

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

I. PURPOSE

The Board of Directors of the Corporation is ultimately responsible for the stewardship of the Corporation, which means that it oversees the day-to-day management delegated to the President and Chief Executive Officer and the other officers of the Corporation. The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board in fulfilling this responsibility with respect to overseeing four (4) fundamental issues: (i) the Corporation's financial reporting process and internal control systems, (ii) the Corporation's process to identify and manage financial risks, (iii) the internal and external audit process; and (iv) the Corporation's communication system to provide an open avenue of communication among the external auditors, the financial and senior management, the internal auditing department (if any), and the Board of Directors.

II. GENERAL ROLE AND MANDATE

External Auditors

1. Review the independence¹ and the performance of the external auditors.
2. Recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment of the external auditors for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation or the approval of any discharge of auditors where circumstances warrant.
3. Recommend to the Board of Directors for approval the fees and other compensation to be paid to the external auditors.
4. Pre-approve non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation or its subsidiaries by the external auditors, other than non-audit services: (i) the aggregate amount of which are reasonably expected to constitute no more than 5% of the total amount of fees paid by the Corporation and its subsidiaries to the external auditor during the fiscal year in which the services are provided, and (ii) that were not recognized as non-audit services at the time of the engagement and (iii) that are promptly brought to the attention of the Committee and approved, prior to the completion of the audit, by the Committee or by one or more of its members to whom authority to grant such approvals has been delegated by the Committee.
5. Oversee the work of the external auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation, review the external auditors' audit plan, discuss and approve audit scope, reliance upon management and internal audit if or when applicable, and general audit approach. At the

¹ Should include at least on an annual basis, the review of all significant relationships the external auditors have with the Corporation that could impair the auditors' independence. When discussing auditor independence, the Committee may wish to consider both rotating the lead audit partner or audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit after a number of years and establishing hiring policies for employees or former employees of its external auditor.

conclusion of the audit process, and before releasing the year-end earnings, discuss the results of such audit with the external auditors including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting and difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

6. Discuss with the auditors the quality and not just the acceptability of the Corporation's accounting principles including all critical accounting policies and practices used, any alternate treatments of financial information that have been discussed with management, the ramification of their use and the auditor's preferred treatment, as well as any other material communications with management.
7. The external auditors report to and are accountable to the Committee and the Board of Directors as representatives of shareholders.

Internal Auditors

8. Assess with the management the need for internal audit as circumstances facing the corporation change.
9. Review and approve management's decisions related to the need for internal auditing.
10. Review the mandate, budget plan, organizational structure and qualification of the internal audit department as needed.

Financial Reporting and Risk Management

11. Consider and review with the external and internal auditors, if or when applicable, the integrity of the Corporation's financial reporting processes, both internal and external, and the adequacy of the Corporation's internal controls and management financial information systems.
12. On an annual basis, review and discuss with management and the external auditors, significant financial risks and exposures, the steps management has taken to monitor, control and report such risks and exposures, and the effectiveness of the overall process for identifying the principal financial risks affecting financial reporting.
13. Review and discuss with management and the external auditors (including the internal auditors if any) the Corporation's audited annual financial statements or any other financial statements to be audited, management discussion and analysis and all other public disclosure documents containing material financial information prior to filing or distribution. The review should include a discussion with management and the external auditors of significant issues regarding accounting principles, practices and significant management estimates and judgments.
14. Ensure that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from its financial statements, other than the public disclosures referred to in paragraph 13 above, and periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.

15. Review, with the Corporation's counsel, any legal or regulatory matter that could have a significant impact on the Corporation's financial statements.
16. Review and make recommendations with respect to any litigation, claim or contingency that could have a material effect upon the financial position of the Corporation and the appropriateness of the disclosure thereof in the documents reviewed by the Committee.
17. Establish procedures for:
 - (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and
 - (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
18. Review and make recommendation regarding insurance coverage (annually or as may be otherwise appropriate).
19. Review and approve the Corporation's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of present and former external auditors of the Corporation.

Other

20. Perform any other activities consistent with its responsibilities and duties, the Corporation's by-laws and governing law as the Committee or the Board of Directors deems necessary or appropriate.
21. Keep records of its activities, meetings, etc. at the office of the Corporate Secretary and report periodically to the Board of Directors on its activities and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.
22. Annually assess the effectiveness of the Committee against its general role and mandate (charter) and report the results of the assessment to the Board of Directors.
23. Approve the hiring of the Chief Financial Officer and other senior management officers whose principal duties and responsibilities relate directly to the finances of the Corporation.

The Audit Committee may:

- (a) with the approval of the Board of Directors and at the Corporation's expense engage independent counsel and other external advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties, in appropriate circumstances;
- (b) set and pay the compensation for any such advisors employed by the Committee; and
- (c) communicate directly with the internal and external auditors.

III. COMPOSITION

The Audit Committee shall be comprised of three (3) and not more than six (6) independent directors of the Corporation. A member of the Committee is

independent if the member has no material relationship with the Corporation, within the meaning of Multilateral Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees* as amended from time to time.

Unless a chairman is elected by the full Board of Directors, or if not present at the meeting, the members of the Audit Committee may designate a chairman by majority vote of the full Audit Committee membership.

All members of the Audit Committee shall be financially literate, that being defined as able 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 Corporation's financial statement. However, a member who is not financially literate may be appointed to the Committee provided that the member becomes financially literate within a reasonable period of time following his or her appointment. At least one member should have accounting or related financial experience and the ability to analyze and interpret a full set of financial statements, including the notes attached thereto, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

The members of the Audit Committee are appointed by the Board of Directors (including any vacancy).

IV. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet at least four (4) times annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The Committee may ask members of management or others to attend meetings and provide pertinent information as required. Quorum for all meetings will consist of at least two (2) members.

The Committee's Chair shall prepare an agenda in advance of each meeting in consultation with management and the other members of the Committee. External auditors may also be consulted for any item related to their responsibilities and duties.

The Committee may meet with the external auditors, in private, at least once during the year. The Committee may also communicate with management and external auditors, if deemed necessary, on a quarterly basis to review the Corporation's interim financial statements.

V. WORK PROGRAM

The Audit Committee will establish a work program in order to fix a schedule to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the content of this charter. The Committee will use such work program to evaluate its compliance with this charter.

* * * * *