

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL LIST**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT,
R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF
1511419 ONTARIO INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CASH STORE FINANCIAL
SERVICES INC., 1545688 ALBERTA INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CASH
STORE INC., 986301 ALBERTA INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS TCS CASH STORE
INC., 1152919 ALBERTA INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS INSTALOANS INC., 7252331
CANADA INC., 5515433 MANITOBA INC., 1693926 ALBERTA LTD. DOING
BUSINESS AS "THE TITLE STORE"**

**BOOK OF AUTHORITIES OF THE APPLICANTS
(Meetings Order)
(returnable September 30, 2015)**

September 25, 2015

OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT LLP
P.O. Box 50, 1 First Canadian Place
Toronto, ON M5X 1B8

Tel: 416.362.2111
Fax: 416.862.6666

Counsel for the Chief Restructuring Officer
of the Applicants

TO: SERVICE LIST

INDEX

INDEX

TAB	
1.	<i>Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)</i> (1990), 1 O.R. (3d) 289, 1 C.B.R. (3d) 101 (Ont. C.A.).
2.	<i>Ursel Investments Ltd., Re</i> (1990), 2 C.B.R. (3d) 260 (Sask. Q.B.).
3.	<i>ScoZinc Ltd., Re</i> , 2009 NSSC 163, 55 C.B.R. (5th) 205.
4.	<i>Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd.</i> (1988), 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 20, [1988] A.J. No. 1226 (Alta. Q.B.).
5.	<i>Stelco Inc., Re</i> (2005), 15 C.B.R. (5th) 307 (Ont. C.A.).
6.	<i>Canadian Airlines Corp., Re</i> (2000), 19 C.B.R. (4th) 12 (Alta, Q.B.).
7.	<i>ATB Financial v Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.</i> (2008), 43 C.B.R. (5th) 269, 47 B.L.R. (4th) 74 (Ont. Sup. Ct. J. [Commercial List]), aff'd (2008), 45 C.B.R. (5th) 163 (Ont. C.A.).

1

Most Negative Treatment: Not followed

Most Recent Not followed: [Philip's Manufacturing Ltd., Re](#) | 1992 CarswellBC 542, 4 B.L.R. (2d) 142, 9 C.B.R. (3d) 25, 67 B.C.L.R. (2d) 84, 32 A.C.W.S. (3d) 932, [1992] B.C.W.L.D. 977 | (B.C. C.A., Mar 18, 1992)

1990 CarswellOnt 139
Ontario Court of Appeal

Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)

1990 CarswellOnt 139, 1 C.B.R. (3d) 101, 1 O.R. (3d) 289, 23 A.C.W.S. (3d) 1192, 41 O.A.C. 282

ELAN CORPORATION et al. v. COMISKEY (TRUSTEE OF) et al.

Finlayson, Krever and Doherty JJ.A.

Heard: October 30 and 31, 1990

Judgment: November 2, 1990

Docket: Doc. Nos. CA 684/90 and CA 685/90

Counsel: *F.J.C. Newbould, Q.C.*, and *G.B. Morawetz*, for appellant The Bank of Nova Scotia.

John Little, for respondents Elan Corporation and Nova Metal Products Inc.

Michael B. Rotsztain, for RoyNat Inc.

Kim Twohig and *Mel Olanow*, for Ontario Development Corp.

K.P. McElcheran, for monitor Ernst & Young.

Subject: Corporate and Commercial; Insolvency

Headnote

Corporations --- Arrangements and compromises — Under Companies' Creditors Arrangements Act

Corporations — Arrangements and compromises — Court having discretion when ordering creditors' meeting under s. 5 of Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act to consider equities between debtor company and secured creditors and to consider possible success of plan of arrangement — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, s. 5.

Corporations — Arrangements and compromises — Opposing commercial and legal interests requiring secured creditors to be in separate classes — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36.

Corporations — Arrangements and compromises — Where receiver-manager having been appointed, corporation not entitled to issue debentures and trust deeds or to bring application for relief under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, s. 3.

The applicants were two related companies. The bank was the lender to the companies and was owed over \$2,300,000. R Inc. was also a secured creditor of the companies, and was owed approximately \$12 million. By agreement, the bank had a first registered charge on the companies' accounts receivable and inventory and a second registered charge on land, buildings and equipment, while R Inc. had a second registered charge on the accounts receivable and inventory and a first registered charge on the land, buildings and equipment. The security agreements with the bank prohibited the companies from encumbering their assets without the bank's consent. The bank also had s. 178 *Bank Act* security. The Ontario Development Corporation ("ODC") guaranteed part of the companies' debt to R. Inc. and held as security a debenture from

one of the companies ranking third to the bank and R Inc. Two municipalities had first priority liens on the companies' lands for unpaid municipal taxes.

The bank demanded payment of its outstanding loans and on August 27, 1990, appointed a receiver-manager pursuant to the security agreements. When the companies refused to allow the receiver-manager access to the premises, the Court made an interim order authorizing the receiver-manager access to monitor the companies' business, and permitting the companies to remain in possession and carry on business in the ordinary course. The bank was restrained from selling the assets and from notifying account debtors to collect receivables, but could apply accounts receivable that were collected by the companies to the bank loans. On August 29, 1990, the companies each issued debentures to a friend and to the wife of the companies' principal, pursuant to trust deeds. The debentures conveyed personal property to a trustee as security. No consent was obtained from either the bank or the receiver-manager. It was conceded that the debentures were issued for the sole purpose of qualifying each company as a "debtor company" within the meaning of s. 3 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, ("CCAA").

The companies applied under s. 5 of the CCAA for an order directing the meeting of secured creditors to vote on a plan of arrangement. The plan of arrangement filed provided that the companies would carry on business for 3 months, the secured creditors would be paid and could take no action on their security for 3 months, and the accounts receivable assigned to the bank could be utilized by the companies for their day-to-day operations. No compromise was proposed. At the hearing of the application, orders were granted which set dates for presenting the plan to the secured creditors and for holding the meeting of the secured creditors. The companies were permitted, for 3 months, to spend the accounts receivable collected in accordance with cash flow projections. Proceedings by the bank, acting on its security or paying down the loan from the accounts receivable were stayed. An order was granted that created two classes of creditors for purposes of voting at the meeting of secured creditors. The classes were: (a) the bank, R Inc., ODC and the municipalities; and (b) the principal's wife and friend, who had acquired the debentures to enable the companies to apply under the CCAA. The bank appealed.

Held:

The appeal was allowed, Doherty J.A. dissenting in part; the application was dismissed.

Per Finlayson J.A. (Krever J.A. concurring): — Since the CCAA was intended to provide a structured environment for the negotiation of compromises between the debtor company and its creditors for the benefit of both, which could have significant benefits for the company, its shareholders and employees, debtor corporations were entitled to a broad and liberal interpretation of the jurisdiction of the Court under the CCAA. However, it did not follow that in exercising its discretion to order a meeting of creditors under s. 5 of the CCAA, a Court should not consider the equities as they related to the debtor company and to its secured creditors. Any discretion exercised by the Judge in this instance was not reflected in his reasons. Therefore, the appellate Court could examine the uncontested chronology of these proceedings and exercise its own discretion.

The significant date was August 27, 1990. The effect of the appointment of the receiver-manager was to disentitle the companies to issue the debentures and bring the application under the CCAA. Neither company had the power to create further indebtedness, and thus to interfere with the ability of the receiver-manager to manage the two companies. The interim order granting the receiver-manager access to the premises restricted its powers, but did not divest the receiver-manager of all its managerial powers. The issue of the debentures to the friend and wife was outside the companies' jurisdiction to carry on business in the ordinary course. Rather, the residual power to take such initiatives to gain relief under the CCAA rested with the receiver-manager. The issuance and registration of the trust deeds required a court order.

The probability of the meeting of secured creditors achieving some measure of success was another relevant consideration. Had there been a proper classification of creditors, the meeting would not have been productive. It was improper to create one class of creditors comprised of all secured creditors except the debenture creditors. There was no true community of

interest among the former. The bank should have been classified in its own class. The companies had clearly intended to avoid having the bank designated as a separate class, because the companies knew that no plan of arrangement would succeed without the approval of the bank. The bank and R Inc. had opposing interests. It was in the commercial interest of the bank to collect and retain the accounts receivable while it was in R Inc.'s commercial interest to preserve the cash flow of the businesses and sell the businesses as going concerns. To have placed the bank and R Inc. in the same class would have enabled R Inc. to vote with the ODC to defeat the bank's prior claim.

There was no reason why the bank's legal interest in the receivables should be overridden by R Inc. as the second security holder in the receivables.

For the foregoing reasons, the application under the CCAA should be dismissed.

Per Doherty J.A. (dissenting in part): — The debentures and "instant" trust deeds sufficed to bring the companies within the requirements of s. 3 of the CCAA even if, in issuing those debentures, the companies breached a prior agreement with the bank. Section 3 merely required that at the time of an application by the debtor company, an outstanding debenture or bond be issued under a trust deed. However, where a bond or debenture did not reflect a transaction which actually occurred and did not create a real debt owed by the company, such bond or debenture would not suffice for the purposes of s. 3. The statute should only be used for the purpose of attempting a legitimate reorganization. Where the application was brought for an improper purpose or the company acted in bad faith, the Court had means available to it, entirely apart from s. 3 of the CCAA, to prevent misuse of the Act. The contravention of the security agreement in creating the debentures without the bank's consent did not affect the status of the debentures for the purposes of s. 3, but could play a role in the Court's determination of what additional orders should be made under the statute.

The interim order regarding the receiver-manager effectively rendered the receiver-manager a monitor with rights of access but no further authority. Therefore, in light of the terms of the interim order, the existence of the receiver-manager installed by the bank did not preclude the application under s. 3 of the CCAA.

The Judge properly exercised his discretion in directing that a meeting of creditors should be held pursuant to s. 5 of the CCAA. Even though the chances of a successful reorganization were not good, the benefits flowing from the s. 5 order exceeded the risk inherent in the order. However, the bank and R Inc., as the two principal creditors, should not have been placed in the same class of secured creditors for the purposes of ss. 5 and 6 of the statute. Their interests were not only different, but opposed. The classification scheme created by the Judge effectively denied the bank any control over any plan of reorganization.

Table of Authorities

Cases considered:

Per Finlayson J.A. (Krever J.A. concurring)

Alberta Treasury Branches v. Hat Development Ltd. (1988), 71 C.B.R. (N.S.) 264, 64 Alta. L.R. (2d) 17 (Q.B.), aff'd (1989), 65 Alta. L.R. (2d) 374 (C.A.) — *applied*

Northland Properties Ltd., Re (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 166, 31 B.C.L.R. (2d) 35 (S.C.), aff'd (16 September 1988), Doc. No. Vancouver CA009772, Taggart, Lambert and Locke J.J.A. (B.C. C.A.) — *considered*

Northland Properties Ltd., Re (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 (S.C.), aff'd 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195, [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363, 34 B.C.L.R. (2d) 122 (C.A.) — *referred to*

NsC Diesel Power Inc., Re (1990), 79 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1, 97 N.S.R. (2d) 295, 258 A.P.R. 295 (T.D.) — *considered*

Sovereign Life Assurance Co. v. Dodd, [1892] 2 Q.B. 573, [1891-4] All E.R. 246 (C.A.) — *applied*

Wellington Building Corp., Re, [1934] O.R. 653, 16 C.B.R. 48, [1934] 4 D.L.R. 626, [1934] O.W.N. 562 (S.C.) — *applied*

Per Doherty J.A. (dissenting in part)

Alberta Treasury Branches v. Hat Development Ltd. (1988), 71 C.B.R. (N.S.) 264, 64 Alta. L.R. (2d) 17 (Q.B.), aff'd (1989), 65 Alta. L.R. (2d) 374 (C.A.) — *considered*

Avery Construction Co., Re, 24 C.B.R. 17, [1942] 4 D.L.R. 558 (Ont. S.C.) — *referred to*

Hongkong Bank of Canada v. ChefReady Foods Ltd., [1991] 2 W.W.R. 136, 51 B.C.L.R. (2d) 84 (C.A.) — *considered*

Icor Oil & Gas Co. v. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (1989), 102 A.R. 161 (Q.B.) — *referred to*

Meridian Developments Inc. v. Toronto-Dominion Bank; Meridian Developments Inc. v. Nu-West Ltd., 52 C.B.R. (N.S.) 109, [1984] 5 W.W.R. 215, 32 Alta. L.R. (2d) 150, 11 D.L.R. (4th) 576, 53 A.R. 39 (Q.B.) — *referred to*

Metals & Alloys Co., Re (16 February 1990), Houlden J.A. (Ont. C.A.) [unreported] — *considered*

Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd. (1988), 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1, 63 Alta. L.R. (2d) 361, 92 A.R. 81 (Q.B.) — *referred to*

Northland Properties Ltd., Re (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 (S.C.), aff'd 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195, [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363, 34 B.C.L.R. (2d) 122 (C.A.) — *referred to*

Quintette Coal Ltd. v. Nippon Steel Corp. (1990), 47 B.C.L.R. (2d) 193 (S.C.) — *referred to*

Reference re Residential Tenancies Act (Ontario), [1981] 1 S.C.R. 714, 123 D.L.R. (3d) 554, 37 N.R. 158 — *referred to*

Stephanie's Fashions Ltd., Re (1990), 1 C.B.R. (3d) 248 (B.C.S.C.) — *considered*

United Maritime Fishermen Co-op., Re (1988), 67 C.B.R. (N.S.) 44, 84 N.B.R. (2d) 415, 214 A.P.R. 415 (Q.B.), varied on reconsideration (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 170, 87 N.B.R. (2d) 333, 221 A.P.R. 333 (Q.B.), rev'd (1988), 69 C.B.R. (N.S.) 161, 51 D.L.R. (4th) 618, 88 N.B.R. (2d) 253, 224 A.P.R. 253 (C.A.) — *considered*

Statutes considered:

Bank Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-1 —

s. 178, as am. R.S.C. 1985 (3d Supp.), c. 25, s. 26

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, S.C. 1932-33, c. 36 —

s. 3, en. as s. 2A, S.C. 1952-53, c. 3, s. 2

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 —

s. 3

s. 4

s. 5

s. 6

s. 6(a)

s. 11

s. 14(2)

Courts of Justice Act, 1984, S.O. 1984, c. 11 —

s. 144(1)

Interpretation Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-21 —

s. 12

Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1980, c. 302 —

s. 369

APPEAL from order of Hoolihan J. dated September 11, 1990, allowing application under *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36.

FINLAYSON J.A. (KREVER J.A. concurring) (orally):

1 This is an appeal by the Bank of Nova Scotia (the "bank") from orders made by Mr. Justice Hoolihan [(11 September 1990), Doc. Nos. Toronto RE 1993/90 and RE 1994/90 (Ont. Gen. Div.)] as hereinafter described. The Bank of Nova Scotia was the lender to two related companies, namely, Elan Corporation ("Elan") and Nova Metal Products Inc. ("Nova"), which commenced proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 (the "CCA"), for the purposes of having a plan of arrangement put to a meeting of secured creditors of those companies.

2 The orders appealed from are:

(i) An order of September 11, 1990, which directed a meeting of the secured creditors of Elan and Nova to consider the plan of arrangement filed, or other suitable plan. The order further provided that for 3 days until September 14, 1990, the bank be prevented from acting on any of its security or paying down any of its loans from accounts receivable collected by Elan and Nova, and that Elan and Nova could spend the accounts receivable assigned to the bank that would be received.

(ii) An order dated September 14, 1990, extending the terms of the order of September 11, 1990, to remain in effect until the plan of arrangement was presented to the Court no later than October 24, 1990. This order continued the stay against the bank and the power of Elan and Nova to spend the accounts receivable assigned to the bank. Further orders dated September 27, 1990, and October 18, 1990, have extended the stay, and the power of Elan and Nova to spend the accounts

receivable that have been assigned to the bank. The date of the meetings of creditors has been extended to November 9, 1990. The application to sanction the plan of arrangement must be heard by November 14, 1990.

(iii) An order dated October 18, 1990, directing that there be two classes of secured creditors for the purposes of voting at the meeting of secured creditors. The first class is to be comprised of the bank, RoyNat Inc. ("RoyNat"), the Ontario Development Corporation ("O.D.C."), the city of Chatham and the village of Glencoe. The second class is to be comprised of persons related to Elan and Nova that acquired debentures to enable the companies to apply under the CCAA.

