CANADA

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

Nº 500-11-048114-157

S U P E R I O R C O U R T (Commercial Division)

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF:

BLOOM LAKE GENERAL PARTNER LIMITED
QUINTO MINING CORPORATION
CLIFFS QUÉBEC IRON MINING ULC
WABUSH IRON CO. LIMITED
WABUSH RESOURCES INC.

Petitioners

-and-

THE BLOOM LAKE IRON ORE MINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP BLOOM LAKE RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED WABUSH MINES ARNAUD RAILWAY COMPANY WABUSH LAKE RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED

Mises-en-cause

-and-

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.

Monitor

-and-

TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION CHURCHILL FALLS (LABRADOR) CORPORATION LIMITED

Mises-en-cause



# MOTION BY TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION TO DISMISS THE APPLICATION FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION AND FOR FORUM NON-CONVENIENS

TO THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE MICHEL PINSONNAULT, J.S.C. OR ONE OF THE HONOURABLE JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, SITTING IN COMMERCIAL DIVISION, IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTRÉAL, THE MISES-EN-CAUSE, TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION STATES AS FOLLOWS:

### Overview

- The present proceeding is an application in the context of a CCAA proceeding commenced on January 27, 2015 and subject to various subsequent orders in respect of proceedings pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (the "CCAA") in respect of the Petitioners and the Mises-en-cause (collectively the "CCAA Parties"), the whole as appears from the Court record and as set out in paragraphs 1 7 of the Wabush Motion as defined below (the "CCAA Proceedings").
- 2. On 16 November 2020, the CCAA Parties brought a motion (the "Wabush Motion") seeking a series of orders with regard to Twin Falls Power Corporation ("Twinco"). The Wabush Motion was brought pursuant to section 11 of the CCAA, and sections 214 and 241 of the Canada Business Corporation Act (the "CBCA").
- 3. The Wabush Motion seeks the following orders, the whole as set out at paragraph 13 of the Wabush Motion (collectively the "**Orders**" and each, an "**Order**"):
  - (a) confirming Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation Limited's ("CFLCo") liability for Twinco's maintenance obligations and environmental liabilities from and after July 1, 1974 related to a power generating plant operated by Twinco in Newfoundland and Labrador until July 1, 1974 (the "Twinco Plant");
  - (b) compelling an accounting from Twinco of all monies expended by Twinco in respect of maintenance and environmental costs that have not been reimbursed by CFLCo pursuant to the CFLCo Indemnity (as defined in paragraph 46 of the Wabush Motion) and CFLCo Maintenance Obligations (as defined in paragraph 48 of the Wabush Motion) (collectively, the "Reimbursable Environmental/Maintenance Costs");
  - (c) directing CFLCo to reimburse all Reimbursable Environmental/Maintenance Costs (such amount to be reimbursed by CFLCo, being the "CFLCo Reimbursement") to Twinco for distribution to the shareholders as part of the winding up and dissolution of Twinco pursuant to the relief requested in paragraph (d) below;



- (d) directing the winding up and dissolution of Twinco pursuant to section 214 and/or section 241(3)(I) of the CBCA and a distribution of: (i) the Twinco Cash (as defined in paragraph 23 of the Wabush Motion) net of all reasonable fees and expenses incurred by Twinco to implement and complete the wind up and dissolution being sought in this Motion (the "Remaining Twinco Cash"), and (ii) the CFLCo Reimbursement to Twinco's shareholders, including Wabush Iron Co. Limited and Wabush Resources Inc. (collectively the "Wabush Parties"), on a pro rata basis;
- (e) in the alternative to (d), directing Twinco and/or CFLCo to purchase the shares of Twinco held by the Wabush Parties pursuant to section 214(2) and/or section 241(3)(f) of the CBCA for a purchase price equal to the amount of the Wabush Parties' respective pro rata share of: (i) the Twinco Cash, and (ii) the CFLCo Reimbursement; and
- (f) such further and other relief as this Honourable Court deems just.
- 4. The central issues to the Wabush Motion raised by the CCAA Parties are as follows (the "**Issues**"):
  - (i) a determination and calculation of any outstanding contractual liabilities as between Twinco and CFLCo (the "Contractual Claims");
  - (ii) whether it is just and equitable to order the liquidation and dissolution of Twinco (the "Wind-Up Claim"); and
  - (iii) whether: (i) in respect of Twinco: (a) there is any act or omission of Twinco that effects a result; (b) the business or affairs of Twinco are or have been carried on or conducted in a manner; or (c) the powers of the directors of Twinco are or have been exercised in a manner, that is oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to or that unfairly disregards the interests of the Wabush Parties and, if so, what is the appropriate remedy (the "Oppression Claims").
- 5. Twinco submits that Québec courts do not have jurisdiction to hear the Issues raised in the Wabush Motion.
- 6. In the alternative Twinco submits that, if it is determined Québec courts do have jurisdiction to hear the Issues, that this Honourable Court should decline jurisdiction on the basis that the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador is in a better position to decide the Issues, pursuant to article 3135 of the *Civil Code of Québec* ("**CCQ**").

