

**AMENDED AND RESTATED CARDINAL CAPITAL PARTNERS INC.
STOCK OPTION PLAN**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this stock option plan (the "**Plan**") is to authorize the grant to service providers for Cardinal Capital Partners Inc. (the "**Corporation**") of options to purchase common shares ("**shares**") of the Corporation's capital and thus benefit the Corporation by enabling it to attract, retain and motivate service providers by providing them with the opportunity, through share options, to acquire an increased proprietary interest in the Corporation.

2. ADMINISTRATION

The Plan shall be administered by the board of directors of the Corporation or a committee established by the board of directors for that purpose (the "**Committee**"). Subject to approval of the granting of options by the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, the Corporation shall grant options under the Plan.

3. SHARES SUBJECT TO PLAN

The aggregate number of shares of the Corporation reserved for issuance and which may be issued and sold under the Plan, or any other stock option plans of the Corporation, shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of issued and outstanding shares (calculated on a non-diluted basis) from time to time. The total number of shares which may be reserved for issuance to any one individual under the Plan within any one year period shall not exceed 5% of the outstanding issue. The Corporation shall not, upon the exercise of any option, be required to issue or deliver any shares prior to (a) the admission of such shares to listing on any stock exchange on which the Corporation's shares may then be listed, and (b) the completion of such registration or other qualification of such shares under any law, rules or regulation as the Corporation shall determine to be necessary or advisable. If any shares cannot be issued to any optionee for whatever reason, the obligation of the Corporation to issue such shares shall terminate and any option exercise price paid to the Corporation shall be returned to the optionee.

4. LIMITS WITH RESPECT TO INSIDERS

- (a) The maximum number of shares which may be reserved for issuance to insiders under the Plan, any other employer stock option plans or options for services, shall be 10% of the shares issued and outstanding at the time of the grant (on a non-diluted basis).
- (b) The maximum number of shares which may be issued to insiders under the Plan, together with any other previously established or proposed share compensation arrangements, within any one year period shall be 10% of the outstanding issue. The maximum number of shares which may be issued to any one insider and his or her associates under the Plan, together with any other previously established or proposed share compensation arrangements, within a one year period shall be 5% of the shares outstanding at the time of the grant (on a non-diluted basis).

5. ELIGIBILITY

Options shall be granted only to Eligible Persons, any registered savings plan established by an Eligible Person or any corporation wholly-owned by an Eligible Person. The term "Eligible Person" means:

- (a) an officer, director or insider of the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries;
- (b) an :
 - (i) individual who is considered an employee of the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries under the Income Tax Act (Canada);
 - (ii) individual who works full-time for the Corporation providing services normally provided by an employee and who is subject to the same control and direction by the Corporation over the details and methods of work as an employee of the Corporation, but for whom income tax deductions are not made at source, or
 - (iii) individual who works for the Corporation on a continuing and regular basis for a minimum amount of time per week providing services normally provided by an employee and who is subject to the same control and direction by the Corporation over the details and methods of work as an employee of the Corporation, but for whom income tax deductions are not made at source,

any such individual being referred to herein as, an "**Employee**";

- (c) an individual employed by a corporation, incorporated association or organization, body corporate, partnership, trust, association or other entity other than an individual (a "**Company**") or an individual (together with a Company, a "**Person**") providing management services to the Corporation, which are required for the ongoing successful operation of the business enterprise of the Corporation, but excluding a Person engaged in Investor Relations Activities (as hereafter defined) (a "**Management Company Employee**");
- (d) an individual (or a company wholly-owned by individuals) who:
 - (i) provides ongoing consulting services to the Corporation or an Affiliate of the Corporation under a written contract;
 - (ii) possesses technical, business or management expertise of value to the Corporation or an Affiliate of the Corporation;
 - (iii) spends a significant amount of time and attention on the business and affairs of the Corporation or an Affiliate of the Corporation;
 - (iv) has a relationship with the Corporation or an Affiliate of the Corporation that enables the individual to be knowledgeable about the business and affairs of the Corporation; and
 - (v) does not engage in Investor Relations Activities (as hereafter defined)

any such individual, a "**Consultant**"; or

- (e) any Employee engaged to provide services that promote the purchase or sale of the issued securities (an "**Investor Relations Employee**").

For purposes of the foregoing, a Company is an "**Affiliate**" of another Company if: (a) one of them is the subsidiary of the other; or (b) each of them is controlled by the same Person.