3 There is very little dispute about the facts in this matter, but the chronology of events is important and I am setting it out in some detail.

4 The bank has been the banker to Elan and Nova. At the time of the application in August 1990, it was owed approximately \$1,900,000. With interest and costs, including receivers' fees, it is now owed in excess of \$2,300,000. It has a first registered charge on the accounts receivable and inventory of Elan and Nova, and a second registered charge on the land, buildings and equipment. It also has security under s. 178 of the *Bank Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-1, as am. R.S.C. 1985 (3rd Supp.), c. 25, s. 26. The terms of credit between the bank and Elan as set out in a commitment agreement provide that Elan and Nova may not encumber their assets without the consent of the bank.

5 RoyNat is also a secured creditor of Elan and Nova, and it is owed approximately \$12 million. It holds a second registered charge on the accounts receivable and inventory of Elan and Nova, and a first registered charge on the land, buildings and equipment. The bank and RoyNat entered into a priority agreement to define with certainty the priority which each holds over the assets of Elan and Nova.

6 The O.D.C. guaranteed payment of \$500,000 to RoyNat for that amount lent by RoyNat to Elan. The O.D.C. holds debenture security from Elan and secure the guarantee which it gave to RoyNat. That security ranks third to the bank and RoyNat. The O.D.C. has not been called upon by RoyNat to pay under its guarantee. O.D.C. has not lent any money directly to Elan or Nova.

7 Elan owes approximately \$77,000 to the City of Chatham for unpaid municipal taxes. Nova owes approximately \$18,000 to the Village of Glencoe for unpaid municipal taxes. Both municipalities have a lien on the real property of the respective companies in priority to every claim except the Crown under s. 369 of the *Municipal Act*, R.S.O. 1980, c. 302.

8 On May 8, 1990, the bank demanded payment of all outstanding loans owing by Elan and Nova to be made by June 1, 1990. Extensions of time were granted and negotiations directed to the settlement of the debt took place thereafter. On August 27, 1990, the bank appointed Coopers & Lybrand Limited as receiver and manager of the assets of Elan and Nova, and as agent under the bank's security to realize upon the security. Elan and Nova refused to allow the receiver and manager to have access to their premises, on the basis that insufficient notice had been provided by the bank before demanding payment.

9 Later on August 27, 1990, the bank brought a motion in an action against Elan and Nova (Court File No. 54033/90) for an order granting possession of the premises of Elan and Nova to Coopers & Lybrand. On the evening of August 27, 1990, at approximately 9 p.m., Mr. Justice Saunders made an order adjourning the motion on certain conditions. The order authorized Coopers & Lybrand access to the premises to monitor Elan's business, and permitted Elan to remain in possession and carry on its business in the ordinary course. The bank was restrained in the order, until the motion could be heard, from selling inventory, land, equipment or buildings or from notifying account debtors to collect receivables, but was not restrained from applying accounts receivable that were collected against outstanding bank loans.

10 On Wednesday, August 29, 1990, Elan and Nova each issued a debenture for \$10,000 to a friend of the principals of the companies, Joseph Comiskey, through his brother Michael Comiskey as trustee, pursuant to a trust deed executed the same day. The terms were not commercial and it does not appear that repayment was expected. It is conceded by counsel for Elan that the sole purpose of issuing the debentures was to qualify as a "debtor company" within the meaning of s. 3 of the CCAA. Section 3 reads as follows:

3. This Act does not apply in respect of a debtor company unless

(a) the debtor company has outstanding an issue of secured or unsecured bonds of the debtor company or of a predecessor in title of the debtor company issued under a trust deed or other instrument running in favour of a trustee; and

(b) the compromise or arrangement that is proposed under section 4 or 5 in respect of the debtor company includes a compromise or an arrangement between the debtor company and the holders of an issue referred to in paragraph (a).

11 The debentures conveyed the personal property of Elan and Nova as security to Michael Comiskey as trustee. No consent was obtained from the bank as required by the loan agreements, nor was any consent obtained from the receiver. Cheques for \$10,000 each, representing the loans secured in the debentures, were given to Elan and Nova on Wednesday, August 29, 1990, but not deposited until 6 days later on September 4, 1990, after an interim order had been made by Mr. Justice Farley in favour of Elan and Nova staying the bank from taking proceedings.

12 On August 30, 1990 Elan and Nova applied under s. 5 of the CCAA for an order directing a meeting of secured creditors to vote on a plan of arrangement. Section 5 provides:

5. Where a compromise or an arrangement is proposed between a debtor company and its secured creditors or any class of them, the court may, on the application in a summary way of the company or of any such creditor or of the trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator of the company, order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors, and, if the court so determines, of the shareholders of the company, to be summoned in such manner as the court directs.

13 The application was heard by Farley J. on Friday, August 31, 1990, at 8 a.m. Farley J. dismissed the application on the grounds that the CCAA required that there be more than one debenture issued by each company. Later on the same day, August 31, 1990, Elan and Nova each issued two debentures for \$500 to the wife of the principal of Elan through her sister as trustee. The debentures provided for payment of interest to commence on August 31, 1992. Cheques for \$500 were delivered that day to the companies but not deposited in the bank account until September 4, 1990. These debentures conveyed the personal property in the assets of Elan and Nova to the trustee as security. Once again it is conceded that the debentures were issued for the sole purpose of meeting the requirements of s. 3 of the CCAA. No consent was obtained from the bank as required by the loan terms, nor was any consent obtained from the receiver.

14 On August 31, 1990, following the creation of the trust deeds and the issuance of the debentures, Elan and Nova commenced new applications under the CCAA which were heard late in the day by Farley J. He adjourned the applications to September 10, 1990, on certain terms, including a stay preventing the bank from acting on its security and allowing Elan to spend up to \$321,000 from accounts receivable collected by it.

15 The plan of arrangement filed with the application provided that Elan and Nova would carry on business for 3 months, that secured creditors would not be paid and could take no action on their security for 3 months, and that the accounts receivable of Elan and Nova assigned to the bank could be utilized by Elan and Nova for purposes of its day-to-day operations. No compromise of any sort was proposed.

16 On September 11, 1990, Hoolihan J. ordered that a meeting of the secured creditors of Elan and Nova be held no later than October 22, 1990, to consider the plan of arrangement that had been filed, or other suitable plan. He ordered that the plan of arrangement be presented to the secured creditors no later than September 27, 1990. He made further orders effective for 3 days until September 14, 1990, including orders:

(i) that the companies could spend the accounts receivable assigned to the bank that would be collected in accordance with a cash flow forecast filed with the Court providing for \$1,387,000 to be spent by September 30, 1990; and

(ii) a stay of proceedings against the bank acting on any of its security or paying down any of its loans from accounts receivable collected by Elan and Nova.

17 On September 14, 1990, Hoolihan J. extended the terms of his order of September 11, 1990, to remain in effect until the plan of arrangement was presented to the Court no later than October 24, 1990 for final approval. This order continued

the power of Elan and Nova to spend up to \$1,387,000 of the accounts receivable assigned to the bank in accordance with the projected cash flow to September 30, 1990, and to spend a further amount to October 24, 1990, in accordance with a cash flow to be approved by Hoolihan J. prior to October 1, 1990. Further orders dated September 27 and October 18 have extended the power to spend the accounts receivable to November 14, 1990.

18 On September 14, 1990, the bank requested Hoolihan J. to restrict his order so that Elan and Nova could use the accounts receivable assigned to the bank only so long as they continued to operate within the borrowing guidelines contained in the terms of the loan agreements with the bank. These guidelines require a certain ratio to exist between bank loans and the book value of the accounts receivable and inventory assigned to the bank, and are designed in normal circumstances to ensure that there is sufficient value in the security assigned to the bank. Hoolihan J. refused to make the order.

19 On October 18, 1990, Hoolihan J. ordered that the composition of the classes of secured creditors for the purposes of voting at the meeting of secured creditors shall be as follows:

(a) The bank, RoyNat, O.D.C., the City of Chatham and the Village of Glencoe shall comprise one class.

(b) The parties related to the principal of Elan that acquired their debentures to enable the companies to apply under the CCAA shall comprise a second class.

20 On October 18, 1990, at the request of counsel for Elan and Nova, Hoolihan J. further ordered that the date for the meeting of creditors of Elan and Nova be extended to November 9, 1990, in order to allow a new plan of arrangement to be sent to all creditors, including unsecured creditors of those companies. Elan and Nova now plan to offer a plan of compromise or arrangement to the unsecured creditors of Elan and Nova as well as to the secured creditors.

21 There are five issues in this appeal.

(1) Are the debentures issued by Elan and Nova for the purpose of permitting the companies to qualify as applicants under the CCAA debentures within the meaning of s. 3 of the CCAA?

(2) Did the issue of the debentures contravene the provisions of the loan agreements between Elan and Nova and the bank? If so, what are the consequences for CCAA purposes?

(3) Did Elan and Nova have the power to issue the debentures and make application under the CCAA after the bank had appointed a receiver and after the order of Saunders J.?

(4) Did Hoolihan J. have the power under s. 11 of the CCAA to make the interim orders that he made with respect to the accounts receivable?

(5) Was Hoolihan J. correct in ordering that the bank vote on the proposed plan of arrangement in a class with RoyNat and the other secured creditors?

22 It is well established that the CCAA is intended to provide a structured environment for the negotiation of compromises between a debtor company and its creditors for the benefit of both. Such a resolution can have significant benefits for the company, its shareholders and employees. For this reason the debtor companies, Elan and Nova, are entitled to a broad and liberal interpretation of the jurisdiction of the Court under the CCAA. Having said that, it does not follow that in exercising its discretion to order a meeting of creditors under s. 5 of the CCAA that the Court should not consider the equities in this case as they relate to these companies and to one of its principal secured creditors, the bank.

23 The issues before Hoolihan J. and this Court were argued on a technical basis. Hoolihan J. did not give effect to the argument that the debentures described above were a "sham" and could not be used for the purposes of asserting jurisdiction. Unfortunately, he did not address any of the other arguments presented to him on the threshold issue of the availability of the CCAA. He appears to have acted on the premise that if the CCAA can be made available, it should be utilized.

24 If Hoolihan J. did exercise any discretion overall, it is not reflected in his reasons. I believe, therefore, that we are in a position to look at the uncontested chronology of these proceedings and exercise our own discretion. To me, the significant date is August 27, 1990 when the bank appointed Coopers & Lybrand Limited as receiver and manager of the undertaking, property and assets mortgaged and charged under the demand debenture and of the collateral under the general security agreement, both dated June 20, 1979. On the same date, it appointed the same company as receiver and manager for Nova under a general security agreement dated December 5, 1988. The effect of this appointment is to divest the companies and their boards of directors of their power to deal with the property comprised in the appointment: Raymond Walton, *Kerr on the Law and Practice as to Receivers*, 16th ed. (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1983), p. 292. Neither Elan nor Nova had the power to create further indebtedness, and thus to interfere with the ability of the receiver to manage the two companies: *Alberta Treasury Branches v. Hat Development Ltd.* (1988), 71 C.B.R. (N.S.) 264, 64 Alta. L.R. (2d) 17 (Q.B.), aff'd (1989), 65 Alta. L.R. (2d) 374 (C.A.).

25 Counsel for the debtor companies submitted that the management powers of the receiver were stripped from the receiver by Saunders J. in his interim order, when he allowed the receiver access to the companies' properties but would not permit it to realize on the security of the bank until further order. He pointed out that the order also provided that the companies were entitled to remain in possession and "to carry on business in the ordinary course" until further order.

26 I do not agree with counsel's submission covering the effect of the order. It certainly restricted what the receiver could do on an interim basis, but it imposed restrictions on the companies as well. The issue of these disputed debentures in support of an application for relief as insolvent companies under the CCAA does not comply with the order of Saunders J. This is not carrying on business in the ordinary course. The residual power to take all of these initiatives for relief under the CCAA remained with the receiver, and if trust deeds were to be issued, an order of the Court in Action 54033/90 was required permitting their issuance and registration.

27 There is another feature which, in my opinion, affects the exercise of discretion, and that is the probability of the meeting achieving some measure of success. Hoolihan J. considered the calling of the meeting at one hearing, as he was asked to do, and determined the respective classes of creditors at another. This latter classification is necessary because of the provisions of s. 6(a) of the CCAA, which reads as follows:

6. Where a majority in number representing three-fourths in value of the creditors, or class of creditors, as the case may be, present and voting either in person or by proxy at the meeting or meetings thereof respectively held pursuant to sections 4 and 5, or either of those sections, agree to any compromise or arrangement either as proposed or as altered or modified at the meeting or meetings, the compromise or arrangement may be sanctioned by the court, and if so sanctioned is binding

(a) on all the creditors or the class of creditors, as the case may be, and on any trustee for any such class of creditors, whether secured or unsecured, as the case may be, and on the company.

28 If both matters had been considered at the same time, as in my view they should have been, and if what I regard as a proper classification of the creditors had taken place, I think it is obvious that the meeting would not be a productive one. It was improper, in my opinion, to create one class of creditors made up of all the secured creditors save the so-called "sham" creditors. There is no true community of interest among them, and the motivation of Elan and Nova in striving to create a single class is clearly designed to avoid the classification of the bank as a separate class.

29 It is apparent that the only secured creditors with a significant interest in the proceeding under the CCAA are the bank and RoyNat. The two municipalities have total claims for arrears of taxes of less than \$100,000. They have first priority in the lands of the companies. They are in no jeopardy whatsoever. The O.D.C. has a potential liability in that it can be called upon by RoyNat under its guarantee to a maximum of \$500,000, and this will trigger default under its debentures with the companies, but its interests lie with RoyNat.

30 As to RoyNat, it is the largest creditor with a debt of some \$12 million. It will dominate any class it is in because, under s. 6 of the CCAA, the majority in a class must represent three-quarters in value of that class. It will always have a veto by

reason of the size of its claim, but requires at least one creditor to vote for it to give it a majority in number (I am ignoring the municipalities). It needs the O.D.C.

31 I do not base my opinion solely on commercial self-interest, but also on the differences in legal interest. The bank has first priority on the receivables referred to as the "quick assets", and RoyNat ranks second in priority. RoyNat has first priority on the buildings and realty, the "fixed assets", and the bank has second priority.

32 It is in the commercial interests of the bank, with its smaller claim and more readily realizable assets, to collect and retain the accounts receivable. It is in the commercial interests of RoyNat to preserve the cash flow of the business and sell the enterprise as a going concern. It can only do that by overriding the prior claim of the bank to these receivables. If it can vote with the O.D.C. in the same class as the bank, it can achieve that goal and extinguish the prior claim of the bank to realize on the receivables. This it can do, despite having acknowledged its legal relationship to the bank in the priority agreement signed by the two. I can think of no reason why the legal interest of the bank as the holder of the first security on the receivables should be overridden by RoyNat as holder of the second security.

33 The classic statement on classes of creditors is that of Lord Esher M.R. in *Sovereign Life Assurance Co. v. Dodd*, [1892] 2 Q.B. 573, [1891-4] All E.R. 246 (C.A.), at pp. 579-580 [Q.B.]:

The Act [*Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act, 1870*] says that the persons to be summoned to the meeting (all of whom, be it said in passing, are creditors) are persons who can be divided into different classes — classes which the Act of Parliament recognises, though it does not define them. This, therefore, must be done: they must be divided into different classes. What is the reason for such a course? It is because the creditors composing the different classes have different interests; and, therefore, if we find a different state of facts existing among different creditors which may differently affect their minds and their judgment, they must be divided into different classes.

34 The *Sovereign Life* case was quoted with approval by Kingstone J. in *Re Wellington Building Corp.*, [1934] O.R. 653, 16 C.B.R. 48, [1934] 4 D.L.R. 626, [1934] O.W.N. 562 (S.C.), at p. 659 [O.R.]. He also quoted another English authority at p. 658:

In *In re Alabama, New Orleans, Texas and Pacific Junction Ry. Co.*, [1891] 1 Ch. 213, a scheme and arrangement under the Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act (1870), was submitted to the Court for approval. Lord Justice Bowen, at p. 243, says:

Now, I have no doubt at all that it would be improper for the Court to allow an arrangement to be forced on any class of creditors, if the arrangement cannot reasonably be supposed by sensible business people to be for the benefit of that class as such, otherwise the sanction of the Court would be a sanction to what would be a scheme of confiscation. The object of this section is not confiscation ... Its object is to enable compromises to be made which are for the common benefit of the creditors as creditors, or for the common benefit of some class of creditors as such.