### **Jurisdiction of Contractual Claims**

7. Orders (a), (b) and (c) sought by the Wabush Motion relate to the determination of contractual rights and liabilities between Twinco and CFLCo.



- 8. Order (a) would require a determination as to the contractual liabilities for maintenance and environmental liabilities as between Twinco and CFLCo, on the basis of the interpretation of a series of Material Agreements (as defined at paragraph 26 of the Wabush Motion and attached thereto as Exhibits R-5, R-6 and R-7) between Twinco and CFLCo (and other parties) dating since 1961. Order (b) requires an accounting of all monies spent by Twinco assuming the determination in Order (a). Order (c) requires the identification of an amount owing by CFLCo to Twinco as a result of the determination in Orders (a) and (b), and an order against CFLCo for the payment of this amount.
- 9. Orders (a), (b) and (c) therefore require the determination of both the legal rights between Twinco and CFLCo under the Material Agreements, and an accounting of a history of transactions and activities by Twinco since potentially 1961 (the date of the oldest of the Material Agreements).
- 10. Neither Twinco nor CFLCo is asking for their contractual rights to be determined by this Honourable Court. Further, neither Twinco nor CFLCo is a party to the CCAA Proceedings, nor is either corporation a party governed by the original or any subsequent order issued in the CCAA Proceedings. Rather, both Twinco and CFLCo are strangers to the CCAA Proceedings in which the Wabush Motion has been brought.
- 11. The Wabush Motion is anchored in section 11 of the CCAA, which relates to the general power of a CCAA court on application "in respect of a debtor company". However, notably, section 11 only refers to applications "in respect of a debtor company".
- 12. Twinco submits that the Wabush Motion, while framed as part of the CCAA Proceedings, is not an application in respect of a debtor company. Rather, Twinco submits that the Motion is, in substance, an application primarily in respect of Twinco and its affairs. It requires adjudication of Twinco's contractual rights, a review and accounting of Twinco's history of transactions, and the winding up of Twinco or an order for Twinco to purchase the shares of the Wabush Parties. As such, Twinco submits that this Honourable Court does not have jurisdiction to decide the issues on the basis of section 11 of the CCAA.
- 13. Further, none of the 5 factors grounding jurisdiction of Québec Courts under article 3148 CCQ are present in this case. Conversely, the following facts demonstrate the lack of a connection to the jurisdiction of Québec:
  - (i) Twinco has its registered office and chief place of business in Newfoundland and Labrador;
  - (ii) Twinco has no operations in the province of Québec, has no place of business in Québec, nor any assets in the province of Québec;



- (iii) there is no allegation in the Wabush Motion that any contractual obligation for any of the parties would have to be performed in Québec, or that any prejudice would have been suffered in Québec;
- (iv) the Material Agreements are not governed by the laws of Québec; and
- (v) Twinco has not attorned to the jurisdiction of Québec.
- 14. For these foregoing reasons, the Québec Courts do not have jurisdiction to hear the Issues arising out of the Wabush Motion.

