



## *The Audit Committee Charter*

The following Audit Committee Charter was adopted by the Board:

### *Mandate*

The primary function of the audit committee (the "Committee") is to assist the Company's board of directors in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities by reviewing the financial reports and other financial information provided by the Company to regulatory authorities and shareholders, the Company's systems of internal controls regarding finance and accounting and the Company's auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes. Consistent with this function, the Committee will encourage continuous improvement of, and should foster adherence to, the Company's policies, procedures and practices at all levels. The Committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's financial reporting and internal control system and review the Company's financial statements;
- review and appraise the performance of the Company's external auditors; and
- provide an open avenue of communication among the Company's auditors, financial and senior management and the board of directors.

### *Composition*

The Committee shall be comprised of a minimum three directors as determined by the board of directors. All of the members of the Committee shall be free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the board of directors, would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment as a member of the Committee.

All members of the Committee shall have accounting or related financial management expertise. All members of the Committee that are not financially literate will work towards becoming financially literate to obtain a working familiarity with basic finance and accounting practices. For the purposes of the Company's Audit Committee Charter, the definition of "financially literate" is the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can presumably be expected to be raised by the Company's financial statements.

The members of the Committee shall be elected by the board of directors at its first meeting following the annual shareholders' meeting. Unless a Chair is elected by the full board of directors, the members of the Committee may designate a Chair by a majority vote of the full Committee membership.

### *Meetings*

The Committee shall meet at least twice annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. As part of its job to foster open communication, the Committee will meet at least annually with the Chief Financial Officer and the external auditors in separate sessions.

## *Responsibilities and Duties*

To fulfill its responsibilities and duties, the Committee shall:

### *Documents/Reports Review*

- (a) review and update this Audit Committee Charter annually; and
- (b) review the Company's financial statements, MD&A and any annual and interim earnings press releases before the Company publicly discloses this information and any reports or other financial information (including quarterly financial statements), which are submitted to any governmental body, or to the public, including any certification, report, opinion, or review rendered by the external auditors.

### *External Auditors*

- (c) review annually, the performance of the external auditors who shall be ultimately accountable to the Company's board of directors and the Committee as representatives of the shareholders of the Company;
- (d) obtain annually, a formal written statement of external auditors setting forth all relationships between the external auditors and the Company, consistent with Independence Standards Board Standard 1;
- (e) review and discuss with the external auditors any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the external auditors;
- (f) take, or recommend that the Company's full board of directors take appropriate action to oversee the independence of the external auditors, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting;
- (g) recommend to the Company's board of directors the selection and, where applicable, the replacement of the external auditors nominated annually for shareholder approval;
- (h) recommend to the Company's board of directors the compensation to be paid to the external auditors;
- (i) at each meeting, consult with the external auditors about the quality of the Company's accounting principles, internal controls and the completeness and accuracy of the Company's financial statements;
- (j) review and approve the Company's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditors of the Company;
- (k) review with management and the external auditors the audit plan for the year-end financial statements and intended template for such statements; and
- (l) review and pre-approve all audit and audit-related services and the fees and other compensation related thereto, and any non-audit services, provided by the Company's external auditors. The pre-approval requirement is waived with respect to the provision of non-audit services if:
  - (i) the aggregate amount of all such non-audit services provided to the Company constitutes not more than five percent of the total amount of revenues paid by the Company to its external auditors during the fiscal year in which the non-audit services are provided,

- (ii) such services were not recognized by the Company at the time of the engagement to be non-audit services, and
- (iii) such services are promptly brought to the attention of the Committee by the Company and approved prior to the completion of the audit by the Committee or by one or more members of the Committee who are members of the board of directors to whom authority to grant such approvals has been delegated by the Committee.

Provided the pre-approval of the non-audit services is presented to the Committee's first scheduled meeting following such approval, such authority may be delegated by the Committee to one or more independent members of the Committee.

#### *Financial Reporting Processes*

- (m) in consultation with the external auditors, review with management the integrity of the Company's financial reporting process, both internal and external;
- (n) consider the external auditors' judgments about the quality and appropriateness of the Company's accounting principles as applied in its financial reporting;
- (o) consider and approve, if appropriate, changes to the Company's auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by the external auditors and management;
- (p) review significant judgments made by management in the preparation of the financial statements and the view of the external auditors as to appropriateness of such judgments;
- (q) following completion of the annual audit, review separately with management and the external auditors any significant difficulties encountered during the course of the audit, including any restrictions on the scope of work or access to required information;
- (r) review any significant disagreement among management and the external auditors in connection with the preparation of the financial statements;
- (s) review with the external auditors and management the extent to which changes and improvements in financial or accounting practices have been implemented;
- (t) review any complaints or concerns about any questionable accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters;
- (u) review certification process;
- (v) establish a procedure for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and
- (w) establish a procedure for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

#### *Other*

- (x) review any related-party transactions;
- (y) engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties; and

- (z) to set and pay compensation for any independent counsel and other advisors employed by the Committee.