### **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

### **Mandate**

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

- conduct such reviews and discussions with management and the external auditors relating to the audit and financial reporting as are deemed appropriate by the Committee;
- b) assess the integrity of internal controls and financial reporting procedures of the Corporation and ensure implementation of such controls and procedures;
- c) review the quarterly and annual financial statements and management's discussion and analysis of the Corporation's financial position and operating results and in the case of the annual financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis, report thereon to the Board for approval of same;
- d) select and monitor the independence and performance of the Corporation's external auditors, including attending at private meetings with the external auditors and reviewing and approving all renewals or dismissals of the external auditors and their remuneration; and
- e) provide oversight of all disclosure relating to, and information derived from, financial statements, management's discussion and analysis and information.

## Composition

The Audit Committee is comprised of a minimum of three directors, all of whom shall be independent and financially literate within the meaning of National Instrument 52-110 – Audit Committees.

The members of the Audit 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 Audit Committee may designate a Chair by a majority vote of the full Audit Committee membership.

### Meetings

The Audit Committee shall meet at least four times per annum, or more frequently as circumstances dictate.

# **Responsibilities and Duties**

To fulfill its responsibilities and duties, the Audit Committee shall:

## Documents/Reports Review

- (a) Review and update this Charter annually.
- (b) Review the Corporation's financial statements, MD&A and any annual and interim earnings, press releases before the Corporation 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 certificate, report, opinion, or review rendered by the external auditors.

### **External Auditor**

- (a) Review annually, the performance of the external auditors who shall be ultimately accountable to the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee as representatives of the shareholders of the Corporation.
- (b) Obtain annually, a formal written statement of external auditors setting forth all relationships between the external auditors and the Corporation, consistent with Independence Standards Board Standard 1.
- (c) Review and discuss with the external auditors any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the external auditors.
- (d) Take, or recommend that the full Board of Directors take, appropriate action to oversee the independence of the external auditors.
- (e) Recommend to the Board of Directors the selection and, where applicable, the replacement of the external auditors nominated annually for shareholder approval.
- (f) At each meeting, consult with the external auditors, without the presence of management, about the quality of the Corporation's accounting principles, internal controls and the completeness and accuracy of the Corporation's financial statements.
- (g) Review and approve the Corporation's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditors of the Corporation.
- (h) Review with management and the external auditors the audit plan for the year-end financial statements and intended template for such statements.
- (i) 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 Corporation's external auditors. The pre-approval requirement is waived with respect to the provisions of non-audit services if:
  - (i) The aggregate amount of all such non-audit services provided to the Corporation constitutes not more than five percent of the total amount of revenues paid by the Corporation to its external auditors during the fiscal year in which the non-audit services are provided;
  - (ii) Such services were not recognized by the Corporation at the time of the engagement to be non-audit services; and
  - (iii) Such services are promptly brought to the attention of the Audit Committee by the Corporation and approved prior to the completion of the audit by the Audit Committee or by one or more members of the Committee who are members of the Board to whom authority to grant such approvals has been deleted by the Audit Committee.

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

## **Financial Reporting Processes**

- (a) In consultation with the external auditors, review with management the integrity of the Corporation's financial reporting process, both internal and external.
- (b) Consider the external auditors' judgments about the quality and appropriateness of the Corporation's accounting principles as applied in its financial reporting.
- (c) Consider and approve, if appropriate, changes to the Corporation's auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by the external auditor and management.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Review any significant disagreement among management and the external auditors in connection with the preparation of the financial statements.
- (g) Review with the external auditors and management the extent to which changes and improvements in financial or accounting practices have been implemented.
- (h) Review any complaints or concerns about any questionable accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters.
- (i) Review certification process.
- (j) Establish a procedure for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

### Other

Review any related-party transactions.