The term "**Investor Relations Activities**" means any activities or oral or written communications, by or on behalf of the Corporation or shareholder of the Corporation, that promote or reasonably could be expected to promote the purchase or sale of securities of the Corporation, but does not include:

- (a) the dissemination of information provided, or records prepared, in the ordinary course of business of the Corporation
 - (i) to promote the sale of products or services of the Corporation, or
 - (ii) to raise public awareness of the Corporation, that cannot reasonably be considered to promote the purchase or sale of securities of the Corporation;
- (b) activities or communications necessary to comply with the requirements of
 - (i) applicable securities laws, policies or regulations,
 - (ii) the rules, and regulations of any stock exchange on which the shares are listed for trading or dealing network where the shares trade (the "**Exchange**") or the by-laws, rules or other regulatory instruments of any other self-regulatory body or exchange having jurisdiction over the Corporation;
- (c) communications by a publisher of, or writer for, a newspaper, magazine or business or financial publication, that is of general and regular paid circulation, distributed only to subscribers to it for value or to purchasers of it, if
 - (i) the communication is only through the newspaper, magazine or publication, and

- (ii) the publisher or writer received no commission or other consideration other than for acting in the capacity of publisher or writer; or
- (d) activities or communications that may be otherwise specified by the Exchange.

For stock options to Employees, Consultants or Management Company Employees, the Corporation must represent that the optionee is a bona fide Employee, Consultant or Management Company Employee as the case maybe. The terms "insider", "controlled" and "subsidiary" shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Securities Act (Ontario) from time to time. Subject to the foregoing, the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, shall have full and final authority to determine the persons who are to be granted options under the Plan and the number of shares subject to each option.

6. LIMITS WITH RESPECT TO CONSULTANTS AND INVESTOR RELATIONS EMPLOYEES

- (a) The maximum number of shares which may be reserved for issuance to any one Consultant under the Plan, any other employer stock options plans or options for services, within anyone year period, shall be 2% of the shares issued and outstanding at the time of the grant (on a non-diluted basis).
- (b) The maximum number of shares which may be reserved for issuance to Investor Relations Employees under the Plan, any other employer stock options plans or options for services, within any one year period shall be 2% of the shares issued and outstanding at the time of the grant (on a non-diluted basis).

7. PRICE

The purchase price (the "**Price**") for the shares of the Corporation under each option shall be determined by the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, on the basis of the market price, where "market price" shall mean the prior trading day closing price of the shares of the Corporation on the Exchange, and where there is no such closing price or trade on the prior trading day, "market price" shall mean the average of the most recent bid and ask of the shares of the Corporation on any stock exchange on which the shares are listed or dealing network on which the shares of the Corporation trade. In the event the shares are listed on the TSX Venture Exchange, the price maybe the market price less any discounts from the market price allowed by TSX Venture Exchange, subject to a minimum price of \$0.10.

8. PERIOD OF OPTION AND RIGHTS TO EXERCISE

Subject to the provisions of this paragraph 8 and paragraphs 9, 10 and 17 below, options will be exercisable in whole or in part, and from time to time, during the currency thereof and Options shall not be granted for a term exceeding five years. The shares to be purchased upon each exercise of any option (the "**optioned shares**") shall be paid for in full at the time of such exercise. Except as

provided in paragraphs 9, 10 and 17 below, no option which is held by a service provider may be exercised unless the optionee is then a service provider for the Corporation.

9. CESSATION OF PROVISION OF SERVICES

Subject to paragraph 10 below, if any optionee who is a service provider shall cease to be a service provider for the Corporation for any reason (whether or not for cause) the optionee may, but only within the period of ninety days, or thirty days if the service provider is an Investor Relations Employee, next succeeding such cessation and in no event after the expiry date of the optionee's option, exercise the optionee's option unless such period is extended as provided in paragraph 10 below.

10. DEATH OF OPTIONEE

In the event of the death of an optionee during the currency of the optionee's option, the option theretofore granted to the optionee shall be exercisable within, but only within, the period of one year next succeeding the optionee's death. Before expiry of an option under this paragraph 10, the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, shall notify the optionee's representative in writing of such expiry.

11. NON-ASSIGNABILITY AND NON-TRANSFERABILITY OF OPTION

An option granted under the Plan shall be non-assignable and non-transferable by an optionee otherwise than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and such option shall be exercisable, during an optionee's lifetime, only by the optionee.