35 Kingstone J. set aside a meeting where three classes of creditors were permitted to vote together. He said at p. 660:

It is clear that Parliament intended to give the three-fourths majority of any class power to bind that class, but I do not think the Statute should be construed so as to permit holders of subsequent mortgages power to vote and thereby destroy the priority rights and security of a first mortgagee.

36 We have been referred to more modern cases, including two decisions of Trainor J. of the British Columbia Supreme Court, both entitled *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* One case is reported in (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 166, 31 B.C.L.R. (2d) 35, and the other in the same volume at p. 175 [C.B.R.]. Trainor J. was upheld on appeal on both judgments. The first judgment of the British Columbia Court of Appeal is unreported (16 September, 1988) [Doc. No. Vancouver CA009772, Taggart, Lambert and Locke J.J.A.]. The judgment in the second appeal is reported at 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195, [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363, 34 B.C.L.R. (2d) 122.

37 In the first *Northland* case, Trainor J. held that the difference in the terms of parties to and priority of different bonds meant that they should be placed in separate classes. He relied upon *Re Wellington Building Corp.*, supra. In the second *Northland*

case, he dealt with 15 mortgagees who were equal in priority but held different parcels of land as security. Trainor J. held that their relative security positions were the same, notwithstanding that the mortgages were for the most part secured by charges against separate properties. The nature of the debt was the same, the nature of the security was the same, the remedies for default were the same, and in all cases they were corporate loans by sophisticated lenders. In specifically accepting the reasoning of Trainor J., the Court of Appeal held that the concern of the various mortgagees as to the quality of their individual securities was "a variable cause arising not by any difference in legal interests, but rather as a consequence of bad lending, or market values, or both" (p. 203).

38 In *Re NsC Diesel Power Inc.* (1990), 79 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1, 97 N.S.R. (2d) 295, 258 A.P.R. 295 (T.D.), the Court stressed that a class should be made up of persons "whose rights are not so dissimilar as to make it impossible for them to consult together with a view to their common interest" (p. 8 [of C.B.R.]).

39 My assessment of these secured creditors is that the bank should be in its own class. This being so, it is obvious that no plan of arrangement can succeed without its approval. There is no useful purpose to be served in putting a plan of arrangement to a meeting of creditors if it is known in advance that it cannot succeed. This is another cogent reason for the Court declining to exercise its discretion in favour of the debtor companies.

40 For all the reasons given above, the application under the CCAA should have been dismissed. I do not think that I have to give definitive answers to the individual issues numbered (1) and (2). They can be addressed in a later case, where the answers could be dispositive of an application under the CCAA. The answer to (3) is that the combined effect of the receivership and the order of Saunders J. disentitled the companies to issue the debentures and bring the application under the CCAA. It is not necessary to answer issue (4), and the answer to (5) is no.

41 Accordingly, I would allow the appeal, set aside the three orders of Hoolihan J., and, in their place, issue an order dismissing the application under the CCAA. The bank should receive its costs of this appeal, the applications for leave to appeal, and the proceedings before Farley and Hoolihan JJ., to be paid by Elan, Nova and RoyNat.

42 Ernst & Young were appointed monitor in the order of Hoolihan J. dated September 14, 1990, to monitor the operations of Elan and Nova and give effect to and supervise the terms and conditions of the stay of proceedings in accordance with Appendix "C" appended to the order. The monitor should be entitled to be paid for all services performed to date, including whatever is necessary to complete its reports for past work, as called for in Appendix "C".

DOHERTY J.A. (dissenting in part):

I Background

43 On November 2, 1990, this Court allowed the appeal brought by the Bank of Nova Scotia (the "bank") and vacated several orders made by Hoolihan J. Finlayson J.A. delivered oral reasons on behalf of the majority. At the same time, I delivered brief oral reasons dissenting in part from the conclusion reached by the majority and undertook to provide further written reasons. These are those reasons.

44 The events relevant to the disposition of this appeal are set out in some detail in the oral reasons of Finlayson J.A. I will not repeat that chronology, but will refer to certain additional background facts before turning to the legal issues.

45 Elan Corporation ("Elan") owns the shares of Nova Metal Products Inc. ("Nova Inc."). Both companies have been actively involved in the manufacture of automobile parts for a number of years. As of March 1990, the companies had total annual sales of about \$30 million, and employed some 220 people in plants located in Chatham and Glencoe, Ontario. The operation of these companies no doubt plays a significant role in the economy of these two small communities.

46 In the 4 years prior to 1989, the companies had operated at a profit ranging from \$287,000 (1987) to \$1,500,000 (1986). In 1989, several factors, including large capital expenditures and a downturn in the market, combined to produce an operational loss of about \$1,333,000. It is anticipated that the loss for the year ending June 30, 1990, will be about \$2.3 million. As of August

1, 1990, the companies continued in full operation, and those in control anticipated that the financial picture would improve significantly later in 1990, when the companies would be busy filling several contracts which had been obtained earlier in 1990.

47 The bank has provided credit to the companies for several years. In January 1989, the bank extended an operating line of credit to the companies. The line of credit was by way of a demand loan that was secured in the manner described by Finlayson J.A. Beginning in May 1989, and from time to time after that, the companies were in default under the terms of the loan advanced by the bank. On each occasion, the bank and the companies managed to work out some agreement so that the bank continued as lender and the companies continued to operate their plants.

48 Late in 1989, the companies arranged for a \$500,000 operating loan from RoyNat Inc. It was hoped that this loan, combined with the operating line of \$2.5 million from the bank, would permit the company to weather its fiscal storm. In March 1990, the bank took the position that the companies were in breach of certain requirements under their loan agreements, and warned that if the difficulties were not rectified the bank would not continue as the company's lender. Mr. Patrick Johnson, the president of both companies, attempted to respond to these concerns in a detailed letter to the bank dated March 15, 1990. The response did not placate the bank. In May 1990, the bank called its loan and made a demand for immediate payment. Mr. Spencer, for the bank, wrote: "We consider your financial condition continues to be critical and we are not prepared to delay further making formal demand." He went on to indicate that, subject to further deterioration in the companies' fiscal position, the bank was prepared to delay acting on its security until June 1, 1990.

49 As of May 1990, Mr. Johnson, to the bank's knowledge, was actively seeking alternative funding to replace the bank. At the same time, he was trying to convince the union which represented the workers employed at both plants to assist in a co-operative effort to keep the plants operational during the hard times. The union had agreed to discuss amendment of the collective bargaining agreement to facilitate the continued operation of the companies.

50 The June 1, 1990 deadline set by the bank passed without incident. Mr. Johnson continued to search for new financing. A potential lender was introduced to Mr. Spencer of the bank on August 13, 1990, and it appeared that the bank, through Mr. Spencer, was favourably impressed with this potential lender. However, on August 27, 1990, the bank decided to take action to protect its position. Coopers & Lybrand was appointed by the bank as receiver-manager under the terms of the security agreements with the companies. The companies denied the receiver access to their plants. The bank then moved before the Honourable Mr. Justice E. Saunders for an order giving the receiver possession of the premises occupied by the companies. On August 27, 1990, after hearing argument from counsel for the bank and the companies, Mr. Justice Saunders refused to install the receivers and made the following interim order:

1. THIS COURT ORDERS that the receiver be allowed access to the property to monitor the operations of the defendants but shall not take steps to realize on the security of The Bank of Nova Scotia until further Order of the Court.
2. THIS COURT ORDERS that the defendants shall be entitled to remain in possession and to carry on business in the ordinary course until further Order of this Court.
3. THIS COURT ORDERS that until further order the Bank of Nova Scotia shall not take steps to notify account debtors of the defendants for the purpose of collecting outstanding accounts receivable. This Order does not restrict The Bank of Nova Scotia from dealing with accounts receivable of the defendants received by it.
4. THIS COURT ORDERS that the motion is otherwise adjourned to a date to be fixed.

51 The notice of motion placed before Saunders J. by the bank referred to "an intended action" by the bank. It does not appear that the bank took any further steps in connection with this "intended action."

52 Having resisted the bank's efforts to assume control of the affairs of the companies on August 27, 1990, and realizing that their operations could cease within a matter of days, the companies turned to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 (the "Act"), in an effort to hold the bank at bay while attempting to reorganize their finances. Finlayson J.A. has described the companies' efforts to qualify under that Act, the two appearances before the Honourable Mr. Justice

Farley on August 31, 1990, and the appearances before the Honourable Mr. Justice Hoolihan in September and October 1990, which resulted in the orders challenged on this appeal.

II The Issues

53 The dispute between the bank and the companies when this application came before Hoolihan J. was a straightforward one. The bank had determined that its best interests would be served by the immediate execution of the rights it had under its various agreements with the companies. The bank's best interest was not met by the continued operation of the companies as going concerns. The companies and their other two substantial secured creditors considered that their interests required that the companies continue to operate, at least for a period which would enable the companies to place a plan of reorganization before its creditors.

54 All parties were pursuing what they perceived to be their commercial interests. To the bank, these interests entailed the "death" of the companies as operating entities. To the companies, these interests required "life support" for the companies through the provisions of the Act to permit a "last ditch" effort to save the companies and keep them in operation.

55 The issues raised on this appeal can be summarized as follows:

- (i) Did Hoolihan J. err in holding that the companies were entitled to invoke the Act?
- (ii) Did Hoolihan J. err in exercising his discretion in directing that a meeting of creditors should be held under the Act?
- (iii) Did Hoolihan J. err in directing that the bank and RoyNat Inc. should be placed in the same class of creditors for the purposes of the Act?
- (iv) Did Hoolihan J. err in the terms of the interim orders he made pending the meeting of creditors and the submission to the court of a plan of reorganization?

III The Purpose and Scheme of the Act

56 Before turning to these issues, it is necessary to understand the purpose of the Act, and the scheme established by the Act for achieving that purpose. The Act first appeared in the midst of the Great Depression (S.C. 1932-33, c. 36). The Act was intended to provide a means whereby insolvent companies could avoid bankruptcy and continue as ongoing concerns through a reorganization of their financial obligations. The reorganization contemplated required the cooperation of the debtor companies' creditors and shareholders: *Re Avery Construction Co.*, 24 C.B.R. 17, [1942] 4 D.L.R. 558 (Ont. S.C.); Stanley E. Edwards, "Reorganizations under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1947) 25 Can. Bar Rev. 587, at pp. 592-593; David H. Goldman, "Reorganizations Under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (Canada)" (1985) 55 C.B.R. (N.S.) 36, at pp. 37-39.

57 The legislation is remedial in the purest sense in that it provides a means whereby the devastating social and economic effects of bankruptcy- or creditor-initiated termination of ongoing business operations can be avoided while a court-supervised attempt to reorganize the financial affairs of the debtor company is made.

58 The purpose of the Act was artfully put by Gibbs J.A., speaking for the British Columbia Court of Appeal, in *Hongkong Bank of Canada v. Chef Ready Foods Ltd.*, an unreported judgment released October 29, 1990 [Doc. No. Vancouver CA12944, Carrothers, Cumming and Gibbs JJ.A., now reported [1991] 2 W.W.R. 136, 51 B.C.L.R. (2d) 84], at pp. 11 and 6 [unreported, pp. 91 and 88 B.C.L.R.]. In referring to the purpose for which the Act was initially proclaimed, he said:

Almost inevitably liquidation destroyed the shareholders' investment, yielded little by way of recovery to the creditors, and exacerbated the social evil of devastating levels of unemployment. The government of the day sought, through the C.C.A.A. [the Act], to create a regime whereby the principals of the company and the creditors could be brought together under the supervision of the court to attempt a reorganization or compromise or arrangement under which the company could continue in business.

59 In an earlier passage, His Lordship had said:

The purpose of the C.C.A.A. is to facilitate the making of a compromise or arrangement between an insolvent debtor company and its creditors to the end that the company is able to continue in business.

60 Gibbs J.A. also observed (at p. 13) that the Act was designed to serve a "broad constituency of investors, creditors and employees." Because of that "broad constituency", the Court must, when considering applications brought under the Act, have regard not only to the individuals and organizations directly affected by the application, but also to the wider public interest. That interest is generally, but not always, served by permitting an attempt at reorganization: see S.E. Edwards, "Reorganizations Under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act," at p. 593.

61 The Act must be given a wide and liberal construction so as to enable it to effectively serve this remedial purpose: *Interpretation Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-21, s. 12; *Hongkong Bank of Canada v. Chef Ready Foods Ltd.*, supra, at p. 14 [unreported, p. 92 B.C.L.R.].

62 The Act is available to all insolvent companies, provided the requirements of s. 3 of the Act are met. That section provides:

3. This Act does not apply in respect of a debtor company unless

(a) the debtor company has outstanding an issue of secured or unsecured bonds of the debtor company or of a predecessor in title of the debtor company issued under a trust deed or other instrument running in favour of a trustee; and

(b) the compromise or arrangement that is proposed under section 4 or 5 in respect of the debtor company includes a compromise or an arrangement between the debtor company and the holders of an issue referred to in paragraph (a).

63 A debtor company, or a creditor of that company, invokes the Act by way of summary application to the Court under s. 4 or s. 5 of the Act. For present purposes, s. 5 is the relevant section:

5. Where a compromise or an arrangement is proposed between a debtor company and its secured creditors or any class of them, the court may, on the application in a summary way of the company or of any such creditor or of the trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator of the company, order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors, and, if the court so determines, of the shareholders of the company, to be summoned in such manner as the court directs.

64 Section 5 does not require that the Court direct a meeting of creditors to consider a proposed plan. The Court's power to do so is discretionary. There will no doubt be cases where no order will be made, even though the debtor company qualifies under s. 3 of the Act.

65 If the Court determines that a meeting should be called, the creditors must be placed into classes for the purpose of that meeting. The significance of this classification process is made apparent by s. 6 of the Act:

6. Where a majority in number representing three-fourths in value of the creditors, or class of creditors, as the case may be, present and voting either in person or by proxy at the meeting or meetings thereof respectively held pursuant to sections 4 and 5, or either of those sections, agree to any compromise or arrangement either as proposed or as altered or modified at the meeting or meetings, the compromise or arrangement may be sanctioned by the court, and if so sanctioned is binding

(a) on all the creditors or the class of creditors, as the case may be, and on any trustee for any such class of creditors, whether secured or unsecured, as the case may be, and on the company; and

(b) in the case of a company that has made an authorized assignment or against which a receiving order has been made under the *Bankruptcy Act* or is in the course of being wound up under the *Winding-up Act*, on the trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator and contributories of the company.

66 If the plan of reorganization is approved by the creditors as required by s. 6, it must then be presented to the Court. Once again, the Court must exercise a discretion, and determine whether it will approve the plan of reorganization. In exercising that discretion, the Court is concerned not only with whether the appropriate majority has approved the plan at a meeting held in accordance with the Act and the order of the Court, but also with whether the plan is a fair and reasonable one: *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 at 182-185 (S.C.), aff'd 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195, [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363, 34 B.C.L.R. (2d) 122 (C.A.).

67 If the Court chooses to exercise its discretion in favour of calling a meeting of creditors for the purpose of considering a plan of reorganization, the Act provides that the rights and remedies available to creditors, the debtor company, and others during the period between the making of the initial order and the consideration of the proposed plan may be suspended or otherwise controlled by the Court.

68 Section 11 gives a court wide powers to make any interim orders:

11. Notwithstanding anything in the *Bankruptcy Act* or the *Winding-up Act*, whenever an application has been made under this Act in respect of any company, the court, on the application of any person interested in the matter, may, on notice to any other person or without notice as it may see fit,

(a) make an order staying, until such time as the court may prescribe or until any further order, all proceedings taken or that might be taken in respect of the company under the *Bankruptcy Act* and the *Winding-up Act* or either of them;

(b) restrain further proceedings in any action, suit or proceeding against the company on such terms as the court sees fit; and

(c) make an order that no suit, action or other proceeding shall be proceeded with or commenced against the company except with the leave of the court and subject to such terms as the court imposes.