### Forum non conveniens

- 15. In the alternative, if this Honourable Court determines that it has jurisdiction to hear the Wabush Motion, Twinco submits that this Honourable Court is not the most convenient or appropriate forum to determine the Issues, and that this Honourable Court should instead decline its jurisdiction on the basis that the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador is clearly the most appropriate forum, pursuant to article 3135 CCQ.
- 16. The connection between the Issues and the forum of Newfoundland and Labrador is plainly evident. First, both Twinco and CFLCo are headquartered and chiefly operate in Newfoundland and Labrador. Second, the Material Agreements are not governed by the laws of Québec. Two of the Material Agreements, the Sublease and the Participation Agreement (each as defined in paragraph 26 of the Wabush Motion), expressly provide that they are governed by the laws of Newfoundland (now Newfoundland and Labrador); the third Material Agreement, the Operating Lease (as defined at paragraph 26 of the Wabush Motion) is silent on jurisdiction but is a subsidiary document of the Sublease.
- 17. Furthermore, any consideration of any potential environmental liabilities that Twinco might have would arise exclusively under the laws of Newfoundland and Labrador
- 18. The only connecting factor of Twinco or the Material Agreements to the CCAA Proceedings is that the Wabush Parties collectively own a total of 17.062% of the shares of Twinco, the remainder being held by Iron Ore Company of Canada ("IOC") (49.6%) and CFLCo (33.3%).
- 19. In conclusion, there is no real and substantial connection or any connecting factor to connect the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of Québec and the Contractual Claims of the CCAA Parties. Twinco submits that the Québec Courts should not determine the respective rights and liabilities of Twinco and CFLCo, two Newfoundland and Labrador-based corporations, under the Material Agreements.



### **Jurisdiction of Oppression Claims and the Wind-Up Claim**

- 20. Orders (d) and (e) sought by the CCAA Parties seek to wind up Twinco or, in the alternative, force Twinco to buy out the Wabush Parties' respective equity holdings in Twinco. Both Orders (d) and (e) also seek to mandate the respective amounts to be paid by Twinco to the Wabush Parties in either scenario. Importantly, these pay-out amounts are related to, and reliant upon, the amounts which would be determined in the course of granting Orders (a), (b) and (c).
- 21. Per the Wabush Motion, Orders (d) and (e) are requested pursuant to sections 214 and 241 of the CBCA, on the basis that Twinco and the CFLCo nominees on the Twinco Board of Directors have engaged in oppressive conduct which oppresses, unfairly prejudices and/or unfairly disregards the interests the Wabush Parties. Order (d) is also requested pursuant on the basis that it is just and equitable to liquidate and dissolve Twinco.
- 22. Relying upon the facts set out in paragraphs 13 and 16 to 18, Twinco submits that there is no real and substantial connection or any connecting factor whatsoever to connect the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of Québec and the Oppression Claims and the Wind-Up Claim of the CCAA Parties. Further, Twinco submits that it is contrary to the statutory provisions of the CBCA and the CCAA for the Superior Court of Québec to consider or grant Orders (d) and (e).

### Jurisdiction under CBCA

- 23. Section 207 of the CBCA states that, for Part XVIII (which includes Section 214), "court' means a court having jurisdiction in the place where the corporation has its registered office". The registered office for Twinco is located in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, as demonstrated by the CBCA registration record included as Exhibit R-4 filed with the Court in support of the Wabush Motion. As a result, pursuant to the CBCA the "court" with jurisdiction over a claim under section 214 would be the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- 24. Section 241 of the CBCA provides a court the authority, upon a finding of oppressive conduct, to grant either remedy (d) or (e) as possible remedies. Section 241 is not subject to section 207; under the CBCA generally, the Québec Superior Court would have similar jurisdiction as the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. However, as is discussed above, there lacks a real and substantial connection between the underlying subject matter of the Oppression Claims and the jurisdiction of Québec.

### Jurisdiction under CCAA

25. Alternatively, section 9(1) of the CCAA relates to the jurisdiction of a court to receive applications related to the more broadly defined term "company". Section 9(1) specifies that the court with jurisdiction in the province within which the head office or chief place of business of a "company" is located would have jurisdiction



over an application under any provision of the CCAA. Twinco again notes that its head office and chief place of business is in Newfoundland and Labrador and relies upon the facts set out in paragraphs 13 and 16 to 18. As such, any application which primarily and significantly relates to Twinco's affairs should be brought in the jurisdiction of Newfoundland and Labrador.

