

## AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

### *General*

The Audit Committee is a committee of the Board. Its primary function is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing the financial information to be provided to the shareholders and others, the systems of internal controls and management information systems that management has established under supervision of the Audit Committee, the Company's internal and external audit process and monitoring compliance with the Company's legal and regulatory requirements with respect to its financial statements.

The Audit Committee is accountable to the Board. In the course of fulfilling its specific responsibilities hereunder, the Audit Committee is expected to attempt to maintain an open communication between the Company's external auditors and the Board.

The responsibilities of a member of the Audit Committee are in addition to such member's duties as a member of the Board.

The Audit Committee does not plan or perform audits or warrant the accuracy or completeness of the Company's financial statements or financial disclosure or compliance with generally accepted accounting procedures as these are the responsibility of management and the external auditors.

### *Membership*

The Audit Committee consists of at least three directors who shall serve on behalf of the Board. The members are appointed annually by the Board and shall meet the independence, financial literacy and experience requirements of the CSE and other regulatory agencies as required.

### *Procedural Matters*

The Audit Committee shall be governed by the Committee Terms of Reference adopted by the Board, save as modified by the following procedural requirements and powers. The Audit Committee:

- (c) Shall meet at least four times per year, either by telephone conference or in person.
- (d) May invite the Company's external auditors, the Chief Financial Officer, and such other persons as are deemed appropriate by the Audit Committee to attend meetings of the Audit Committee.
- (e) Shall report material decisions and actions of the Audit Committee to the Board, together with such recommendations as the Committee may deem appropriate, at the next Board meeting.
- (f) Shall review the performance of the Audit Committee on an annual basis and report to the Board.
- (g) Shall review and assess the Mandate for the Audit Committee at least annually and submit any proposed revisions to the Board for approval.
- (h) Has the power to conduct or authorize investigations into any matter within the scope of its responsibilities. It has the right to engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties and the right to set the compensation for any advisors employed by the Audit Committee.
- (i) Has the right to communicate directly with the CFO and other members of management who have responsibility for the audit process ("internal audit management"), if applicable, and external auditors.
- (j) Has the right to pre-approve non-audit services (subject to ratification by the Board at its next meeting) to be performed by the external auditors. The Audit Committee may delegate certain pre-approval functions for non-audit services to one or more independent members of its Committee if it first adopts specific policies and procedures respecting same and provided such decisions are presented to the full Audit Committee for approval at its next meeting.

No business may be transacted by the Audit Committee except at a meeting of its members at which a quorum of the Committee is present or by resolution in writing signed by all the members of the Committee. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, provided that if the number of members of the Committee is an even number, one-half of the number of members plus one shall constitute a quorum.

The Audit Committee shall have the authority to engage independent counsel and other advisors as the Audit Committee may deem appropriate in its sole discretion and to set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall not be required to obtain the approval of the Board in order to retain or compensate such consultants or advisors.

The Audit Committee shall have access to any and all books and records of the Company necessary for the execution of the Committee's obligations and shall discuss with the CEO or CFO such records and other matters considered appropriate.

#### *Responsibilities*

The Audit Committee has primary responsibility for the selection, appointment, dismissal, compensation and oversight of the external auditors, subject to the overall approval of the Board. For this purpose, the Audit Committee may consult with management.

#### External Auditors

The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are to:

- (a) Recommend to the Board:
  - (i) whether the current external auditor should be reappointed for the ensuing year and the amount of compensation payable; and
  - (ii) if the current external auditor is not to be reappointed, select and recommend a suitable alternative.
- (b) Oversee the work of the external auditors engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditors' report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company.
- (c) Resolve disagreements, if any, between management and the external auditors regarding financial reporting. It accomplishes this by querying management and the external auditors. The Audit Committee provides the Board with such recommendations and reports with respect to the financial statements of the Company as it deems advisable.
- (d) Take reasonable steps to confirm the independence of the external auditors, including but not limited to pre-approving any non-audit related services provided by the external auditors to the Company or the Company's subsidiaries, if any, with a view to ensuring independence of the auditors, and in accordance with any applicable regulatory requirements, including the requirements of the CSE with respect to approval of non-audit related services performed by the external auditors.
- (e) Obtain from the external auditors confirmation that the external auditors are a 'participating audit' firm for the purpose of National Instrument 52-108 (Auditor Oversight) and are in compliance with governing regulations.
- (f) Review and evaluate the performance of the external auditors including the external auditors' internal quality-control procedures.
- (g) Review and approve the Company's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the Company's external auditors.