69 Viewed in its totality, the Act gives the Court control over the initial decision to put the reorganization plan before the creditors, the classification of creditors for the purpose of considering the plan, conduct affecting the debtor company pending consideration of that plan, and the ultimate acceptability of any plan agreed upon by the creditors. The Act envisions that the rights and remedies of individual creditors, the debtor company and others may be sacrificed, at least temporarily, in an effort to serve the greater good by arriving at some acceptable reorganization which allows the debtor company to continue in operation: *Icor Oil & Gas Co. v. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce* (1989), 102 A.R. 161 at p. 165 (Q.B.).

IV Did Hoolihan J. Err in Holding that the Debtor Companies were Entitled to Invoke the Act?

70 The appellant advances three arguments in support of its contention that Elan and Nova Inc. were not entitled to seek relief under the Act. It argues first that the debentures issued by the companies after August 27, 1990, were "shams" and did not fulfil the requirements of s. 3 of the Act. The appellant next contends that the issuing of the debentures by the companies contravened their agreements with the bank, in which they undertook not to further encumber the assets of the companies without the consent of the bank. Lastly, the appellant maintains that once the bank had appointed a receiver-manager over the affairs of the companies on August 27, 1990, the companies had no power to create further indebtedness by way of debentures or to bring an application on behalf of the companies under the Act.

(i) Section 3 and "Instant" Trust Deeds

71 The debentures issued in August 1990, after the bank had moved to install a receiver-manager, were issued solely and expressly for the purpose of meeting the requirements of s. 3 of the Act. Indeed, it took the companies two attempts to meet those requirements. The debentures had no commercial purpose. The transactions did, however, involve true loans in the sense that moneys were advanced and debt was created. Appropriate and valid trust deeds were also issued.

72 In my view, it is inappropriate to refer to these transactions as "shams." They are neither false nor counterfeit, but rather are exactly what they appear to be, transactions made to meet jurisdictional requirements of the Act so as to permit an

application for reorganization under the Act. Such transactions are apparently well known to the commercial Bar: B. O'Leary, "A Review of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1987) 4 Nat. Insolvency Rev. 38, at p. 39; C. Ham, " 'Instant' Trust Deeds Under the C.C.A.A." (1988) 2 Commercial Insolvency Reporter 25; G.B. Morawetz, "Emerging Trends in the Use of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1990) Proceedings, First Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Insolvency Institute of Canada.

73 Mr. Ham writes, at pp. 25 and 30:

Consequently, some companies have recently sought to bring themselves within the ambit of the C.C.A.A. by creating 'in stant' trust deeds, i.e., trust deeds which are created solely for the purpose of enabling them to take advantage of the C.C.A.A.

74 Applications under the Act involving the use of "instant" trust deeds have been before the Courts on a number of occasions. In no case has any court held that a company cannot gain access to the Act by creating a debt which meets the requirements of s. 3 for the express purpose of qualifying under the Act. In most cases, the use of these "instant" trust deeds has been acknowledged without comment.

75 The decision of Chief Justice Richard in *Re United Maritime Fishermen Co-op.* (1988), 67 C.B.R. (N.S.) 44, 84 N.B.R. (2d) 415, 214 A.P.R. 415 (Q.B.), varied on reconsideration (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 170, 87 N.B.R. (2d) 333, 221 A.P.R. 333 (Q.B.), at 55-56 [67 C.B.R.], speaks directly to the use of "instant" trust deeds. The Chief Justice refused to read any words into s. 3 of the Act which would limit the availability of the Act depending on the point at which, or the purpose for which, the debenture or bond and accompanying trust deed were created. He accepted [at p. 56 C.B.R.] the debtor company's argument that the Act:

does not impose any time restraints on the creation of the conditions as set out in s. 3 of the Act, nor does it contain any prohibition against the creation of the conditions set out in s. 3 for the purpose of obtaining jurisdiction.

76 It should, however, be noted that in *Re United Maritime Fishermen Co-op.*, supra, the debt itself was not created for the purpose of qualifying under the Act. The bond and the trust deed, however, were created for that purpose. The case is therefore factually distinguishable from the case at Bar.

77 The Court of Appeal reversed the ruling of the Chief Justice ((1988), 69 C.B.R. (N.S.) 161, 51 D.L.R. (4th) 618, 88 N.B.R. (2d) 253, 224 A.P.R. 253) on the basis that the bonds required by s. 3 of the Act had not been issued when the application was made, so that on a precise reading of the words of s. 3 the company did not qualify. The Court did not go on to consider whether, had the bonds been properly issued, the company would have been entitled to invoke the Act. Hoyt J.A., for the majority, did, however, observe without comment that the trust deeds had been created specifically for the purpose of bringing an application under the Act.

78 The judgment of MacKinnon J. in *Re Stephanie's Fashions Ltd.*, unreported, Doc. No. Vancouver A893427, released January 24, 1990 (B.C. S.C.) [now reported 1 C.B.R. (3d) 248], is factually on all fours with the present case. In that case, as in this one, it was acknowledged that the sole purpose for creating the debt was to effect compliance with s. 3 of the Act. After considering the judgment of Chief Justice Richard in *Re United Maritime Fishermen Co-op.*, supra, MacKinnon J. held, at p. 251:

The reason for creating the trust deed is not for the usual purposes of securing a debt but, when one reads it, on its face, it does that. I find that it is a genuine trust deed and not a fraud, and that the petitioners have complied with s. 3 of the statute.

79 *Re Metals & Alloys Co.* (16 February 1990) is a recent example of a case in this jurisdiction in which "instant" trust deeds were successfully used to bring a company within the Act. The company issued debentures for the purpose of permitting the company to qualify under the Act, so as to provide it with an opportunity to prepare and submit a reorganization plan. The company then applied for an order, seeking, inter alia, a declaration that the debtor company was a corporation within the meaning of the Act. Houlden J.A., hearing the matter at first instance, granted the declaration request in an order dated February 16, 1990. No reasons were given. It does not appear that the company's qualifications were challenged before Houlden J.A.;

however, the nature of the debentures issued and the purpose for their issue was fully disclosed in the material before him. The requirements of s. 3 of the Act are jurisdictional in nature, and the consent of the parties cannot vest a court with jurisdiction it does not have. One must conclude that Houlden J.A. was satisfied that "instant" trust deeds suffice for the purposes of s. 3 of the Act.

80 A similar conclusion is implicit in the reasons of the British Columbia Court of Appeal in *Hongkong Bank of Canada v. Chef Ready Foods Ltd.*. In that case, a debt of \$50, with an accompanying debenture and trust deed, was created specifically to enable the company to make application under the Act. The Court noted that the debt was created solely for that purpose in an effort to forestall an attempt by the bank to liquidate the assets of the debtor company. The Court went on to deal with the merits, and to dismiss an appeal from an order granting a stay pending a reorganization meeting. The Court could not have reached the merits without first concluding that the \$50 debt created by the company met the requirements of s. 3 of the Act.

81 The weight of authority is against the appellant. Counsel for the appellant attempts to counter that authority by reference to the remarks of the Minister of Justice when s. 3 was introduced as an amendment to the Act in the 1952-53 sittings of Parliament (House of Commons Debates, 1-2 Eliz. II (1952-53), vol. II, pp. 1268-1269). The interpretation of words found in a statute, by reference to speeches made in Parliament at the time legislation is introduced, has never found favour in our Courts: *Reference Re Residential Tenancies Act (Ontario)*, [1981] 1 S.C.R. 714, 123 D.L.R. (3d) 554, 37 N.R. 138, at 721 [S.C.R.], 561 [D.L.R.]. Nor, with respect to Mr. Newbould's able argument, do I find the words of the Minister of Justice at the time the present s. 3 was introduced to be particularly illuminating. He indicated that the amendment to the Act left companies with complex financial structures free to resort to the Act, but that it excluded companies which had only unsecured mercantile creditors. The Minister does not comment on the intended effect of the amendment on the myriad situations between those two extremes. This case is one such situation. These debtor companies had complex secured debt structures, but those debts were not, prior to the issuing of the debentures in August 1990, in the form contemplated by s. 3 of the Act. Like Richard C.J.Q.B. in *Re United Maritime Fishermen Co-op.*, supra, at pp. 52-53, I am not persuaded that the comments of the Minister of Justice assist in interpreting s. 3 of the Act in this situation.

82 The words of s. 3 are straightforward. They require that the debtor company have, at the time an application is made, an outstanding debenture or bond issued under a trust deed. No more is needed. Attempts to qualify those words are not only contrary to the wide reading the Act deserves, but can raise intractable problems as to what qualifications or modifications should be read into the Act. Where there is a legitimate debt which fits the criteria set out in s. 3, I see no purpose in denying a debtor company resort to the Act because the debt and the accompanying documentation was created for the specific purpose of bringing the application. It must be remembered that qualification under s. 3 entitles the debtor company to nothing more than consideration under the Act. Qualification under s. 3 does not mean that relief under the Act will be granted. The circumstances surrounding the creation of the debt needed to meet the s. 3 requirement may well have a bearing on how a court exercises its discretion at various stages of the application, but they do not alone interdict resort to the Act.

83 In holding that "instant" trust deeds can satisfy the requirements of s. 3 of the Act, I should not be taken as concluding that debentures or bonds which are truly shams, in that they do not reflect a transaction which actually occurred and do not create a real debt owed by the company, will suffice. Clearly, they will not. I do not, however, equate the two. One is a tactical device used to gain the potential advantages of the Act. The other is a fraud.

84 Nor does my conclusion that "instant" trust deeds can bring a debtor company within the Act exclude considerations of the good faith of the debtor company in seeking the protection of the Act. A debtor company should not be allowed to use the Act for any purpose other than to attempt a legitimate reorganization. If the purpose of the application is to advantage one creditor over another, to defeat the legitimate interests of creditors, to delay the inevitable failure of the debtor company, or for some other improper purpose, the Court has the means available to it, apart entirely from s. 3 of the Act, to prevent misuse of the Act. In cases where the debtor company acts in bad faith, the Court may refuse to order a meeting of creditors, it may deny interim protection, it may vary interim protection initially given when the bad faith is shown, or it may refuse to sanction any plan which emanates from the meeting of the creditors: see Lawrence J. Crozier, "Good Faith and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1989) 15 Can. Bus. L.J. 89.

(ii) Section 3 and the Prior Agreement with the Bank Limiting Creation of New Debt

85 The appellant also argues that the debentures did not meet the requirements of s. 3 of the Act because they were issued in contravention of a security agreement made between the companies and the bank. Assuming that the debentures were issued in contravention of that agreement, I do not understand how that contravention affects the status of the debentures for the purposes of s. 3 of the Act. The bank may well have an action against the debtor company for issuing the debentures, and it may have remedies against the holders of the debentures if they attempted to collect on their debt or enforce their security. Neither possibility, however, negates the existence of the debentures and the related trust deeds. Section 3 does not contemplate an inquiry into the effectiveness or enforceability of the s. 3 debentures, as against other creditors, as a condition precedent to qualification under the Act. Such inquiries may play a role in a judge's determination as to what orders, if any, should be made under the Act.

(iii) Section 3 and the Appointment of a Receiver-Manager

86 The third argument made by the bank relies on its installation of a receiver-manager in both companies prior to the issue of the debentures. I agree with Finlayson J.A. that the placement of a receiver, either by operation of the terms of an agreement or by court order, effectively removes those formerly in control of the company from that position, and vests that control in the receiver-manager: *Alberta Treasury Branches v. Hat Development Ltd.* (1988), 71 C.B.R. (N.S.) 264, 64 Alta. L.R. (2d) 17 (Q.B.), aff'd without deciding this point (1989), 65 Alta. L.R. (2d) 374 (C.A.). I cannot, however, agree with his interpretation of the order of Saunders J. I read that order as effectively turning the receiver into a monitor with rights of access, but with no authority beyond that. The operation of the business is specifically returned to the companies. The situation created by the order of Saunders J. can usefully be compared to that which existed when the application was made in *Hat Development Ltd.* Forsyth J., at p. 268 C.B.R., states:

The receiver-manager in this case and indeed in almost all cases is charged by the court with the responsibility of managing the affairs of a corporation. It is true that it is appointed pursuant, in this case, to the existence of secured indebtedness and at the behest of a secured creditor to realize on its security and retire the indebtedness. Nonetheless, this receiver-manager was court-appointed and not by virtue of an instrument. As a court-appointed receiver it owed the obligation and the duty to the court to account from time to time and to come before the court for the purposes of having some of its decisions ratified or for receiving advice and direction. *It is empowered by the court to manage the affairs of the company and it is completely inconsistent with that function to suggest that some residual power lies in the hands of the directors of the company to create further indebtedness of the company and thus interfere, however slightly, with the receiver-manager's ability to manage.*

[Emphasis added.]

87 After the order of Saunders J., the receiver-manager in this case was not obligated to manage the companies. Indeed, it was forbidden from doing so. The creation of the "instant" trust deeds and the application under the Act did not interfere in any way with any power or authority the receiver-manager had after the order of Saunders J. was made.

88 I also find it somewhat artificial to suggest that the presence of a receiver-manager served to vitiate the orders of Hoolihan J. Unlike many applications under s. 5 of the Act, the proceedings before Hoolihan J. were not ex parte and he was fully aware of the existence of the receiver-manager, the order of Saunders J., and the arguments based on the presence of the receiver-manager. Clearly, Hoolihan J. considered it appropriate to proceed with a plan of reorganization despite the presence of the receiver-manager and the order of Saunders J. Indeed, in his initial order he provided that the order of Saunders J. "remains extant." Hoolihan J. did not, as I do not, see that order as an impediment to the application or the granting of relief under the Act. Had he considered that the receiver-manager was in control of the affairs of the company, he could have varied the order of Saunders J. to permit the applications under the Act to be made by the companies: *Hat Development Ltd.*, at pp. 268-269 C.B.R. It is clear to me that he would have done so had he felt it necessary. If the installation of the receiver-manager is to be viewed as a bar to an application under this Act, and if the orders of Hoolihan J. were otherwise appropriate, I would order

that the order of Saunders J. should be varied to permit the creation of the debentures and the trust deeds and the bringing of this application by the companies. I take this power to exist by the combined effect of s. 14(2) of the Act and s. 144(1) of the *Courts of Justice Act*, 1984, S.O. 1984, c. 11.

89 In my opinion, the debentures and "instant" trust deeds created in August 1990 sufficed to bring the company within the requirements of s. 3 of the Act, even if in issuing those debentures the companies breached a prior agreement with the bank. I am also satisfied that, given the terms of the order of Saunders J., the existence of a receiver-manager installed by the bank did not preclude the application under s. 3 of the Act.

V Did Hoolihan J. Err in Exercising his Discretion in Favour of Directing that a Creditors' Meeting be Held to Consider the Proposed Plan of Reorganization?

90 As indicated earlier, the Act provides a number of points at which the Court must exercise its discretion. I am concerned with the initial exercise of discretion contemplated by s. 5 of the Act, by which the Court may order a meeting of creditors for purposes of considering a plan of reorganization. Hoolihan J. exercised that discretion in favour of the debtor companies. The factors relevant to the exercise of that discretion are as variable as the fact situations which may give rise to the application. Finlayson J.A. has concentrated on one such factor, the chance that the plan, if put before a properly constituted meeting of the creditors, could gain the required approval. I agree that the feasibility of the plan is a relevant and significant factor to be considered in determining whether to order a meeting of creditors: S.E. Edwards, "Reorganizations Under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act," at pp. 594-595. I would not, however, impose a heavy burden on the debtor company to establish the likelihood of ultimate success from the outset. As the Act will often be the last refuge for failing companies, it is to be expected that many of the proposed plans of reorganization will involve variables and contingencies which will make the plan's ultimate acceptability to the creditors and the Court very uncertain at the time the initial application is made.

91 On the facts before Hoolihan J., there were several factors which supported the exercise of his discretion in favour of directing a meeting of the creditors. These included the apparent support of two of the three substantial secured creditors, the companies' continued operation, and the prospect (disputed by the bank) that the companies' fortunes would take a turn for the better in the near future, the companies' ongoing efforts — that eventually met with some success — to find alternate financing, and the number of people depending on the operation of the company for their livelihood. There were also a number of factors pointing in the other direction, the most significant of which was the likelihood that a plan of reorganization acceptable to the bank could not be developed.

