

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Election

The Audit Committee shall be composed of a minimum of three (3) outside directors, all of whom shall be “unrelated directors”, appointed by the Board of Directors and who shall exercise their duties until the next annual general meeting of shareholders or until their successors have been chosen and appointed.

Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in the committee, the Board of Directors may appoint a new member to fill the vacancy of the committee.

Meetings

The meetings of the committee may be held at the head office of the Corporation or at such other place that the committee may determine from time to time. Meetings of the committee may be held at all times on the call of any member of the committee. At the request of the President & Chief Executive Officer or the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the committee shall hold a meeting of the committee to address any question that, in the opinion of the President & Chief Executive Officer or the Chairman of the Board, should be put to the attention of the committee.

Chairperson

The Audit Committee shall appoint a chairperson who shall be responsible for preparing an agenda and reporting to the Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board of Directors or earlier, if required under the circumstances.

Quorum

The quorum for the committee shall be a simple majority of the members.

Procedures

The procedures for the committee shall be similar to those followed by the Board of Directors. The minutes of the meetings of the committee shall be kept in a minute book and made available for review by the directors of the Corporation.

Mandate

The committees shall exercise all the rights and prerogatives granted to them by the Board of Directors. They shall report to the Board of Directors without interference from management or shareholders. They may call upon outside legal counsel or accountants or any other expert required to complete a specific mandate or where there is a suspicion of wrongdoing and arrange the compensation to be paid to such consultant. Any single committee member shall be empowered to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors in the event of any wrongdoing, whether factual or perceived.

Remuneration

The members of the committee shall be remunerated for their services as determined by the Board of Directors.

Charter & Organization

The committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall comprise at least three directors, each of whom is independent of management and the Corporation. Members of the committee shall be considered independent if they have no relationship that may interfere with the exercise of their independence from management and the Corporation. All committee members shall be financially literate and at least one member shall have accounting or related financial management expertise. Financial literacy can be defined as 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 issuer's financial statements.

Statement of Policy

The Audit Committee shall provide assistance to the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibility to the shareholders, potential shareholders, the investment community, and others relating to the Corporation's financial statements and the financial reporting process, the systems of internal accounting and financial controls, the internal control systems and the annual independent audit of the Corporation's financial statements. In so doing, it is the responsibility of the committee to maintain free and open communication between the committee, the independent auditors, and management of the Corporation. In discharging its oversight role, the committee is empowered to investigate any matter brought to its attention with full access to all books, records, facilities, and personnel of the Corporation, and the power to retain outside counsel, or other experts for this purpose.

Responsibilities and Processes

The primary responsibility of the Audit Committee is to oversee the Corporation's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board and report the results of their activities to the Board. Management is responsible for preparing the Corporation's financial statements, and the independent auditors are responsible for auditing those financial statements. The Committee, in carrying out its responsibilities, believes its policies and procedures should remain flexible in order to best react to changing conditions and circumstances. The committee should take the appropriate actions to set the overall corporate "tone" for quality financial reporting, sound business risk practices, and ethical behavior.

The following shall be the principal recurring processes of the Audit Committee in carrying out its oversight responsibilities. The processes are set forth as a guide with the understanding that the committee may supplement them as appropriate.

- The committee must be directly responsible for overseeing 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, including the resolution of disagreements between Management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting. The committee shall have a clear understanding with management and the independent auditors that the independent auditors are ultimately accountable to the Board and the Audit Committee, as representatives of the Corporation's shareholders. The committee shall have the ultimate authority and responsibility to evaluate and, where appropriate, recommend the replacement of the independent auditors. The committee shall discuss with the auditors their

independence from management and the Corporation and the matters included in the written disclosures. The committee must also review and approve the issuer's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditor of the issuer. Annually, the committee shall review and recommend to the Board the selection of the Corporation's independent auditors, subject to shareholders' approval, as well as the compensation to be paid to such auditors.

- The committee shall discuss with the independent auditors the overall scope and plans for their audit including the adequacy of staffing and compensation. Also, the committee shall discuss with management, and the independent auditors, the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and financial controls, including the Corporation's system to monitor and manage business risk, and legal and ethical compliance programs. Further, the committee shall meet separately with the independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations.
- The committee must review the issuer's financial statements, MD&A and annual and interim earnings press releases before the Corporation publicly discloses this information and must be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the issuer's financial statements, other than the public disclosure hereinbefore mentioned, and must periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures. Also, the committee shall discuss the results of the quarterly review and any other matters required to be communicated to the committee by the independent auditors under generally accepted auditing standards. The Chair of the committee may represent the entire committee for the purposes of this latter review.
- The committee shall review with management and the independent auditors the financial statements to be included in the Corporation's Annual Report, including their judgment about the quality, not just acceptability, of accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements. The committee shall discuss the results of the annual audit and any other matters required to be communicated to the committee by the independent auditors under generally accepted auditing standards.
- The committee shall review every year the insurance program of the Corporation.
- The committee must 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 issuer of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
- The committee must pre-approve all non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation or its subsidiary entities by the Corporation's external auditor. The Audit Committee satisfies the pre-approval requirement if:

(a) the aggregate amount of all the 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 Corporation and its subsidiary entities to the Corporation's external auditor during the fiscal year in which the services are provided;

(b) the Corporation or its subsidiary entities, as the case may be, did not recognize the services as non-audit services at the time of the engagement; and

(c) the services are promptly brought to the attention of the Audit Committee of the Corporation 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.

The Audit Committee may delegate to one or more independent members the authority to pre-approve non-audit services. The pre-approval of non-audit services by any member to whom authority has been delegated must be presented to the Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting following such pre-approval.