

EXHIBIT “A”
AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

The Audit Committee (the “**Committee**”) is a committee of the board of directors (the “**Board**”) of the Company. The role of the Committee is to provide oversight of the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and of the design and implementation of an effective system of internal financial controls as well as to review and report to the Board on the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, its subsidiaries and associated companies. This includes helping directors meet their responsibilities, facilitating better communication between directors and the external auditor, enhancing the independence of the external auditor, increasing the credibility and objectivity of financial reports and strengthening the role of the directors by facilitating in-depth discussions among directors, management and the external auditor. Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining those controls, procedures and processes and the Committee is appointed by the Board to review and monitor them. The Company's external auditor is ultimately accountable to the Board and the Committee as representatives of the Company's shareholders.

Duties and Responsibilities

The authority delegated to the Committee is set forth below. The purposes, responsibilities and other provisions specified in this Charter are intended to serve as guidelines, and the Committee may act and establish policies and procedures that are consistent with these guidelines or are necessary or advisable, in its discretion, to carry out the intent of the Board in delegating such authority and to fulfill the responsibilities of the Committee hereunder. Nothing herein is intended to expand applicable standards of liability under Canadian or any U.S. state or federal law for directors of a corporation.

External Auditor

- (a) To be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention, termination, and oversight of the work of any accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company (subject, if applicable, to shareholder ratification). Each such accounting firm shall report directly to the Committee.
- (b) Review and ensure the independence of the external auditor by: (i) receiving from, and reviewing and discussing with, the external auditor, on a periodic basis, a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the external auditor and the Company consistent with the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; (ii) reviewing, and actively discussing with the Board, if necessary, and the independent auditor, on a periodic basis, any disclosed relationships or services, including non-audit services, between the independent auditor and the Company or any other disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditor; (iii) recommending, if necessary, that the Board take appropriate action to satisfy itself of the independent auditor's independence; and (iv) ensuring that the lead or coordinating audit partner having primary responsibility for the audit, or the audit partner responsible for reviewing the is in compliance with the partner rotation requirements under applicable laws and rules.
- (c) To 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 Company, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting.

- (d) To pre-approve the audit services and non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be provided by the Company's external auditor pursuant to pre-approval policies and procedures established by the Committee
- (e) To obtain and review, at least annually, a written report by the external auditor setting out the auditor's internal quality-control procedures, any material issues raised by the auditor's internal quality-control reviews and the steps taken to resolve those issues.
- (f) To review and approve the Company's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditor of the Company. The Committee has adopted the following guidelines regarding the hiring of any partner, employee, reviewing tax professional or other person providing audit assurance to the external auditor of the Company on any aspect of its certification of the Company's financial statements:
 - (i) No member of the audit team that is auditing a business of the Company can be hired into that business or into a position to which that business reports for a period of three years after the audit;
 - (ii) No former partner or employee of the external auditor may be made an officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries for three years following the end of the individual's association with the external auditor;
 - (iii) The Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") must approve all office hires from the external auditor; and
 - (iv) The CFO must report annually to the Committee on any hires within these guidelines during the preceding year.
- (g) To review, at least annually, the relationships between the Company and the external auditor in order to establish the independence of the external auditor.

Financial Information and Reporting

- (a) To review the Company's annual audited financial statements with the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and CFO and then the full Board. The Committee will review the interim financial statements with the CEO and CFO.
- (b) To review and discuss with management and the external auditor, as appropriate:
 - (i) The annual audited financial statements and the interim financial statements, including the accompanying management discussion and analysis; and
 - (ii) Earnings guidance and other releases containing information taken from the Company's financial statements prior to their release.
- (c) To review the quality and not just the acceptability of the Company's financial reporting and accounting standards and principles and any proposed material changes to them or their application.

- (d) To review with the CFO any earnings guidance to be issued by the Company and any news release containing financial information taken from the Company's financial statements prior to the release of the financial statements to the public. In addition, the CFO must review with the Committee the substance of any presentations to analysts or rating agencies that contain a change in strategy or outlook.