- 26. While pursuant to section 42 of the CCAA a CCAA Court may apply provisions of the CBCA as part of a CCAA process, Twinco submits it may only do so where (i) the matter is under the jurisdiction of the CCAA court and (ii) where the requested relief is consistent with the purposes of the CCAA.
- 27. As stated above in paragraph 10, both Twinco and CFLCo are strangers to the CCAA Proceedings. They are not subject to the orders in the CCAA Proceedings and have not entered the CCAA Proceedings as creditors of the CCAA companies. The only connection of Twinco to the CCAA proceedings is having the Wabush Parties as minority shareholders; CFLCo has no connection to the CCAA Proceedings.
- 28. The purpose of the CCAA Proceedings relates to the liquidation of the CCAA Parties. The Issues in the Wabush Motion, however, do not relate to the relationship between the Wabush Parties and their creditors, but rather requires an adjudication of the affairs of Twinco or CFLCo, both of which are strangers to the CCAA Proceedings. Twinco submits that the relief requested in the Wabush Motion is outside the scope of section 11 of the CCAA.

### Forum non conveniens

- 29. Article 3135 CCQ recognizes that even if a Québec Court determines it has jurisdiction, it may decline jurisdiction where it considers the courts of another jurisdiction "are in a better position to decide the dispute".
- 30. Twinco submits that all Issues, including the Contractual Claims, the Oppression Claims and the Wind-Up Claim raised by the Wabush Motion are most appropriately determined by the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador would be the court having a real and substantial connection to Twinco and CFLCo, and the Material Agreements and the laws which govern them. As well, the jurisdiction of Newfoundland and Labrador is where witnesses and evidence required for the determination of the Issues and the required monetary calculations for the Orders are located.
- 31. Twinco submits that even is this Court determines it has jurisdiction, this matter would be an appropriate context to decline to exercise jurisdiction on the basis that the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador is in a better position to decide the Issues arising out of the requested relief sought by the Wabush Parties and other CCAA Parties under the Wabush Motion.



### FOR THESE REASONS, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT TO:

**DISMISS OR STAY** the Petitioner's motion

**ALTERNATIVELY** 

TRUE COPY

imk LLP

**IMK LLP** 

**DECLINE** jurisdiction in favour of the Courts of Newfoundland and Labrador

MONTREAL, this 15th day of January 2021

(S) IMK LLP

Me Doug Mitchell dmitchell@imk.ca

IMK LLP

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T: 514 935-2725 | F: 514 935-2999 Lawyer for the Mises-en-cause TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION

Our file: 5667-1

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CANADA

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

N° 500-11-048114-157

## S U P E R I O R C O U R T (Commercial Division)

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF:

BLOOM LAKE GENERAL PARTNER LIMITED
QUINTO MINING CORPORATION
CLIFFS QUÉBEC IRON MINING ULC
WABUSH IRON CO. LIMITED
WABUSH RESOURCES INC.

Petitioners

-and-

THE BLOOM LAKE IRON ORE MINE
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
BLOOM LAKE RAILWAY COMPANY
LIMITED
WABUSH MINES
ARNAUD RAILWAY COMPANY
WABUSH LAKE RAILWAY COMPANY
LIMITED

Mises-en-cause

-and-

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.

Monitor

-and-

TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION CHURCHILL FALLS (LABRADOR) CORPORATION LIMITED

Mises-en-cause



## NOTICE OF PRESENTATION COMMERCIAL (ROOM 16.10)

### 1. PRESENTATION OF THE MOTION BY TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION TO DISMISS THE APPLICATION FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION

**BE ADVISED** that the Mises-en-cause will present the present *Motion by Twin Falls Power Corporation to dismiss the application for lack of jurisdiction* in practice division of the Superior Court of Québec - Commercial Division, sitting in and for the Judicial District of Montreal, in a room to be determined of the Montreal Courthouse, located at 1, Notre-Dame St. East, Montreal, on **January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021** at **8:45 a.m.**, before **Justice Michel A. Pinsonnault**.

# 2. HOW TO JOIN THE VIRTUAL CALLING OF THE ROLL IN PRACTICE DIVISION

The coordinates to join the calling of the roll in room 16.10 are as follows:

a) **Using Teams**: to open the permanent link established for room 16.10, click <u>here</u>1;

You must then fill in your name and click "Join Now". In order to facilitate the process and the identification of the parties, we invite you to fill in your name in the following manner:

Attorneys: Mtre. Name, Surname (name of the party being represented)

Parties not represented by an attorney: Name, Surname (specify: Plaintiff, Defendant or other)

For persons attending a public hearing: you can simply indicate "public".