#### Internal Auditors

- (h) The Audit Committee is to assist Board oversight of the performance of the Company's internal audit function, if any. In connection with the Company's internal audit function, if any, the Audit Committee shall:
  - (i) review the terms of reference of the internal auditor, if any, and meet with the internal auditor as the Audit Committee may consider appropriate to discuss any concerns or issues;
  - (j) in consultation with the external auditor and the internal audit group, review the adequacy of the Company's internal control structure and procedures designed to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and any special audit steps adopted in light of material deficiencies and controls;
  - (k) review the internal control report prepared by management, including management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting; and

- (l) periodically review with the internal auditor, if any, any significant difficulties, disagreements with management or scope restrictions encountered in the course of the work of the internal auditor.

#### Audit and Review Process and Results

The Audit Committee has a duty to receive, review and make any inquiry regarding the completeness, accuracy and presentation of the Company's financial statements to ensure that the financial statements fairly present the financial position and risks of the organization and that they are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. To accomplish this, the Audit Committee is required to:

- (a) Review annually the Company's internal system of audit and financial controls, internal audit procedures and results of such audits.
- (b) Prior to the annual audit by external auditors, consider the scope and general extent of the external auditors' review, including their engagement letter.
- (c) Ensure the external auditors have full, unrestricted access to required information and have the cooperation of management.
- (d) Review with the external auditors, in advance of the audit, the audit process and standards, as well as regulatory or Company-initiated changes in accounting practices and policies and the financial impact thereof, and selection or application of appropriate accounting principles.
- (e) Review with the external auditors and, if necessary, legal counsel, any litigation, claim or contingency, including tax assessments, that could have a material effect upon the financial position of the Company and the manner in which these matters are being disclosed in the financial statements. Review the appropriateness and disclosure of any off-balance sheet matters. Review disclosure of related-party transactions.
- (f) Receive and review with the external auditors, the external auditors' audit report and the audited financial statements. Make recommendations to the Board respecting approval of the audited financial statements.
- (g) Meet with the external auditors separately from management to review the integrity of the Company's financial reporting, including the clarity of financial disclosure and the degree of conservatism or aggressiveness of the accounting policies and estimates, performance of internal audit management, any significant disagreements or difficulties in obtaining information, adequacy of internal controls over financial reporting and the degree of compliance of the Company with prior recommendations of the external auditors. The Audit Committee shall direct management to implement such changes as the Audit Committee considers appropriate, subject to any required approvals of the Board arising out of the review.
- (h) Meet at least annually with the external auditors, independent of management, and report to the Board on such meetings.

#### Interim Financial Statements and MD&A

The Board has delegated to the Audit Committee the power to approve the Company's interim financial statements and management's discussion and analysis. The Audit Committee shall:

- (a) Review on an annual basis the Company's practice with respect to review of interim financial statements by the external auditors.
- (b) Conduct all such reviews and discussions with the external auditors and management as it deems appropriate.
- (c) Review and, if appropriate approve the interim financial statements and management's discussion and analysis.
- (d) Review the interim financial statements with the external auditors if the external auditors conduct a review of the interim financial statements.

#### Involvement with Management

The Audit Committee has primary responsibility for overseeing the actions of management in all aspects of financial management and reporting. The Audit Committee:

- (a) Shall review all public disclosure of financial information extracted from the Company's financial statements prior to such information being made public by the Company and for such purpose, the CEO assumes responsibility for providing the information to the Audit Committee for their review.
- (b) Review material financial risks with management, the plan that management has implemented to monitor and deal with such risks and the success of management in following the plan.
- (c) Consult annually and otherwise as required with the Company's CEO and CFO respecting the adequacy of the internal controls and review any breaches or deficiencies.
- (d) Obtain such certifications by the CEO and CFO attesting to internal controls, disclosure and procedures as deemed advisable.
- (e) Review management's response to significant written reports and recommendations issued by the external auditors and the extent to which such recommendations have been implemented by management.
- (f) Review as required with management annual financial statements, quarterly financial statements, management's discussion & analysis, Annual Information Forms, future-oriented financial information or pro-forma information and other financial disclosure in continuous disclosure documents.
- (g) Review with management the Company's compliance with applicable laws and regulations respecting financial matters.
- (h) Review with management proposed regulatory changes and their impact on the Company.
- (i) Review with management and approve public disclosure of the Audit Committee Mandate in the Company's Annual Information Form, Information Circular and on the Company's website.

#### *Complaints*

Complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters may be submitted to the Audit Committee, attention: The Chair. Complaints may be made anonymously and, if not made anonymously, the identity of the person submitting the complaint will be kept confidential. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Chair will conduct or designate a member of the Audit Committee to conduct an initial investigation. If the results of that initial investigation indicate there may be any merit to the complaint, the matter will be brought before the Audit Committee for a determination of further investigation and action. Records of complaints made and the resulting action or determination with respect to the complaint shall be documented and kept in the records of the Audit Committee for a period of three years.

#### *Reporting*

The Audit Committee shall report to the Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled meetings.