12. ADJUSTMENTS IN SHARES SUBJECT TO PLAN

The aggregate number and kind of shares available under the Plan shall be appropriately adjusted in the event of a reorganization, recapitalization, stock split, stock dividend, combination of shares, merger, consolidation, rights offering or any other change in the corporate structure or shares of the Corporation. The options granted under the Plan may contain such provisions as the board of directors, or Committee, as applicable, may determine with respect to adjustments to be made in the number and kind of shares covered by such options and in the option price in the event of any such change. If there is a reduction in the exercise price of the options of an insider of the Corporation, the Corporation will be required to obtain approval from disinterested shareholders.

13. AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE PLAN

The board of directors or Committee, as applicable, may at any time amend or terminate the Plan, but where amended, such amendment is subject to regulatory approval.

14. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PLAN

The Plan becomes effective on the date of its approval by the directors of the Corporation.

15. EVIDENCE OF OPTIONS

Each option granted under the Plan shall be embodied in a written option agreement between the Corporation and the optionee which shall give effect to the provisions of the Plan.

16. EXERCISE OF OPTION

Subject to the provisions of the Plan and the particular option, an option may be exercised from time to time by delivering to the Corporation at its registered office a written notice of exercise specifying the number of shares with respect to which the option is being exercised and accompanied by payment in cash or certified cheque for the full amount of the purchase price of the shares then being purchased.

Upon receipt of a certificate of an authorized officer directing the issue of shares purchased under the Plan, the transfer agent is authorized and directed to issue and countersign share certificates for the optioned shares in the name of such optionee or the optionees legal personal representative or as may be directed in writing by the optionee's legal personal representative.

17. VESTING RESTRICTIONS

In respect of any Options issued after the date hereof, the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, may, at its sole discretion, stipulate that a grant of Options is subject to certain vesting restrictions, and the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, may waive such vesting restrictions in its sole discretion.

18. NOTICE OF SALE OF ALL OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALL SHARES OR ASSETS

If at any time when an option granted under this Plan remains unexercised with respect to any optioned shares:

- (a) the Corporation seeks approval from its shareholders for a transaction which, if completed, would constitute an Acceleration Event; or
- (b) a third party makes a bona fide formal offer or proposal to the Corporation or its shareholders which, if accepted, would constitute an Acceleration Event;

the Corporation shall notify the optionee in writing of such transaction, offer or proposal as soon as practicable and, provided that the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, has determined that no adjustment shall be made pursuant to section 12 hereof, (i) the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, may permit the optionee to exercise the option granted under this Plan, as to all or any of the optioned shares in respect of which such option has not previously been exercised (regardless of any vesting restrictions), during the period specified in the notice (but in no event later than the expiry date of the option), so that the optionee may participate in such

transaction, offer or proposal; and (ii) the board of directors or Committee, as applicable, may require the acceleration of the time for the exercise of the said option and of the time for the fulfilment of any conditions or restrictions on such exercise.

For these purposes, an Acceleration Event means:

- (a) the acquisition by any "offeror" (as defined in Part XX of the Securities Act (Ontario)) of beneficial ownership of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Corporation, by means of a takeover bid or otherwise;
- (b) any consolidation or merger of the Corporation in which the Corporation is not the continuing or surviving corporation or pursuant to which shares of the Corporation would be converted into cash, securities or other property, other than a merger of the Corporation in which shareholders immediately prior to the merger have the same proportionate ownership of stock of the surviving corporation immediately after the merger;
- (c) any sale, lease exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of the assets of the Corporation; or
- (d) the approval by the shareholders of the Corporation of any plan of liquidation or dissolution of the Corporation.

19. RIGHTS PRIOR TO EXERCISE

An optionee shall have no rights whatsoever as a shareholder in respect of any of the optioned shares (including any right to receive dividends or other distributions therefrom or thereon) other than in respect of optioned shares in respect of which the optionee shall have exercised the option to purchase hereunder and which the optionee shall have actually taken up and paid for.

20. GOVERNING LAW

This Plan shall be construed in accordance with and be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario and shall be deemed to have been made in said Province, and shall be in accordance with all applicable securities laws.

21. EXPIRY OF OPTION

On the expiry date of any option granted under the Plan, and subject to any extension of such expiry date permitted in accordance with the Plan, such option hereby granted shall forthwith expire and terminate and be of no further force or effect whatsoever as to such of the optioned shares in respect of which the option has not been exercised.

22. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Plan shall be effective as of the date it is approved by the Board of Directors and any regulatory body having jurisdiction over the securities of the Corporation. The Plan was first approved by the Board of Directors and the Shareholders of the Company on August 5, 2008. The Plan was amended and approved by the Board of Directors on January 15, 2021.