### By telephone:

Canada (Toll free number): (833) 450-1741

Canada, Québec (Charges will apply): +1 581-319-

2194 Conference ID: 820 742 874#

By videoconference: teams@teams.justice.gouv.gc.ca

VTC Conference ID: 11973653703

The permanent links for the Montreal courthouse rooms can also be found in the document entitled Liens TEAMS pour rejoindre les salles du Palais de justice de Montréal en matière commerciale, civile et familiale under the heading Audiences virtuelles found on the Superior Court of Québec website at : https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/roles-de-la-cour/audiences-virtuelles.



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**In person**, if and only if the above-mentioned means are not available.

1 Notre-Dame St. East, Montréal, Québec

### 3. FAILURE TO ATTEND THE CALLING OF THE ROLL

**TAKE NOTICE** that should you fail to attend the calling of the roll, a judgment by default could be rendered against you at the hearing of the proceeding, without further notice or delay.

### 4. OBLIGATIONS

4.1 Duty of cooperation

**TAKE NOTICE** that you are duty-bound to co-operate and, in particular, to keep one another informed at all times of the facts and particulars conductive to a fair debate and to make sure that relevant evidence is preserved. (*Code of Civil Procedure*, art. 20).

4.2 Dispute prevention and resolution processes

**TAKE NOTICE** that before referring your dispute to the courts, you must consider private dispute prevention and resolution processes which are negotiation between the parties, and mediation and arbitration, in which the parties call on a third person to assist them (*Code of Civil Procedure*, art. 1 and 2)

#### PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

**MONTREAL**, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021

(S) IMK LLP

Me Doug Mitchell dmitchell@imk.ca

**IMK LLP** 

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Montréal, Québec H3Z 3C1

T: 514 935-2725 | F: 514 935-2999 Lawyer for the Mises-en-cause Twin Falls Power Corporation

Our file: 5667-1

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TRUE COPY

imk LLP

**IMK LLP** 



CANADA

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

N° 500-11-048114-157

# SUPERIOR COURT (Commercial Division)

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF:

BLOOM LAKE GENERAL PARTNER LIMITED QUINTO MINING CORPORATION CLIFFS QUÉBEC IRON MINING ULC WABUSH IRON CO. LIMITED WABUSH RESOURCES INC.

Petitioners

-and-

THE BLOOM LAKE IRON ORE MINE
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
BLOOM LAKE RAILWAY COMPANY
LIMITED
WABUSH MINES
ARNAUD RAILWAY COMPANY
WABUSH LAKE RAILWAY COMPANY
LIMITED

Mises-en-cause

-and-

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.

Monitor

-and-

TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION CHURCHILL FALLS (LABRADOR) CORPORATION LIMITED

Mises-en-cause



### AFFIDAVIT OF TODD STANLEY, Q.C.

I, the undersigned, TODD STANLEY, Q.C., of the City of St. John's in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, do solemnly declare that:

- I am a lawyer and partner with the law firm of Cox & Palmer, solicitors for Twin Falls Power Corporation, mise-en-cause, in the present proceedings and having a place of business at Hydro Place, Columbus Drive, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.
- All of the facts alleged in the present Motion by Twin Falls Power Corporation to Dismiss the Application for Lack of Jurisdiction and for Forum Non-Conveniens are true.

AND I HAVE SIGNED this 4 day January, 2021

TODD STANLEY, Q.C.

Solemnly affirmed before me in the City of St. John's in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, this // day of January 2021

Notary Public



#### N° **500-11-048114-157**

SUPERIOR COURT (Commercial Division)
DISTRICT OF MONTREAL
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF:

**BLOOM LAKE GENERAL PARTNER LIMITED & AL.** 

Petitioners

-and-

THE BLOOM LAKE IRON ORE MINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP & AL.

Mises-en-cause

-and-

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.

Monitor

-and-

TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION
CHURCHILL FALLS (LABRADOR) CORPORATION
LIMITED

Mises-en-cause

MOTION BY TWIN FALLS POWER CORPORATION TO DISMISS THE APPLICATION FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION AND FOR FORUM NON-CONVENIENS, NOTICE OF PRESENTATION AND AFFIDAVIT

#### **COPY FOR NOTIFICATION**



#### IMK s.e.n.c.r.l./LLP

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