Oversight

- (a) To review the internal audit staff functions, including:
 - (i) The purpose, authority and organizational reporting lines;
 - (ii) The annual audit plan, budget and staffing; and
 - (iii) The appointment and compensation of the controller, if any.
- (b) To review, with the CFO and others, as appropriate, the Company's internal system of audit controls and the results of internal audits.
- (c) To review and monitor the Company's major financial risks and risk management policies and the steps taken by management to mitigate those risks.
- (d) To meet at least annually with management (including the CFO), the internal audit staff, and the external auditor in separate executive sessions and review issues and matters of concern respecting audits and financial reporting.
- (e) In connection with its review of the annual audited financial statements and interim financial statements, the Committee will also review the process for the CEO and CFO certifications (if required by law or regulation) with respect to the financial statements and the Company's disclosure and internal controls, including any material deficiencies or changes in those controls.
- (f) Establish procedures for: (i) the receipt, retention, and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and (ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters, and review any complaints or concerns received pursuant to such procedures.

Membership

- (a) The Committee shall consist solely of three or more members of the Board, all of which the Board has determined is "independent" as required under applicable securities rules or applicable stock exchange rules, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules and regulations of the SEC promulgated thereunder, and the NASDAQ Rules.
- (b) No member of the Committee may have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company or any of the Company's current subsidiaries during the preceding three years. Any member may be removed from office or replaced at any time by the Board and shall cease to be a member upon ceasing to be a director. Each member of the Committee shall hold office until the close of the next annual meeting of shareholders

of the Company or until the member ceases to be a director, resigns or is replaced, whichever first occurs.

- (c) The members of the Committee shall be entitled to receive such remuneration for acting as members of the Committee as the Board may from time to time determine.
- (d) All members of the Committee must be “**financially literate**” (i.e., have the ability to read and understand a set of fundamental financial statements including a balance sheet, an income statement and a cash flow statement).
- (e) At least one member of the Committee shall have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting or other comparable experience or background that results in the member’s financial sophistication, in each case, consistent with the NASDAQ Rules. That individual shall also be an “audit committee financial expert” consistent with the SEC’s rules and regulations.

Procedures

- (a) The Board shall appoint one of the directors elected to the Committee as the Chair of the Committee (the “**Chair**”). In the absence of the appointed Chair from any meeting of the Committee, the members shall elect a Chair from those in attendance to act as Chair of the meeting.
- (b) The Chair will appoint a secretary (the “**Secretary**”) who will keep minutes of all meetings. The Secretary does not have to be a member of the Committee or a director and can be changed by simple notice from the Chair.
- (c) No business may be transacted by the 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, and provided that a majority of the members must be “independent” or “unrelated”.
- (d) The Committee will meet as many times as is necessary to carry out its responsibilities but not less frequently than once every quarter. Any member of the Committee or the external auditor may call meetings.
- (e) The time and place of the meetings of the Committee, the calling of meetings and the procedure in all respects of such meetings shall be determined by the Committee, unless otherwise provided for in the articles of the Company or otherwise determined by resolution of the Board.
- (f) The Committee shall have the resources and authority necessary to discharge its duties and responsibilities, including the authority to select, retain, terminate, and approve the fees and other retention terms (including termination) of special counsel, advisors or other experts or consultants, as it deems appropriate.
- (g) The Committee shall have available appropriate funding from the Company as determined by the Committee for payment of: (i) compensation to any accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest

services for the Company; (ii) compensation to any advisers employed by the Committee; and (iii) ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

- (h) The 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 the CFO such records and other matters considered appropriate.
- (i) The Committee has the authority to communicate directly with the internal and external auditors.

Reports

The Committee shall produce the following reports and provide them to the Board:

- (a) An annual performance evaluation of the Committee, which evaluation must compare the performance of the Committee with the requirements of this Charter. The performance evaluation should also recommend to the Board any improvements to this Charter deemed necessary or desirable by the Committee. The performance evaluation by the Committee shall be conducted in such manner as the Committee deems appropriate. The report to the Board may take the form of an oral report by the Chair or any other member of the Committee designated by the Committee to make this report.
- (b) A summary of the actions taken at each Committee meeting, which shall be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting.