

MANDATE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The regulations for managing a corporation have a certain flexibility thus permitting those concerned to share the responsibility of operations between the Board of Directors and management, according to circumstances and particular need.

The Board fulfills certain functions prescribed by law and is called upon to examine important situations facing the Corporation. The questions presented to the Board usually come from recommendations made by management.

In performing its duties, the Board must always keep in mind that, at the same time as being responsible for increasing the value of the shareholders' investment, as well it must protect the value of that investment against any serious depreciation.

The following items are the responsibility of the Board:

- The strategic orientation of the Corporation together with its mission and its objectives.
- The identification of the principal risks of the Corporation's business and the implementation of appropriate systems to manage these risks.
- The Corporation's business plan along with the operating budget, the capital budget and the cash flow budget.
- The financial statements, the raising of capital, loans and other important financial activities.
- The performance, commitment, remuneration, and evaluation of senior management as well as planning for management succession.
- Questions pertaining to the value of the business, to the products and services offered by the Corporation, and to the allocation of resources to new areas of activity.
- Reorganizations and restructuring of the Corporation, acquisitions and divestitures.
- The establishment of a communication or disclosure policy.
- The adoption of measures for receiving feedback from shareholders.
- The integrity of the Corporation's internal control and management information systems.
- The implementation of a process to be carried out by the Corporate Governance Committee for assessing the effectiveness of the Board as a whole, the committees of the Board and the contribution of individual directors.

- The development of position descriptions for the Board and for the CEO, including the definition of the limits to management responsibilities and the development or approval of the corporate objectives for which the CEO is responsible.

In order to perform its duties, the Board of Directors must not only know and approve the general orientation and plans of the Corporation, but also it needs to ensure that the approved plans are followed through as approved and that proper follow up and control systems are in place to ensure responsible management of the affairs of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors does this by examining, studying and approving, among other things, the strategic plan and the business plans as well as the budgets and also by getting the opinion of management and other internal experts and if needed, from external experts as well.

The implementation of appropriate verification procedures is important, even in the absence of problems, because these procedures allow the Board to feel secure that operations and other activities of management are being run properly, as the Board cannot realistically supervise daily activities.

Reports from the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, as well as from the internal and external experts, are presented to the Board.

These procedures are not only an efficient and necessary process but also can be of assistance to the directors to defend their position should they be faced with a challenge from shareholders or third parties.

The input of the directors is valuable in that it gives management other perspectives. The directors should take note that they have the same legal responsibilities and obligations, independently of whether the Corporation has a small or large number of shareholders.

Ultimately, the Chairman of the Board evaluates the efficiency of the Board. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the general direction and management of the Corporation.

A majority of the directors of the Corporation shall be “unrelated” as defined by the listing guidelines of the Toronto Stock Exchange. The Board shall review and affirmatively determine the “unrelated” status of each director.

An “unrelated director” is a director who has no direct or indirect relationship with the Corporation which could reasonably interfere with the exercise of this director’s independent judgement.

In order to assure the independence of the Board from management, the Board shall, at regular intervals, either during a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, require that all related directors absent themselves from the meeting. The Board may, at its sole discretion, invite related directors or other members of senior management to participate in these meetings.

Each director shall have career experience relevant to the Corporation's business, have proven understanding of fiduciary duty and demonstrate integrity and high ethical standards. Each director shall devote adequate time to serve effectively as a director. Attendance at the meetings of the Board is crucial.

An individual director of the Corporation may engage outside advisers at the expense of the Corporation, with the prior approval of the Corporate Governance Committee.