92 I see the situation which presented itself to Hoolihan J. as capable of a relatively straightforward risk-benefit analysis. If the s. 5 order had been refused by Hoolihan J., it was virtually certain that the operation of the companies would have ceased immediately. There would have been immediate economic and social damage to those who worked at the plants, and those who depended on those who worked at the plants for their well-being. This kind of damage cannot be ignored, especially when it occurs in small communities like those in which these plants are located. A refusal to grant the application would also have put the investments of the various creditors, with the exception of the bank, at substantial risk. Finally, there would have been obvious financial damage to the owner of the companies. Balanced against these costs inherent in refusing the order would be the benefit to the bank, which would then have been in a position to realize on its security in accordance with its agreements with the companies.

93 The granting of the s. 5 order was not without its costs. It has denied the bank the rights it had bargained for as part of its agreement to lend substantial amounts of money to the companies. Further, according to the bank, the order has put the bank at risk of having its loans become undersecured because of the diminishing value of the accounts receivable and inventory which it holds as security and because of the ever-increasing size of the companies' debt to the bank. These costs must be measured against the potential benefit to all concerned if a successful plan of reorganization could be developed and implemented.

94 As I see it, the key to this analysis rests in the measurement of the risk to the bank inherent in the granting of the s. 5 order. If there was a real risk that the loan made by the bank would become undersecured during the operative period of the s. 5 order, I would be inclined to hold that the bank should not have that risk forced on it by the Court. However, I am unable to see that

the bank is in any real jeopardy. The value of the security held by the bank appears to be well in excess of the size of its loan on the initial application. In his affidavit, Mr. Gibbons of Coopers & Lybrand asserted that the companies had overstated their cash flow projections, that the value of the inventory could diminish if customers of the companies looked to alternate sources for their product, and that the value of the accounts receivable could decrease if customers began to claim set-offs against those receivables. On the record before me, these appear to be no more than speculative possibilities. The bank has had access to all of the companies' financial data on an ongoing basis since the order of Hoolihan J. was made almost 2 months ago. Nothing was placed before this Court to suggest that any of the possibilities described above had come to pass.

95 Even allowing for some overestimation by the companies of the value of the security held by the bank, it would appear that the bank holds security valued at approximately \$4 million for a loan that was, as of the hearing of this appeal, about \$2.3 million. The order of Hoolihan J. was to terminate no later than November 14, 1990. I am not satisfied that the bank ran any real risk of having the amount of the loan exceed the value of the security by that date. It is also worth noting that the order under appeal provided that any party could apply to terminate the order at any point prior to November 14. This provision provided further protection for the bank in the event that it wished to make the case that its loan was at risk because of the deteriorating value of its security.

96 Even though the chances of a successful reorganization were not good, I am satisfied that the benefits flowing from the making of the s. 5 order exceeded the risk inherent in that order. In my view, Hoolihan J. properly exercised his discretion in directing that a meeting of creditors should be held pursuant to s. 5 of the Act.

VI Did Hoolihan J. Err in Directing that the Bank and RoyNat Inc. Should be Placed in the Same Class for the Purposes of the Act?

97 I agree with Finlayson J.A. that the bank and RoyNat Inc., the two principal creditors, should not have been placed in the same class of secured creditors for the purposes of ss. 5 and 6 of the Act. Their interests are not only different, they are opposed. The classification scheme created by Hoolihan J. effectively denied the bank any control over any plan of reorganization.

98 To accord with the principles found in the cases cited by Finlayson J.A., the secured creditors should have been grouped as follows:

— Class 1 — The City of Chatham and the Village of Glencoe

— Class 2 — The Bank of Nova Scotia

— Class 3 — RoyNat Inc., Ontario Development Corporation, and those holding debentures issued by the company on August 29 and 31, 1990.

VII Did Hoolihan J. Err in Making the Interim Orders He Made?

99 Hoolihan J. made a number of orders designed to control the conduct of all of the parties, pending the creditors' meeting and the placing of a plan of reorganization before the Court. The first order was made on September 11, 1990, and was to expire on or before October 24, 1990. Subsequent orders varied the terms of the initial order somewhat, and extended its effective date until November 14, 1990.

100 These orders imposed the following conditions pending the meeting:

(a) all proceedings with respect to the debtor companies should be stayed, including any action by the bank to realize on its security;

(b) the bank could not reduce its loan by applying incoming receipts to those debts;

(c) the bank was to be the sole banker for the companies;

- (d) the companies could carry on business in the normal course, subject to certain very specific restrictions;
- (e) a licensed trustee was to be appointed to monitor the business operations of the companies and to report to the creditors on a regular basis; and
- (f) any party could apply to terminate the interim orders, and the orders would be terminated automatically if the companies defaulted on any of the obligations imposed on them by the interim orders.

101 The orders placed significant restrictions on the bank for a 2-month period, but balanced those restrictions with provisions limiting the debtor companies' activities, and giving the bank ongoing access to up-to-date financial information concerning the companies. The bank was also at liberty to return to the Court to request any variation in the interim orders which changes in financial circumstances might merit.

102 These orders were made under the wide authority granted to the court by s. 11 of the Act. L.W. Houlden and C.H. Morawetz, in *Bankruptcy Law of Canada*, 3d ed. (Toronto: Carswell, 1989), at pp. 2-102 to 2-103, describe the purpose of the section:

The legislation is intended to have wide scope and allows a judge to make orders which will effectively maintain the status quo for a period while the insolvent company attempts to gain the approval of its creditors for a proposed arrangement which will enable the company to remain in operation for what is, hopefully, the future benefit of both the company and its creditors. This aim is facilitated by s. 11 of the Act, which enables the court to restrain further proceedings in any action, suit or proceeding against the company upon such terms as the court sees fit.

103 A similar sentiment appears in *Hongkong Bank of Canada v. Chef Ready Foods Ltd.*. Gibbs J.A., in discussing the scope of s. 11, said at p. 7 [unreported, pp. 88-89 B.C.L.R.]:

When a company has recourse to the C.C.A.A. the court is called upon to play a kind of supervisory role to preserve the status quo and to move the process along to the point where a compromise or arrangement is approved or it is evident that the attempt is doomed to failure. Obviously time is critical. Equally obviously, if the attempt at compromise or arrangement is to have any prospect of success, there must be a means of holding the creditors at bay, hence the powers vested in the court under s. 11.

104 Similar views of the scope of the power to make interim orders covering the period when reorganization is being attempted are found in *Meridian Developments Inc. v. Toronto-Dominion Bank*; *Meridian Developments Inc. v. Nu-West Ltd.*, 52 C.B.R. (N.S.) 109, [1984] 5 W.W.R. 215, 32 Alta. L.R. (2d) 150, 11 D.L.R. (4th) 576, 53 A.R. 39 (Q.B.) at 114-118 [C.B.R.]; *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd.* (1988), 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1, 63 Alta. L.R. (2d) 361, 92 A.R. 81 (Q.B.) at 12-15 [C.B.R.]; *Quintette Coal Ltd. v. Nippon Steel Corp.*, an unreported judgment of Thackray J., released June 18, 1990 [since reported (1990), 47 B.C.L.R. (2d) 193 (S.C.)], at pp. 5-9 [pp. 196-198 B.C.L.R.]; and B. O'Leary, "A Review of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act," at p. 41.

105 The interim orders made by Hoolihan J. are all within the wide authority created by s. 11 of the Act. The orders were crafted to give the company the opportunity to continue in operation, pending its attempt to reorganize, while at the same time providing safeguards to the creditors, including the bank, during that same period. I find no error in the interim relief granted by Hoolihan J.

VIII Conclusion

106 In the result, I would allow the appeal in part, vacate the order of Hoolihan J. of October 18, 1990, insofar as it purports to settle the class of creditors for the purpose of the Act, and I would substitute an order establishing the three classes referred to in Part VI of these reasons. I would not disturb any of the other orders made by Hoolihan J.

Appeal allowed.

End of Document

Copyright © Thomson Reuters Canada Limited or its licensors (excluding individual court documents). All rights reserved.

2

Most Negative Treatment: Reversed

Most Recent Reversed: [Ursel Investments Ltd., Re](#) | 1992 CarswellSask 19, [1992] 3 W.W.R. 106, 31 A.C.W.S. (3d) 1213, 97 Sask. R. 170, 12 W.A.C. 170, 89 D.L.R. (4th) 246, 10 C.B.R. (3d) 61, [1992] S.J. No. 90 | (Sask. C.A., Feb 14, 1992)

1990 CarswellSask 34
Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench

Ursel Investments Ltd., Re

1990 CarswellSask 34, 25 A.C.W.S. (3d) 469, 2 C.B.R. (3d) 260

**RE URSEL INVESTMENTS LTD. et al.; CANADIAN IMPERIAL
BANK OF COMMERCE v. URSEL INVESTMENTS LTD. et al.**

Osborn J.

Judgment: March 2, 1990
Docket: Doc. Saskatoon 1917

Counsel: *C.R. Clark* and *W.R. Rooke*, for petitioners-respondents.

C.G. Morris, for applicant secured creditor.

D.C. Hodson, for Alta Surety Company.

Subject: Corporate and Commercial; Insolvency

Headnote

Bankruptcy --- Interim receiver — Appointment

Corporations --- Arrangements and compromises — Under Companies' Creditors Arrangements Act — Application of Act

Corporations --- Arrangements and compromises — Under Companies' Creditors Arrangements Act

Receivers --- Conduct and liability of receiver — Duties

Meeting of creditors — Debtor applying for court-ordered meeting to approve reorganization plan — Plan designed for sole benefit of debtor not "compromise or arrangement" within meaning of Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — No meeting ordered — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36.

Receivers — Order appointing receiver — Court ordering receiver where interested parties would be in better and more secure position as a result.

The U group of companies was a close-knit group of family-held companies involved in the construction business. The companies operated profitably until 1988, when they experienced problems on two substantial contracts. Their performance bond company was called in to complete a number of their contracts. On May 5, CIBC, the principal secured creditor, applied the account balance of U Group against their joint and several indebtedness to CIBC. On May 10, an interim receiver was appointed by the Court. On May 31, 1989, U obtained an order that they were corporations to which the

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) applied, that they had until September to file a formal plan of compromise or arrangement between U and their creditors, and that all proceedings against U be stayed until further order of the court.

U obtained an extension and filed an information circular and a reorganization plan in which U unilaterally determined the amount of CIBC's secured claim by setting off their claim for damages against the amount owing to CIBC. The combined effect was to prevent CIBC from voting in respect of the reorganization plans.

U applied for an order pursuant to the CCAA directing a meeting of certain classes of creditors for the purpose of voting on the reorganization plans. In response, CIBC opposed the order of a meeting and asked that U be deemed unentitled to relief under the CCAA and that its own receiver be appointed.

Held:

U's motion was dismissed; CIBC's motion was allowed.

Before a meeting could be ordered pursuant to the CCAA, a reorganization plan constituting a compromise or an arrangement must be submitted. The plan must comprise a mutual or consensual agreement between the company and its creditors. The reorganization plans filed by U did not suffice as either compromises or arrangements. A comprehensive assessment of the plans could only be achieved through careful scrutiny of the plans and the information circular. The information circular presented only U's version of the facts. The Act does not contemplate that the Court will order a meeting where there exists a definite conflict between the companies and the principal creditor.

The continuation of the companies could not be justified by either the provisions or the intent of the CCAA. The public had no interest in the continuation of the enterprise. The plan was not likely to accomplish its purpose as the principal creditor was excluded from participation. The plan could not succeed as it did not embrace all parties, particularly the principal creditor. The plans were not fair, as they were devised for the sole benefit of shareholders, directors and officers of U.

An order for a court-appointed receiver and manager should be granted where such appointment would place the interested parties in a better and more secure position. In addition, there was already a Court appointed interim receiver in charge of U's assets.

Table of Authorities

Cases considered:

Bank of Nova Scotia v. Sullivan Investments Ltd. (1982), 21 Sask. R. 14 (Q.B.) — applied

Dorman, Long & Co., Re; South Durham Steel & Iron Co., [1934] 1 Ch. 635, [1933] All E.R. Rep. 460 — considered

Meridian Developments Inc. v. Toronto-Dominion Bank; Meridian Developments Inc. v. Nu-West Ltd., 52 C.B.R. (N.S.) 109, [1984] 5 W.W.R. 215, 32 Alta. L.R. (2d) 150, 11 D.L.R. (4th) 576, 53 A.R. 39 (Q.B.) — applied

N.F.U. Development Trust Ltd., Re, [1972], 1 W.L.R. 1548, [1973] 1 All E.R. 135 (Ch. D.) — considered

Northland Properties Ltd., Re (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 138 (B.C. S.C.) — applied

United Maritime Fisherman Co-Op., Re (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 170, 87 N.B.R. (2d) 333, 221 A.P.R. 333 (Q.B.) rev'd (1988), 69 C.B.R. (N.S.) 161, 51 D.L.R. (4th) 618, 88 N.B.R. (2d) 253, 224 A.P.R. 253 (C.A.) — applied

Statutes considered:

Companies Act 1948, (U.K.) 11 & 12 Geo. 6, c. 38 —

s. 206(1)

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 —

s. 2

s. 3

s. 4

s. 5

s. 11

Interpretation Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-21 —

s. 2(1)

s. 3(1)

s. 11

Winding-up Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. W-11.

MOTION to direct meeting of creditors and for order appointing receiver.

OSBORN J.:

1 There are two motions before the Court.

A. Firstly there is a motion by the Ursel group of companies, as petitioners, for an order under ss. 4 and 5 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 requesting the Court to order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors, and, if the Court so determines, of the shareholders of the company, to be summoned in such manner as the Court directs.

B. Secondly there is a motion by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, one of the secured creditors, for an order appointing a receiver and manager.

2 I propose to deal with these motions in the order set out above.

A. Order for a Meeting of the Creditors to be Summoned

1. Issue

3 The issue to be decided is whether, on the basis of the material filed, the petitioners are entitled to an order of this Court directing a meeting of the creditors.

2. Facts

4 The petitioners collectively are a close-knit group of family-held corporations involved in the construction business. Adam Ursel is an officer and one of the founding and principal shareholders, either directly or indirectly, of each of the petitioner companies.

5 Over the past 7 years the Ursel Group has grown rapidly through obtaining larger and more complex contracts in its Construction Division and the acquisition of companies with which to expand its Building Products Division. These activities have had a positive impact on the Ursel Group's revenue but have also strained its cash resources.

6 In part, as a result of their recent financial difficulties, the operations of the companies have become inextricably intertwined. Certain assets are utilized by all of the companies. Some of the employees work for all of the companies.

7 The companies operated quite profitably through their first years of existence, until 1988, when problems began to be experienced on two substantial contracts, the "City Hospital" contract and the "St. Paul's Hospital" contract.

8 Finally realizing that the timing of the collection of their outstanding claims would not permit them to continue to operate within the confines of their bank lines and cash-flow, they, in March 1989, contacted Alta Surety Company, their performance bonding company, and requested that it complete a number of their contracts. An agreement to this effect dated March 22, 1989 was entered into and signed by the parties, Vijan General Contractors Ltd., Ursel Constructors Ltd., Lois Ursel and Adam Ursel.

9 By petition dated May 2, 1989, the petitioners applied ex-parte for numerous orders pursuant to, inter alia, the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36. By a fiat dated May 3, 1989, it was ordered that the petitioners' application be set over to May 17, 1989, and that notice of the petitioners' applications be given to Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (hereinafter referred to as "C.I.B.C."), the principal secured creditor of the petitioners. Without deciding the applicability of ss. 2 and 3 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, it was further ordered, pursuant to s. 11, that:

(a) All proceedings taken or that might be taken, in respect of the companies named as petitioners in the petition filed on this application, under the *Bankruptcy Act* and the *Winding-up Act* or either of them, be stayed until this application has been heard in Chambers on May 17, 1989, or to any adjourned date and a decision has been handed down on this application, or until any further order.

(b) All further proceedings in any action, suit or proceeding against the petitioner companies is restrained until May 17, 1989, or until further order.

(c) No suit, action or other proceeding shall be proceeded with or commenced against the petitioner companies prior to May 17, 1989, except with the leave of the court.

10 By debenture dated October 30, 1987, in the principal amount of \$2,000,000, Hawk Holdings Inc., Websen Technical Products (Canada) Ltd., Nu-Hawk Distributors Ltd. and Specco Construction Products Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Hawk Group") are jointly and severally indebted to C.I.B.C. in an amount in excess of \$866,000 as of September 27, 1989. On May 5, 1989, after demand for payment of and cognizant of the said indebtedness, C.I.B.C. applied the account balances of the Hawk Group, totalling \$102,024.89, against their joint and several indebtedness to C.I.B.C.

