

## SCHEDULE "A"

### AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

#### **1. Mandate**

The audit committee will assist the board of directors (the "**Board**") in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities. The audit committee will review and consider in consultation with the auditors the financial reporting process, the system of internal control and the audit process. In performing its duties, the committee will maintain effective working relationships with the Board, management, and the external auditors. To effectively perform his or her role, each committee member must obtain an understanding of the principal responsibilities of committee membership as well as the company's business, operations and risks.

#### **2. Composition**

The audit committee will consist of a minimum of three directors.

##### *2.1 Independence*

A majority of the members of the audit committee must not be officers, employees or control persons of the Company. If the Company ceases to be a "venture issuer" as that term is defined in *National Instrument 52-110 – Audit Committees* ("**NI 52-110**"), then all of the members of the audit committee shall be free from any material relationship with the Company within the meaning of NI 52-110.

##### *2.2 Financial Literacy of Committee Members*

Each member of the audit committee must be financially literate or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the committee. A person is generally considered "financially literate" if he or she has 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 reasonably be expected to be raised by the Company's financial statements.

##### *2.3 Replacement of Committee Members*

Any member of the audit committee may be removed or replaced at any time by the Board and automatically ceases to be a member of the audit committee upon ceasing to be a director.

The Board may fill vacancies on the audit committee by appointing another director to the committee. The Board will fill any vacancy if the membership of the audit committee is less than three directors. Whenever there is a vacancy on the audit committee, the remaining members may exercise all of the committee's powers as long as a quorum remains in office. Subject to the foregoing, the members of the audit committee will be appointed by the Board annually, and each member of the committee will remain on the committee until the next annual meeting of shareholders after his or her appointment or until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified.

##### *2.4 Chair*

The Chair shall be responsible for leadership of the audit committee, including overseeing the scheduling and preparation of meetings, presiding over meetings, and making regular reports to the Board. The Chair will also regularly liaise with the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company and the lead partner of the Company's external auditors.

### **3. Meetings**

The audit committee will meet regularly at times necessary to perform the duties described in this Charter in a timely manner, but not less than four times a year. Meetings may be held at any time deemed appropriate by the committee. The audit committee may meet in person and/or by telephone or electronic means and, other than with respect to the review of the audited financial statements and the notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis relating to such financial statements with management and the independent auditor, may act by means of a written resolution signed by all members entitled to vote on the matter.

The audit committee shall meet at least annually with the Company's Chief Financial Officer and external auditors in separate executive sessions, and will meet without management present at every regular meeting.

A majority of the members of the audit committee constitute quorum.

### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

The audit committee shall fulfill the following roles and discharge the following responsibilities:

#### **4.1 External Audit**

The external auditor shall report directly to the audit committee. The audit committee shall be directly responsible for overseeing the work of the external auditors in preparing or issuing the auditor's report, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditors regarding financial reporting and audit scope or procedures. In carrying out this duty, the audit committee shall:

- (a) recommend to the Board the external auditor to be nominated by the shareholders for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company;
- (b) review (by discussion and enquiry) the external auditors' proposed audit scope and approach;
- (c) review the performance of the external auditors and recommend to the Board the appointment or discharge of the external auditors;
- (d) review and recommend to the Board the compensation to be paid to the external auditors; and
- (e) review and confirm the independence of the external auditors by reviewing the non-audit services provided and the external auditors' assertion of their independence in accordance with professional standards.

#### **4.2 Internal Control**

The audit committee shall consider whether adequate controls are in place over annual and interim financial reporting as well as controls over assets, transactions and the creation of obligations, commitments and liabilities of the Company. In carrying out this duty, the audit committee shall:

- (a) evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of management's system of internal controls over the accounting and financial reporting system within the Company;
- (b) ensure that the external auditors discuss with the audit committee any event or matter which suggests the possibility of fraud, illegal acts or deficiencies in internal controls
- (c) review and discuss with management and the external auditor the nature and appropriateness of the Company's systems to identify, assess and mitigate significant business risks and discuss with the external auditor management's responses to the external auditor's advice regarding management and internal controls.

