coordinating) audit partner having primary responsibility for the audit and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit as required by law (currently at least every five years).

### **Financial Reporting**

- Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor, as applicable:
- prior to the annual audit the scope, planning and staffing of the annual audit;
- the annual audited financial statements;
- review the financial statements, prospectuses, management's discussion and analysis, annual information form and all public disclosure containing audited or unaudited financial information (including, without limitation, annual and interim press releases and any other press releases disclosing earnings or financial results) before release and prior to Board approval. The Audit Committee must be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Company's disclosure of all other financial information. The Audit Committee will periodically assess the accuracy of those procedures;
- approve any reports for inclusion in the Company's Annual Report, if any, as required by applicable legislation;
- the Company's quarterly financial statements, including the results of the independent auditor's review of the quarterly financial statements and any matters required to be communicated by the independent auditor under applicable review standards;

- significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements;
- any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles;
- any major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies; and
- other material written communications between the independent auditor and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences.
- Discuss with the independent auditor matters relating to the conduct of the audit, including any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to requested information and any significant disagreements with management.

### **Other Responsibilities**

- Review the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer and key financial executives and formulate clear hiring policies for partners, employees, former partners and former employees of the Company's present and former external auditors.
- Establish, and review periodically, as the Audit Committee deems appropriate, a procedure for:
- the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and
- the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company or concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters and resolution of such concerns, if any.
- To comply with the procedure above, the Audit Committee shall ensure that the Company advises all employees, by way of a written code of business conduct and ethics, that any employee who reasonably believes that questionable accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters have been employed by the Company or their external auditors is strongly encouraged to report such concerns by way of communication directly to the Chair of the Audit Committee of the Company.

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE'S ROLE**

The Audit Committee has the oversight role set out in this Charter. Management, the Board, the independent auditor and the internal auditor all play important roles in respect of compliance and the preparation and presentation of financial information. Management is responsible for compliance and the preparation of financial statements and periodic reports. Management is responsible for ensuring the Company's financial statements and disclosures are complete, accurate, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable laws. The Board in its oversight role is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities. The independent auditor, following the completion of its annual audit, opines on the presentation, in all material respects, of the financial position and results of operations of the Company in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

**FUNDING FOR THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR AND RETENTION OF OTHER INDEPENDENT ADVISORS**

The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent auditor for the purpose of issuing an audit report and to any advisors retained by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall also have the authority to retain such other independent advisors as it may, from time to time, deem necessary or advisable for its purposes and the payment of compensation therefor shall also be funded by the Company.

**APPROVAL OF AUDIT AND REMITTED NON-AUDIT SERVICES PROVIDED BY EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

Over the course of any year there will be two levels of approvals that will be provided. The first is the existing annual Audit Committee approval of the audit engagement and identifiable permitted non-audit services for the coming year. The second is in-year Audit Committee pre-approvals of proposed audit and permitted non-audit services as they arise.

Any proposed audit and permitted non-audit services to be provided by the External Auditor to the Company or its subsidiaries must receive prior approval from the Audit Committee, in accordance with this protocol. The Chief Financial Officer shall act as the primary contact to receive and assess any proposed engagements from the External Auditor.

Following receipt and initial review for eligibility by the primary contacts, a proposal would then be forwarded to the Audit Committee for review and confirmation that a proposed engagement is permitted.

In the majority of such instances, proposals may be received and considered by the Chair of the Audit Committee (or such other member of the Audit Committee who may be delegated authority to approve audit and permitted non-audit services), for approval of the proposal on behalf of the Audit Committee. The Chair of the Audit Committee will then inform the Audit Committee of any approvals granted at the next scheduled meeting.