11 By debenture dated October 30, 1987, in the principal amount of \$5,000,000 Ursel Investments Ltd., Ursel Constructors Ltd. and Ursel Fabricators Ltd. are jointly and severally indebted to C.I.B.C. in an amount in excess of \$2,745,000 as of September 27, 1989. By virtue of the said debenture and certain guarantees, Ursel Investments Ltd., Ursel Constructors Ltd., Vijan General Contractors Ltd. and Krane Service Inc. (hereinafter, together with Ursel Fabricators Ltd., referred to as "Ursel Group") are jointly and severally indebted to C.I.B.C. for the said amounts of \$866,000 and \$2,745,000. On May 5, 1989, after demand for payment of and cognizant of the said indebtedness, C.I.B.C. applied the account balance of the Ursel Group, totalling \$28,294.16, against their joint and several indebtedness to C.I.B.C.

12 On May 10, 1989, on the application of the petitioners and with the qualified consent of C.I.B.C., the fiat dated May 3, 1989, was varied by ordering, inter alia, that Deloitte, Haskins & Sells Limited be appointed interim receiver of the undertaking,

property and assets of the petitioners until further order of the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan (hereinafter referred to as "Court"); that all persons, firms and corporations be enjoined from discontinuing utility services to the petitioners except upon further order of the Court; and that the right of any person, firm or corporation to realize upon or otherwise deal with any security held on the undertaking, property and assets of the petitioners be postponed until further order of the Court. The consent of C.I.B.C. was given without prejudice to the right of C.I.B.C. to challenge the fiat dated May 3, 1989, and the order dated May 10, 1989.

13 On May 31, 1989, on the application of the petitioners and with the consent of C.I.B.C., it was ordered, inter alia, that the petitioners are corporations to which the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* applies; that the petitioners be authorized to file with the Court on or before September 30, 1989, a formal plan of compromise or arrangement between the petitioners and their creditors; that all proceedings taken or that might be taken by any of the petitioners' creditors be stayed until further order of the Court: that the right of any person, firm or corporation to realize upon or otherwise deal with any security held on the undertaking, property and assets of the petitioners be postponed; that no creditor of any of the petitioners exercise any right of set-off against any of the debts owing to any of the petitioners except with leave of the Court; that all persons, firms and corporations be enjoined from discontinuing utility services to the petitioners except upon further order of the Court; that Deloitte, Haskins & Sells Limited be appointed interim receiver of the undertaking, property and assets of the petitioners until further order of the Court; and that liberty be reserved to any and all persons interested to apply to the Court for further or other order.

14 On September 29, 1989, on the application of the petitioners, it was ordered that the date for filing of the formal plan of compromise or arrangement be extended to November 22, 1989. Also, on September 29, 1989, C.I.B.C. applied for leave to have Clarkson Gordon Inc. appointed as receiver-manager of the undertaking, property and assets of the petitioners, which motion was ordered adjourned until November 22, 1989.

15 The petitioners commenced an action against C.I.B.C. by statement of claim dated November 16, 1989, wherein they allege that C.I.B.C. refused to honour its commitments to provide financial support to the petitioners; that C.I.B.C. failed to give reasonable demand or notice prior to commencing realization proceedings; and that, in applying the account balances totalling \$102,024.89 against the indebtedness of the Hawk Group and in applying the account balances totalling \$28,294.16 against the indebtedness of the Ursel Group, both on May 5, 1989, C.I.B.C. acted in direct and flagrant violation of the fiat dated May 3, 1989. The petitioners contend that the alleged actions of C.I.B.C. were the direct cause of their acute financial distress and seek damages in excess of \$15,000,000; exemplary, aggravated and punitive damages; and declaration that the petitioners be released and discharged from any and all liability to C.I.B.C., and order that C.I.B.C. indemnify the petitioners for any and all liability of the petitioners to their unsecured creditors; and an order that C.I.B.C. be held in contempt of court.

16 By notice of motion dated November 16, 1989, the petitioners filed with the Court an information circular, a reorganization plan in respect of the Hawk Group and a reorganization plan in respect to the Ursel Group. A perusal of the information circular and the reorganization plans reveals that the petitioners unilaterally determined the amount of C.I.B.C.'s secured claim, for the purposes of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, by setting off their claim for unliquidated damages against the amount owing to C.I.B.C. Hence, the combined effect of the information circular and the reorganization plans is to prevent C.I.B.C., without judicial sanction, from voting in respect of the reorganization plans.

17 Invoking ss. 4 and 5 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, the petitioners now ask that the Court order meetings of the classes of creditors, as those classes are defined in the information circular and the reorganization plans, for the purpose of voting in respect of the reorganization plans. In response, C.I.B.C. asks that the Court refuse to order the meetings sought by the petitioners; that it conclusively deem the petitioners to be unentitled to relief pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*; and that it entertain C.I.B.C.'s application, adjourned from September 29, 1989, to have Clarkson Gordon Inc. (now Ernst & Young Inc.) appointed as receiver-manager of the undertaking, property and assets of the petitioners.

3. Law

18 The *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, which I will refer to as the C.C.A.A., poses many interesting problems and has great potential importance. In spite of this, it has received little attention in either Canadian legal literature or the decisions of the courts. This Act was passed during the depression to provide a means by which an insolvent company could avoid or get out of bankruptcy by composing or rearranging the rights of its shareholders and creditors, and thereby maintain its going-concern value. This process is called "reorganization". (See S.E. Edwards, "Reorganizations Under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*" (1947) 25 Can. Bar Rev. 587.

19 A close reading of the Act indicates that the court has an opportunity to see and deal with the proposal at only three points. The first of these occurs when an application is made under s. 11 for an order staying all proceedings taken or that might be taken in respect of the company under the *Bankruptcy Act* R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3, and the *Winding-up Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. W-11, or either of them and further restraining further proceedings in any action, suit or proceeding against the company. The second occurs when the application is made to direct the meetings and the third occurs when the scheme is brought back to it for final sanction.

20 The first stage is a qualifying stage. The court here concerns itself mainly with the requirements of s. 3 of the Act and whether the companies, on the basis of the material filed, come within the restrictive provisions of s. 3 in order to obtain the benefit of the Act. In this case the companies have met the minimum requirements of s. 3 and were properly entitled to the order made on May 31, 1989, which provided that the petitioners were corporations to which the C.C.A.A. applies; that the petitioners be authorized to file with the court on or before September 30, 1989, a formal plan of compromise or arrangement between the petitioners and their creditors.

21 The second stage occurs when the application is made under ss. 4 and 5 of the Act to direct the meetings and it is at this stage that we must direct our attention to all the material filed to date in order to determine the main issue between the petitioner companies and their principal secured creditor.

22 Counsel for the companies argued that ss. 4 and 5 of the Act does not contemplate the court involving itself in a consideration of the merits of the plan or the fairness of the plans at this stage but should order the meetings to be held and then become involved when the application is made under s. 6, which will occur after the meetings have been held and the votes taken and the compromise or arrangement is submitted to the court to be sanctioned.

23 Counsel for C.I.B.C., the principal secured creditor, argued that the Court should consider all of the material filed to date and on the basis of that material decide whether a compromise or arrangement, within the meaning and intent of the Act has been proposed between the debtor company and its secured and unsecured creditors or any class of them which would persuade the Court to exercise the discretion contained in the word "may" as it appears in ss. 4 and 5 of the Act.

24 In the absence of any decided cases directly on point I must examine the wording of the ss. 4 and 5 in light of legislative purpose and intent of the Act along with the ordinary meaning of such words. The expression "may", as it appears in ss. 4 and 5, defines the scope of the court's jurisdiction to summon meetings. By virtue of subss. 2(1) ("enactment") and 3(1) and s. 11 of the *Interpretation Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-21, the expression "may", wherever it occurs in federal enactments, is to be construed as permissive.

25 Accepting that the Court's jurisdiction to summon meetings is discretionary, the Court should examine carefully all of the material filed before considering the order sought by the petitioners. Recourse to s. 4 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* presupposes the proposal of a compromise or an arrangement between a debtor company and its unsecured creditors; similarly, recourse to s. 5 presupposes the proposal of a compromise or an arrangement between a debtor company and its unsecured creditors. When deciding an application to direct meetings of creditors, therefore, a court must ensure that, inter alia, the reorganization plan submitted by a debtor company constitutes a compromise or an arrangement.

26 Neither the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* nor the case law construing that Act defines the phrase "a compromise or an arrangement". In general, statutory language is to be accorded its grammatical and ordinary meaning, that is, it is to be understood in its proper and most known signification. Dictionaries assist in deciding the ordinary meaning of statutory language.

27 *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, 3d ed. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973), at p. 386, defines the term "compromise" as follows:

Compromise ... 3. Arrangement of a dispute by concessions on both sides; partial surrender of one's position, for the sake of coming to terms; the terms offered by either side

28 *Webster's New World Dictionary*, 2d ed. (William Collins & World Publishing, 1978), at p. 292, similarly defines the term "compromise";

Compromise ... 1. a settlement in which each side gives up some demands or makes concessions

29 Having regard to dictionary entries, the term "compromise" implies a mutual or consensual agreement between opposing parties; it implies an adjustment of contested claims by mutual accommodation or concession.

30 Of particular significance is *Re N.F.U. Development Trust Ltd.*, [1973] 1 All E.R. 135, [1972] 1 W.L.R. 1548 (Ch. D.), in which Brightman J. was called upon to construe subs. 206(1) of the *Companies Act 1948* (U.K.) c. 38, the English equivalent of ss. 4 and 5 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. At p. 140 [All E.R.], Brightman J. reasoned:

Section 206 is dealing with what is described as a 'compromise or arrangement ... between a company and its creditors ... or between the company and its members'. The word 'compromise' implies some element of accommodation on each side.

31 The expression "arrangement" is defined in *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, supra, at p. 106:

Arrangement ... 5. A settlement of mutual relations, claims, or matters in dispute ...

32 *Webster's New World Dictionary*, supra, at pp. 76-77, similarly defines the expression "arrangement":

arrangement ... 5. a settlement or adjustment, as of a dispute, difference, etc ...

33 *Black's Law Dictionary*, 5th ed. (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Co., 1979) at p. 100, defines the somewhat comparable phrase "arrangement with creditors":

Arrangement with creditors. A plan of a debtor for the settlement, satisfaction, or extension of the time of payment of his debts. Chapter XI of the Federal Bankruptcy Act [the American equivalent of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*] provides for a device whereby, under the protection and supervision of the court, a financially troubled business may work out a composition or extension agreement with its creditors permitting it to stay in business, rather than going bankrupt.

34 Having regard to dictionary entries, the expression "arrangement" connotes a mutual or consensual settlement of disputed matters. Again, of particular import is *Re N.F.U. Development Trust Ltd.*, supra, in which Brightman J. considered the English equivalent of ss. 4 and 5 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. Having ruled that the term "compromise" implies some element of accommodation, Brightman J. continued, at p. 140 [All E.R.]:

Similarly, I think that the word 'arrangement' in this section implies some element of give and take. Confiscation is not my idea of an arrangement. A member whose rights are expropriated without any compensating advantage is not, in my view, having his rights rearranged in any legitimate sense of that expression.

35 The case law and dictionary entries in respect of the expressions "compromise" and "arrangement" instruct that any reorganization plan filed by a debtor company pursuant to ss. 4 or 5 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* must comprise a mutual or consensual agreement between the company and those of its creditors which the plan purports to bind. They instruct that any reorganization plan proffered by a debtor company as a compromise or an arrangement must embody an adjustment of claims effected by mutual accommodation or concession. Indeed, while the case law in respect of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* does not define the phrase "a compromise or an arrangement", it can be said that the case law does imply

some element of mutual accommodation in the reorganization process. For example, in *Meridian Developments Inc. v. Toronto-Dominion Bank*; *Meridian Developments Inc. v. Nu-West Group Ltd.*, 52 C.B.R. (N.S.) 109, [1984] 5 W.W.R 215, 32 Alta. L.R. (2d) 150, 53 A.R. 39 (Q.B.), Wachowich J. commented [p. 114 C.B.R.; p. 155, Alta. L.R.]:

The legislation is intended to have wide scope and allows a judge to make orders which will effectively maintain the status quo for a period while the insolvent company attempts to gain the approval of its creditors for a proposed arrangement which will enable the company to remain in operation for what is, hopefully, the future benefit of both the company and its creditors.

36 In *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 138 (B.C. S.C.), at p. 139, Trainor J. commented in like fashion:

I made the order, being satisfied, on the material which was then presented to me, that they should have the opportunity to attempt a reorganization. I was satisfied that the purpose of the legislation was to permit such an attempt for the benefit not only for the corporations themselves but also of all of the creditors who were affected by the business enterprise.

37 The reorganization plans filed by the petitioners do not suffice either as compromises or arrangements within the meaning of ss. 4 and 5 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. A comprehensive assessment of the reorganization plans proffered by the petitioners can be achieved only through careful scrutiny of the reorganization plans and the information circular. In deciding the petitioners' application to direct meetings, which application involves matters of considerable complexity, the Court is permitted to scrutinize not only the reorganization plan but also the information circular; indeed, in order to exercise its discretionary jurisdiction properly, the Court ought to be informed fully as to all relevant matters. In *Re Dorman, Long & Co.*; *Re South Durham Steel & Iron Co.*, [1934] 1 Ch. 635, [1933] All E.R. Rep. 460, debtor companies availing themselves of English reorganization legislation sought judicial sanction of their compromises or arrangements. With reference to explanatory circulars, Maugham J. stated, at p. 665 [Ch.]:

I now pass to an important question — namely, the question in relation to the explanatory circular sent out by the directors. I think I have already observed that there is no obligation under the Act to send out such a circular at all ... The practice being to send out an explanatory circular in such a case, it is, in my opinion, the duty of the Court very carefully to scrutinize the circular when the matters involved are matters of considerable difficulty and doubt.

38 An examination of the information circular leads the reader to the conclusion that the petitioners are more concerned with conveying the impression that C.I.B.C. is responsible for the financial state of the companies which existed immediately prior to the application of May 3, 1989. The information circular, which will, if this application is granted, be sent to all unsecured creditors, contains the following statements:

2.01 These cash demands were to a great degree anticipated by Management and they had made previous arrangements with the Bank to ensure adequate financing. It is alleged by the Companies that their current financial situation is a direct result of the conduct of the Bank described below. The Companies have commenced an action against the Bank seeking damages for refusal by the Bank to honour its commitments to provide additional financing to the Companies, the failure of the Bank to give reasonable demand or notice prior to commencing enforcement and realization proceedings and the disregard by the Bank of an order of the Court staying all proceedings against the Companies (see Article 3.06).

.....

3.02 Commencing in approximately December, 1988, the Bank reneged on its agreement to provide increased lines of credit and additional capital financing to the Companies. Subsequently, and on or about March 17, 1989, the Bank, without any notice or demand and at a time when the Ursel Group were not in default under their loan agreements or otherwise, cancelled all of the bank accounts and operating loans of the Ursel Group.

.....

3.06 Legal Proceedings by the Companies against the Bank

The Companies have recently commenced an action in the Court against the Bank. In general terms this action is based on the following allegations:

- a) refusal by the Bank to honour its commitment to provide additional financial support to the Companies;
- b) failure of the Bank to give reasonable demand or notice prior to commencing realization proceedings; and
- c) disregard by the Bank of the order of the Court made May 3, 1989 wherein all proceedings against the Companies were stayed.

It is alleged by the Companies that the unlawful conduct of the Bank was the direct cause of the Companies' current difficult financial situation and the Companies have claimed relief against the Bank including:

- a) a declaration that the Companies are released and discharged from any and all liability to the Bank;
- b) an order that the Bank indemnify the Companies for the liability of the Companies to their secured creditors;
- c) an order that the Bank be held in contempt of Court;
- d) damages in excess of \$15,000,000.; and
- e) Exemplary, aggravated and punitive damages.

39 Page 17 under heading of "notes":

1. The claims of the Bank are subject to a set-off of any damages awarded to the Companies pursuant to the action commenced against the Bank more fully described at Article 3.06. The Companies' claim for damages against the Bank is in excess of \$15,000,000.

40 The information circular containing such unproven statements, circulated to all unsecured creditors of the companies, would lead them to believe that the claim against the bank would result in all of the claims of the unsecured creditors being paid out of the anticipated damage award.