### *4.3 Financial Reporting*

The audit committee shall review the Company's financial statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") and other financial information prior to its release to the public. In carrying out this duty, the audit committee shall:

#### *General*

- (a) review significant accounting and financial reporting issues, especially complex, unusual and related party transactions;
- (b) review with management and the external auditor the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as off-balance sheet structures on the Company's financial statements; and
- (c) review and ensure that the accounting principles selected by management in preparing financial statements are appropriate.

#### *Annual Financial Statements*

- (a) review the Company's draft annual financial statements and provide a recommendation to the Board with respect to the approval of the financial statements;
- (b) meet with management and the external auditors to review the financial statements and the results of the audit, including any difficulties encountered; and
- (c) review the Company's MD&A respecting the annual reporting period prior to its release to the public.

#### *Interim Financial Statements*

- (a) review and approve the Company's interim financial statements prior to their release to the public; and
- (b) review the Company's MD&A respecting the interim reporting period prior to its release to the public.

#### *Release of Financial Information*

- (a) where reasonably possible, review and approve all other public disclosure, including news releases, containing financial information prior to its release to the public; and
- (b) periodically assess the procedures for the review of disclosure of financial information (other than that set forth under the headings "Annual Financial Statements" and "Interim Financial Statements" above) extracted or derived from the financial statements.

### *4.4 Non-Audit Services*

All non-audit services (being services other than services rendered for the audit and review of the financial statements or services that are normally provided by the external auditor in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements) which are proposed to be provided by the external auditors to the Company or any subsidiary of the Company shall be subject to the prior approval of the audit committee.

#### *Delegation of Authority*

- (a) The audit committee may delegate to one or more independent members of the audit committee the authority to approve non-audit services, provided any non-audit services approved in this manner must be presented to the audit committee at its next scheduled meeting.

#### *De-Minimis Non-Audit Services*

- (a) The audit committee may satisfy the requirement for the pre-approval of non-audit services if:
  - (i) the aggregate amount of all non-audit services that were not pre-approved is reasonably expected to constitute no more than five per cent of the total amount of fees paid by the Company and its subsidiaries to the external auditor during the fiscal year in which the services are provided;
  - (ii) the Company or its subsidiary did not recognize the services as non-audit services at the time of the engagement; and
  - (iii) the services are promptly brought to the attention of the audit committee and approved, prior to the completion of the audit, by the audit committee or by one or more of its members to whom authority to grant such approvals has been delegated by the audit committee.

#### *Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures*

- (a) The audit committee may also satisfy the requirement for the pre-approval of non-audit services by adopting specific policies and procedures for the engagement of non-audit services, if:
  - (i) the pre-approval policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service;
  - (ii) the audit committee is informed of each non-audit service; and
  - (iii) the procedures do not include delegation of the audit committee's responsibilities to management.

#### *4.5 Other Responsibilities*

The audit committee shall:

- (a) establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters;
- (b) establish procedures for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;
- (c) ensure that significant findings and recommendations made by management and external auditor are received and discussed on a timely basis;
- (d) review the policies and procedures in effect for considering officers' expenses and perquisites;
- (e) perform other oversight functions as requested by the Board;
- (f) review and approve hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditor;
- (g) review and update this Charter and receive approval of changes to this Charter from the Board;
- (h) review and discuss with management the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer of the Company and any other key financial executives of the Company and recommend qualified candidates to the Board, as appropriate

#### *4.6 Reporting Responsibilities*

The audit committee shall regularly update the Board about committee activities and make appropriate recommendations.

#### **5. Resources and Authority of the Audit Committee**

The audit committee shall have the resources and the authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities, including the authority to

- (a) engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties;
- (b) set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the audit committee; and
- (c) communicate directly with the internal and external auditors.

The audit committee shall have full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company in connection with the performance of its duties.

Nothing in this Charter is intended or construed to impose on any member of the audit committee a standard of care or diligence that is in any way more onerous or extensive than the standard to which all members of the Board are subject. Each member of the audit committee shall be entitled, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to rely on the integrity of those persons and organizations within and outside the Company from whom he or she receives financial and other information, and the accuracy of the information provided to the Company by such persons or organizations.

While the audit committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards in Canada and applicable rules and regulations, which duties are the responsibility of management and the external auditors.