41 The information circular presents only the petitioners' version of the facts, yet s. 4 and 5 of the Act refer to a compromise or an arrangement between the debtor company and its secured creditors. The Act does not contemplate that the court will order a meeting of the creditors when there exists such a definite conflict between the companies and the principal creditor.

42 The allegations made by Thomas Bauman in his affidavit of December 4, 1989 merit consideration if only to show the facts that existed prior to May 3, 1989. These allegations are not contained in the information circular and will not be made available to the unsecured creditors.

43 The following paragraphs are taken from the Bauman affidavit and, although Adam Ursel and Lou Ursel in their respective affidavits of January 3, 1990 attempted to justify the Bauman allegations they did not deny them. The Bauman allegations remain uncontradicted. Excerpts from the Bauman affidavit:

8. That as a result of concerns that CIBC was having with the operating of the Ursel line of credit, at the regional office level, CIBC advised the Ursels that a full review of their financial affairs would have to be conducted and CIBC requested Clarkson Gordon Inc. in February, 1989 to review and assess the financial position of the companies, assess the security value to CIBC and review the companies' contracts. As a result of the investigations made by Clarkson Gordon Inc., who had access to and examined the records of all the companies, they determined that the financial information given by the companies to CIBC was wrong and misleading.

.....

19. That I am advised by Clarkson Gordon Inc. that at a time when the principals of the companies were saying that the companies were cash deficient and requesting increased operating lines from CIBC the shareholders were bleeding the companies.

20. That the records of the Ursel companies disclose that the shareholders, Lou Ursel, Adam Ursel and Don Hnatuk, and their wives, drew out of the companies from October 1, 1987, to April 30, 1989, the sum of \$1,044,193.43 at a time when they knew or ought to have known that the companies were having or would have cash flow problems and were undercapitalized. Of this amount the sum of approximately \$240,000.00 was used to reduce the personal indebtedness of the shareholders to Lloyds Bank. Of the \$1,044,193.43, the sum of \$204,785.82 was withdrawn from the companies by the said shareholders and their wives between October, 1988 and February, 1989, a time when the companies were short of operating funds and needed all their cash to meet their pressing liabilities, and therefore to the detriment of both its secured and unsecured creditors. Of the said \$204,785.82 the sum of \$21,000.00 was used to reduce the shareholders' personal liability to CIBC.

21. That I am advised by Clarkson Gordon Inc. that at a time when the Ursel companies were requesting additional financing, that the companies, in addition to the amounts referred to in paragraph 20, advanced to Don Hnatuk on February 8, 1989, the sum of \$71,430.00

22. That I am advised by Clarkson Gordon Inc. that Ursel Constructors at a critical time paid the tax liabilities of Ursel Fabricators, in the sum of \$75,000 to Revenue Canada as follows: \$25,000.00 in February, 1989, \$25,000.00 in March 1989, and \$25,000.00 in April, 1989. I am informed by Clarkson Gordon Inc. that Ursel Fabricators is a defunct company, no longer carrying on business and has no assets and no ability to repay \$75,000.00 to Ursel Constructors. This money was paid by Ursel Constructors at a time when Lou and Adam Ursel knew that the Ursel companies had cash flow problems.

23. That I am advised by Clarkson Gordon Inc. that in the course of their review, they determined that two computers valued at \$14,532 which had been shown as assets of Ursel Constructors, having been purchased and paid for by Ursel Constructors, were removed from the Ursel companies' premises and are being claimed as personal assets of Lou Ursel and Kathy Ursel-Hnatuk.

24. That on page 13 of Schedule C of the Information circular filed by the petitioners under Material Contracts it states that:

(1) The mortgage granted by Lou Ursel to Ursel Constructors with a balance of \$85,000 owing is subject to a setoff for employee compensation in the amount of \$75,000 by Lou Ursel; and

(2) that a mortgage granted by Kathy Ursel-Hnatuk with a balance owing of \$70,000 is subject to a setoff for employee compensation in the amount of \$40,000 by Kathy Ursel-Hnatuk.

25. That the audited financial statement of the Ursel companies dated September, 1988 show that the said mortgages referred to in paragraph 24 are outstanding with no set offs, and the Ursel companies' first proposal in regard to its indebtedness to CIBC dated March 14, 1989, states, that 'the mortgage receivable (the said mortgages) would be financed with an outside financial institution and repaid to the company in the amount of \$156,673.00'.

26. That in the Ursel companies' second proposal to CIBC on March 29, 1989, the company stated 'Ursel would dispose of the mortgage receivables within four months for the amount of \$156,673.00 which would be applied to Ursel loans (at CIBC)'.

27. That I am advised by Clarkson Gordon Inc. that as of March 31, 1989, there were no wages or other employee compensation due by Ursel Constructors to Lou Ursel and Kathy Ursel-Hnatuk; accordingly either the written information given to CIBC and Clarkson Gordon Inc. by Lou Ursel regarding the mortgages was false and misleading or this employee compensation must have accrued since March 31, 1989, which in such event it would then be contrary to the court order

of May 31, 1989, which states in paragraph 16(f) that no remuneration shall be paid to the officers and directors of the petitioners except Don Hnatuk.

28. That in any event Lou Ursel was employed by and receiving compensation from Alta Surety pursuant to an agreement made between the petitioners and Alta Surety Company dated March 22, 1989, whereby Lou Ursel was being paid \$4,000 per month.

31. That as a result of the investigations made by CIBC and Clarkson Gordon Inc. it was determined that the Ursel companies were in hopeless financial shape, and CIBC immediately began discussions with the principals of the companies, Adam and Lou Ursel, to resolve matters. That I am informed that the series of meetings were held with the principals of the companies, their accounting and legal advisors, over a period of five weeks from March 14, 1989, to April 21, 1989. At the final meeting an agreement was reached with CIBC whereby CIBC would appoint a monitor to monitor the affairs of the Hawk Group and Krane Service Inc. and that there would be an orderly liquidation of the Ursel companies' assets by CIBC using the services of a receiver and Lou and Adam Ursel. Documents were prepared by CIBC's solicitors for execution by the companies to reflect the agreement and were delivered to the companies' solicitors for execution by the companies but the companies have subsequently refused to implement or be bound by the said agreement and have neglected and refused to execute documents reflecting the said agreement.

44 Adam Ursel in his affidavit of January 3, 1990 responded to the Bauman affidavit as follows:

13. ... The improved financial performance projected is a result of the fact that the Hawk Group has dramatically reduced its overhead expenses, and assuming that sales recover to the same levels as they were in 1988, it is my opinion and belief that the Hawk Group could easily afford the financing costs and be able to have additional cash available for distribution amongst its trade creditors as is indicated by the projection. Given the Court Proceedings that have been commenced by the Petitioners against the CIBC, it is quite possible that there will be no financing costs to take into consideration and, in fact, there may be funds available for unsecured creditors depending on the damages that the Hawk Group is able to prove at trial.

45 Lou Ursel in his affidavit of January 3, 1990 responded to the Bauman affidavit as follows:

21. That in response to paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Bauman Affidavit, I disagree completely with the statement that the shareholders were 'bleeding the companies'. During the 1988 fiscal year of Ursel Investments Ltd. ended September 30, 1988, Ursel Investments Ltd. made a pre tax operating profit of \$345,439.00 as indicated in the Corporate Statement of Earnings which is attached and marked as Exhibit 'M' to this my Affidavit. In accordance with the normal accrual of management bonuses suggested by our auditor, \$311,000.00 was allocated. The subsurface soil contracts on the City Hospital Project only became apparent to the Ursel Group in late September of 1988 and was only considered to be a problem towards the end of November, 1988. The problems with the St. Paul's Hospital Project only became apparent in late November of 1988. Up to the end of November, 1988, the Ursel Group did not have a cash flow problem and was operating under the impression that it had a \$2,000,000.00 line of credit available. Cash flow problems only became apparent when the CIBC advised us that the increased line of credit of Ursel Investments Ltd. had not received 'formal' approval. As and from the 1st day of December, 1989, [sic] to the 3rd day of May, 1989, the principals of the Ursel Group, being myself, my father, Adam Ursel, my mother, Viola Ursel, my sister, Kathy Ursel-Hnatuk and my brother-in-law, Don Hnatuk, received total remuneration of \$332,787.27. Of this amount \$16,896.06 went to tax shelters with the full knowledge of the CIBC; \$4,787.65 was paid for life insurance premiums with the full knowledge of the CIBC; \$215,256.86 was accrued to the Receiver General for Canada for income taxes for the prior year but has never been paid and forms part of the claim of Revenue Canada; \$82,813.34 was for personal use and \$13,033.35 was withheld by the Ursel Group to cover the purchase of 2 computers by myself and my sister. With respect to the sum of \$240,000.00 paid to Lloyds Bank, the CIBC was aware of the indebtedness to Lloyds Bank in the amount of \$740,000.00 for tax shelters prior to entering into the Commitment Letter. The CIBC was only prepared to allow a maximum debt in the tax shelter of \$250,000.00 and knew that funds from the Ursel Group would be used to pay down the debt. The majority of the excess debt to Lloyds Bank above the level of \$250,000.00 was paid out by December of 1987. By letter dated the 10th day of December, 1987,

a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 'N' to this my Affidavit, the CIBC paid out the remaining portion of the tax shelter loan to Lloyds Bank (referred to as the 'V.G.B. and Associates') in the amount of \$250,000.00.

46 Counsel for the Bank argued that the Court should decline to order the meetings sought by the petitioners because they filed with the Court two reorganization plans in respect of nine corporations. As a matter of procedure it would have been preferable for the petitioners to have applied to the Court for leave to file two organizational plans instead of the one plan contemplated in the May 31, 1989 order. It is not necessary to decide this point at this time as it has little bearing on deciding whether or not a meeting of the creditors is ordered.

47 Stanley E. Edwards in his article 'Reorganizations Under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*' which appeared in (1947) 25 the Can. Bar Rev., 587 outlined the main problems which counsel and the courts will face in applying the Act. This article suggests that the Court before it orders a meeting of the creditors under ss. 4 and 5 of the Act must first be satisfied that:

- (a) The companies should be kept going despite insolvency.
- (b) The public has an interest in the continuation of the enterprise, particularly if the companies supply commodities or services that are necessary or desirable to large numbers of consumers, or if they employ large numbers of workers who would be thrown out of employment by its liquidation.
- (c) The plan of reorganization is so framed that it is likely to accomplish its purpose.
- (d) The plan should embrace all parties, if possible, but particularly secured creditors.
- (e) The reorganization plan should be fair and equitable as between the parties.

48 Applying these guidelines to the facts of this proposed reorganization plan I have concluded as follows:

49 (a) The petitioners by proposing two plans of reorganization have divided the debtor companies into two categories. One category, i.e., the Ursel Group will be continued in accordance with Article I of the plan as follows:

Article I — Purpose and Effect of Plan

1.01 *Purpose of Plan.* The purpose of this Plan is:

- (a) to permit the Ursel Group to remain in possession of the crane rental and leasing business and the undertaking property and assets associated therewith to continue to carry on that business, as reorganized;
- (b) with respect to the construction business, the purpose is to permit the orderly and cost-effective liquidation of the property and assets used in that business in order to repay the Creditors associated therewith as their interests appear and permit the Ursel Group to realize the maximum benefit from the Construction Claims that remain unsettled; and
- (c) to permit the Ursel Group, by invoking this Plan, to pay each Creditor as much or more on account of its Claim, calculated on a net present value basis, than would be paid on a liquidation of the assets of the Ursel Group under proceedings available to wind-up the affairs or liquidate the assets of insolvent debtors or other proceedings which might be initiated by Creditors to recover their Claims or to enforce security granted to them by the Ursel Group.

1.02 *Effect of Plan.* This Plan involved the amalgamation and restructuring of certain of the Ursel Group and the sale and transfer of assets among certain of the Ursel Group. If this Plan is approved by the Creditors as required by the Acts and therefore sanctioned by the Court, this Plan will be binding on the Ursel Group and its Creditors.

50 The other category, i.e., The Hawk Group will be continued in accordance with Article I of the Plan as follows:

Article I — Purpose and Effect of Plan

1.01 *Purpose of Plan.* The purpose of this Plan is:

(a) to permit the Hawk Group to remain in possession of their building supply business and the undertaking, property and assets associated therewith to continue to carry on that business, as reorganized; and

(b) to permit the Hawk Group, by involving the Plan, to pay each Creditor as much or more on account of its Claim, calculated on a net present value basis, than would be paid on a liquidation of the assets of the Hawk Group under proceedings available to wind-up the affairs or liquidate the assets of insolvent debtors or other proceedings which might be initiated by Creditors to recover their Claims or to enforce security granted to them by the Hawk Group.

1.02 *Effect of Plan.* This Plan involves the amalgamation and restructuring of the Hawk Group and the amendment of certain terms of the Hawk Group's obligations. If this Plan is approved by the Creditors as required by the Acts and thereafter sanctioned by the Court, this Plan will be binding on the Hawk Group and its Creditors.

51 The two plans put forward by the petitioners will result in one group of companies being wound up after the assets have been liquidated and the other group of companies being continued in the building supply business indefinitely. To accomplish this the companies would have to continue to use the bank's security and attempt to defeat the claim of the bank by way of a set off of anticipated damages from the lawsuit commenced after the court order was obtained to prepare and file a reorganization plan.

52 I have concluded that the continuation of these companies cannot be justified by either the provisions or the intent of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*.

53 (b) It has not been shown by the material filed that the public has any interest in the continuation of the enterprise. The companies do not provide essential services and do not employ a large number of workers. The continuation of these companies will benefit only the Ursel family members.

54 (c) The plan of reorganization as it is presently framed is not likely to accomplish its purpose as the principal creditor has been excluded from participation in the plan. Throughout the information circular reference is made to the result of the lawsuit to the success of the plan. This Court cannot forecast the result of any lawsuit, much less this one.

55 (d) The plan cannot succeed as it does not embrace all parties, particularly the principal secured creditor. The debtor companies by suing the principal secured creditor for \$15,000,000 and then indicating in the information circular that it intended to set off against the secured claim the amount of the unproven claim in damages showed lack of good faith and will result in the principal secured creditor voting against the plan.

56 Supportive of the conclusion is *Re United Maritimes Fisherman Co-Op* (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 170, 87 N.B.R. (2d) 333, 221 A.P.R. 333 (Q.B.), rev'd (1988), 69 C.B.R. (N.S.) 161, 51 D.L.R. (4th) 618, 88 N.B.R. (2d) 253, 224 A.P.R. 253 (C.A.) at pp. 172-173, where Landry J. reasoned:

All evidence points to the fact that the proposed restructuring cannot succeed and that there is absolutely no hope that the contemplated plan of arrangement or compromise will be accepted in accordance with the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*.

.....

Since the restructuring cannot succeed, the normal course of action would be for the court to rescind the 1st December, 1987 order [which order declared that the debtor companies were corporations to which the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* applied, authorized the debtor companies to file a formal plan of compromise or arrangement, stayed all actions, suits and proceedings by the creditors or the debtor companies and appointed an interim receiver].

57 (e) On careful examination of the reorganization plans, as to their propriety or impropriety, their fairness or unfairness, the inescapable conclusion is that they are devised for the sole benefit of a select few, namely, shareholders, directors and officers

of the petitioners. They are grossly unfair to the principal secured creditor, namely, C.I.B.C., and offer no substantial benefit to the other creditors of the petitioners."

58 The reorganization plans submitted by the petitioners do not comply with the purpose and intent of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. The petitioners have invoked the Act, not for the legitimate purpose of compromise or arrangement, but for their own purposes as extracted from Adam Ursel's affidavit sworn on January 3, 1990, wherein he states in para. 34:

The survival of the Hawk Group is very important to me personally as is the survival of Krane Service Inc. for my son-in-law, Dan Hnatuk.

59 On the basis of the material filed I have concluded that the reorganization plans are nothing more than a scheme of liquidation to be spread out over a considerable period of time to the benefit of the Ursel family and to the detriment of the creditors and in particular the principal secured creditor, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The object and purpose of the Act is to continue the company through its period of difficulty to become a viable company for the benefit of its creditors, shareholders, employees and the public.

60 The reorganization plans as proposed fall far short of these objectives.

61 The application by way of notice of motion dated November 16, 1989 returnable November 22, 1989 and adjourned to February 21, 1990 is hereby dismissed.

62 It is ordered that the following orders made by this Court are hereby rescinded:

Fiat dated May 3, 1989,

Fiat dated May 10, 1989,

Fiat dated May 31, 1989.

63 The Act is silent as to costs and since the matter of costs was not addressed during argument, leave is granted to argue the question of costs by way of a telephone conference call with me on a date to be arranged with the local Registrar at Yorkton.

B. Order for a Court-Appointed Receiver and Manager

64 I will now deal with the second motion. This is the application by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for an order appointing Clarkson Gordon Inc. as receiver-manager of the undertaking, property and assets of the petitioners. This motion has been adjourned from time to time to be argued following the motion for an order to direct meetings of the creditors. Leave was granted to the applicant to amend para. 3 of the notice of motion to include the words "pursuant to the provisions of the *Business Corporations Act* for the Province of Alberta".

65 Counsel for the applicant, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, submitted in argument the following points in support of the application:

The Bank could, pursuant to its Debenture, appoint a receiver and manager with respect to all of the Respondents except Krane Services Inc. ('Krane') and Vijan General Contractors Ltd. ('Vijan') as neither of those companies has granted the Bank a debenture, it is imperative that all of the Respondents be administered by a court appointed receiver and manager for the following reasons.

1. Assets and funds are being moved among corporate entities within the Respondents.
2. Assets and funds of the Respondents have been transferred and comingled among the Respondents without observance of corporate formalities.

3. While the Bank does not have debenture security from Krane and Vijan, it does have security in the form of assignments of accounts receivable and they are both jointly and severally liable for the entire indebtedness of the other Respondents.
4. The existence of intercorporate loan guarantees.

An instrument appointed receiver and manager would be frustrated in its attempts to carry out efficiently its work and duties as a result of the complexities of the operations of the Respondents including:

- a) The fact that the Respondents operate within British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba;
- b) The fact that there are a number of construction projects being carried out within Saskatchewan, some of which are being performed by a bonding company;
- c) The fact that there is a manufacturing plant in British Columbia;
- d) The fact that a number of the Respondents are involved in distribution of products within British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan;
- e) The fact that some of the Respondents are involved in the leasing of equipment within Saskatchewan and Alberta;
- f) The fact that there has been interim [sic] receiver appointed by the Court since May 10, 1989, with very broad powers and duties.
- g) The fact as stated in the Respondents' petition under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* at page 28 that:

The operations of the Ursel Group are inextricably intertwined by way of the ownership of assets, management of the business, employment of employees and the undertaking of various projects. CIBC has loaned approximately \$4,500.00 to the companies and the Companies collectively are indebted to more than 1,000 creditors for more than \$4,500.00. In addition, depending upon the ability of Alta to profitably complete the projects currently proceeding under their direction, the Companies may be indebted to Alta.

- h) The fact that there are significant contract claims by some of the Respondents in regard to construction projects which will require the co-operation of the principal officers of the Respondents to prosecute and whose co-operation and assistance will not be forthcoming without the intervention of this Court.

66 Because the respondents also operate within British Columbia and Alberta, and because those jurisdictions do not have personal property security legislation, an instrument appointed receiver in those jurisdictions would have greater difficulty in obtaining the assistance of the court if problems arose. As a result, it is anticipated the court appointment will be sought in British Columbia and Alberta and it would be impractical not to have a court-appointed receiver and manager in this jurisdiction.

67 A court-appointed receiver and manager would be able to preserve any goodwill that may be left and would facilitate the sale of any of the respondents as a going concern.

68 Counsel for the respondent, the debtor companies submitted in argument the following points in opposition to the appointment of a receiver and manager:

The Courts in Saskatchewan should only make an appointment when:

- (a) it is shown to be necessary for the Receiver and Manager to more efficiently carry out its work and duties; and
- (b) such an appointment would place the parties interested in this matter, other than the Debenture holder, in a better and more secure position.

2. A Court appointment is not necessary to allow a Receiver and Manager to more efficiently carry out its duties.
3. A Court appointed Receiver and Manager would not place the remaining parties (other than the Bank) in a more secure position.
4. Neither Krane Service Inc. or Vijan General Contractors Ltd. have given Debenture security to the Bank.
5. The Court appointment of a Receiver and Manager would necessarily prejudice the rights of the companies that have simply guaranteed the indebtedness of their parent companies.
6. The Courts have been very consistent that if a borrower defaults in making payment, that it must be given a reasonable opportunity to pay prior to enforcement proceedings being taken.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the application by the Bank to have this Court appoint a Receiver and Manager is simply a device being utilized by the Bank to attempt to circumvent the legal proceedings that have been commenced by the Petitioners against the Bank. The Receiver and Manager being proposed by the Bank is the same Receiver and Manager that the Bank retained to do a complete analysis of the Bank's security. The reports that were prepared by Clarkson Gordon have been referred to throughout these proceedings. It is suggested that there would be a conflict of interest with Clarkson Gordon Inc. (now Ernst & Young Inc.) acting as Receiver and Manger for any or all of the companies as it has previously acted for the Bank in preparing the Clarkson Gordon reports.
8. It is respectfully submitted that none of the reasons given by the Bank in support of a Court appointed Receiver and Manager outweigh the extreme prejudice to the Petitioners if a Receiver and Manager is appointed.

69 Having considered the very able arguments made by counsel and having considered the briefs filed in support of such arguments, I am persuaded to give weight to the words of Estey J. in *Bank of Nova Scotia v. Sullivan Investments Ltd.* (1982), 21 Sask. R. 14 (Q.B.) at p. 17 when he said:

The difference in law between a receiver and manager appointed in a debenture and a receiver and manager appointed by the court appears to be that in the latter instance he is acting in a fiduciary capacity to all parties who may have an interest in the matter after the claim of the debenture holder has been satisfied. I am of the view that the order as asked should be granted only if such an appointment would place the parties interested in this matter, other than the debenture holder, in a better or more secure position.

70 This statement together with the fact that there is already a court-appointed receiver in charge of the petitioners' assets leads me to the conclusion that the Court should appoint the receiver-manager. From the standpoint of the transfer of powers that it should be from one court-appointed receiver to another court-appointed receiver.

71 The relief sought in the notice of motion is granted and an order shall issue in the form of the draft order filed with the following changes thereto:

(a) The addition of the words 'and s. 95 of the *Business Corporations Act* of Alberta' in the third line of the second paragraph of the draft order.

(b) The addition of the following paragraph into the draft order:

THAT nothing in this Order shall be interpreted as interfering with the completion of those construction contracts being undertaken by Alta Surety company pursuant to that agreement made as of March 22, 1989 (the "Contracts") provided that:

(a) Alta Surety Company will provide an accounting of the Contracts to any creditor requesting the same and to the Interim Receiver on a Contract by Contract basis on or before the 15th day of each month commencing on June 15, 1989; and

(b) Subject to the provisions of *The Builders' Lien Act*, S.S. 1984-85, c. B-7.1, Alta Surety Company shall be entitled to use all revenue received from the Contracts to complete such Contracts and the use of such revenue shall be without prejudice to any claim that Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce may have to the revenue.

72 Costs may be spoken to by way of telephone conference call.

73 As to both applications I wish to say that I am indebted to all counsel who presented their very able arguments in such a professional way and supported such arguments with well organized briefs of law containing photocopies of the applicable case authority. Counsel also went out of their way to assist me by assembling in binder form the material most referred to during the course of argument.

74 Counsel filed such complete briefs of facts and law that I have taken the liberty of incorporating much of their wording in the factual portion of this judgment.

First motion dismissed; second motion allowed.

End of Document

Copyright © Thomson Reuters Canada Limited or its licensors (excluding individual court documents). All rights reserved.

3

2009 NSSC 163
Nova Scotia Supreme Court

ScoZinc Ltd., Re

2009 CarswellNS 283, 2009 NSSC 163, 177 A.C.W.S. (3d) 294, 55 C.B.R. (5th) 205

**In the Matter of The Companies' Creditors
Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 as amended**

And In the Matter of a Plan of Compromise or Arrangement of ScoZinc Limited

D.R. Beveridge J.

Heard: May 1, 2009

Judgment: May 1, 2009

Written reasons: May 20, 2009

Docket: Hfx 305549

Counsel: John D. Stringer, Q.C., Ben Durnford for Applicant

Robbie MacKeigan, Q.C. for Daniel Rozon

John McFarlane, Q.C. for Kamatsu

Subject: Insolvency

Headnote

Bankruptcy and insolvency --- Proposal — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Arrangements — Effect of arrangement — Stay of proceedings

Company obtained order under s. 11 of Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act for stay of proceedings — This order was, as required by Act, limited to period of 30 days — Order was extended on two occasions and was now due to expire one day after day on which meeting of creditors was scheduled — There was tentative return date scheduled for one week after meeting of creditors for court to consider sanctioning plan, should it be approved by creditors — Company brought motion seeking order for, inter alia, further stay of proceedings — Motion granted — In light of conclusion that company met threshold for ordering meeting of creditors under ss. 4 and 5 of Act, appropriateness of further extension of stay of proceedings permitting company to return to court within very short period of time following meeting of creditors was patently obvious.

Bankruptcy and insolvency --- Proposal — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Miscellaneous issues

Company obtained stay of proceedings under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, which was later extended on two occasions — Company brought motion seeking order for, inter alia, meeting of creditors pursuant to ss. 4 and 5 of Act and approval of notice of this motion being given only to certain defined creditors — Motion granted — Court should only decline to give preliminary approval of proposed plan and refuse to order meeting if it was of view that there was no hope that plan would be approved by creditors or, if it was approved by creditors, it would not, for some other reason, be approved by court — Monitor's report indicated proposed plan was reasonable — Given that opinion and in light of terms set out in proposed plan, plan was far from one that was doomed to failure — Plan was one that should be put to creditors for consideration — It was appropriate to exercise discretion set out in ss. 4 and 5 of Act and order meeting of creditors — Given number of creditors that appeared early on in proceedings, it was somewhat impractical to give notice to each of them with volumes of materials that would be required to be produced and served — With respect to prior motions, it had been required that notice be given to all creditors asserting claims against company in excess of \$100,000 and all creditors asserting builders liens — In addition, all creditors were apprised of these proceedings by way of mail out to

every creditor as required by Act leading to filing of proofs of claim — Status of proceedings, including this motion, was posted on monitor's website — No reason to depart from previous practice.

Table of Authorities

Cases considered by *D.R. Beveridge J.*:

Fairview Industries Ltd., Re (1991), 1991 CarswellINS 35, 11 C.B.R. (3d) 43, (sub nom. *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re* (No. 2)) 109 N.S.R. (2d) 12, (sub nom. *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re* (No. 2)) 297 A.P.R. 12 (N.S. T.D.) — considered

Federal Gypsum Co., Re (2007), 2007 NSSC 384, 2007 CarswellINS 630, 261 N.S.R. (2d) 314, 835 A.P.R. 314, 40 C.B.R. (5th) 39 (N.S. S.C.) — considered

ScoZinc Ltd., Re (2009), 2009 CarswellINS 177, 2009 NSSC 108, 52 C.B.R. (5th) 200 (N.S. S.C.) — referred to

Statutes considered:

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36

Generally — referred to

s. 4 — referred to

s. 5 — referred to

s. 11 — referred to

s. 11(4) — referred to

s. 11(6) — referred to

MOTION by company for order for meeting of creditors pursuant to ss. 4 and 5 of *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, further extension of stay of proceedings granted to company under *Act*, and approval of notice of motion being given only to certain defined creditors.

D.R. Beveridge J.:

1 ScoZinc brings a motion seeking an order to accomplish three things. The first is for a meeting of the creditors pursuant to ss. 4 and 5 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. The second is a further extension of the stay of proceedings initially ordered by this Court on December 22, 2008 and extended from time to time. The third is approval of notice of this motion being given only to certain defined creditors.

2 The company has filed an affidavit of William Felderhof referred to as his seventh affidavit, sworn April 28, 2009 and the Monitor has filed its sixth report dated April 30, 2009.

3 As part of its submissions the company notes that there is nothing in the CCAA which requires the Court to give prior preliminary approval of ScoZinc's proposed plan before it is presented to the creditors. It notes that the jurisprudence establishes that this approval is generally desirable prior to calling a meeting of the creditors. Some, but not all of this jurisprudence was reviewed by MacAdam J. in *Federal Gypsum Co., Re*, 2007 NSSC 384 (N.S. S.C.).

4 Justice MacAdam in *Federal Gypsum Co., Re* did refer to the two different standards that have been proposed or referred to in cases from Ontario and British Columbia. Some of these cases have expressed the view that the debtor company should

establish that the plan has "a reasonable chance" that it would be accepted by the creditors. Other cases have referred to the appropriate test as simply a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan is one that would be "doomed to failure".

5 In a different context, Glube C.J.T.D. (as she then was) in *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re* (1991), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 43 (N.S. T.D.) cautioned that it would be impractical and extremely costly to continue to prepare a plan when "there is no hope that it would be approved".

6 I think it fair to say that MacAdam J., although not expressly but by necessary implication, preferred the lower standard facing a debtor company in submitting its plan to the Court for a preliminary approval. At para. 12 he wrote:

[12] In view of the relatively low threshold on the Company in seeking Court approval to have a plan of arrangement submitted to the creditors for a vote, I am satisfied the plan should proceed and the creditors should determine whether they do, or do not accept the plan as finally filed.

7 In my opinion it should not be up to the Court to second guess the probability of success of a proposed plan of arrangement. Businessmen are free to make their own views known before and ultimately at the creditors' meeting. It seems to me that the Court should only decline to give preliminary approval and refuse to order a meeting if it was of the view that there was no hope that the plan would be approved by the creditors or, if it was approved by the creditors, it would not, for some other reason, be approved by the Court.

8 The Monitor in its sixth report says that the proposed plan is reasonable under the circumstances. This opinion appears to flow from its conclusion that if the plan is rejected and the company forced into receivership or bankruptcy, unsecured creditors will not recover the amount offered in the plan and it is highly unlikely that the secured creditors will recover the amount offered to them. I see no reason to disagree with the opinion offered by the Monitor.

9 Given that opinion and in light of the terms that are set out in the proposed plan I am certainly satisfied that the plan is far from one that is doomed to failure. It is one that should be put to the creditors for their consideration. It is therefore appropriate that I exercise the discretion that is set out in ss. 4 and 5 of the CCAA and order a meeting of the creditors on the terms set out in the proposed meeting order.

10 With respect to the extension of the stay of proceedings, as I noted at the outset there had been an initial order of this Court under s.11 of the CCAA. This order was granted on December 22, 2008. It was, as required by the statute, limited to a period of 30 days. It has been extended on two previous occasions. It is now due to expire May 22nd, 2009. The meeting of the creditors is scheduled for May 21, 2009. There is a tentative return date scheduled for May 28, 2009 for the Court to consider sanctioning the plan, should it be approved by the creditors.

11 The test with respect to extending the stay of proceedings has been set out in a number of cases that have considered ss. 11(4) and (6) of the CCAA. These were reviewed by me in *ScoZinc Ltd., Re, 2009 NSSC 108* (N.S. S.C.). In these circumstances there is no need to review the test and the evidence in support of that test.

12 In light of my conclusion that the company had met the threshold for ordering a meeting of the creditors under ss. 4 and 5 of the CCAA the appropriateness of a further extension permitting the company to return to the Court within a very short period of time following that meeting of the creditors is patently obvious. The extension is therefore granted.

13 The last issue is the approval of notice of this motion being given only to certain defined creditors. Given the number of creditors that appeared early on in the proceedings it was somewhat impractical to give notice to each of them with the volumes of materials that would be required to be produced and served. With respect to the prior motions it was required that notice be given to all creditors asserting claims against the debtor company in excess of \$100,000.00 and all creditors asserting builders liens. In addition all creditors were apprised of these proceedings by way of the mail out to each and every creditor as required by the CCAA leading to filing of proofs of claim. The status of the proceedings, including this motion, have been posted on the Monitor's website. I see no reason to depart from the previous practice and this aspect of the motion is also granted.

Motion granted.

End of Document

Copyright © Thomson Reuters Canada Limited or its licensors (excluding individual court documents). All rights reserved.

4

1988 CarswellAlta 319
Alberta Court of Queen's Bench

Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd.

1988 CarswellAlta 319, [1989] 2 W.W.R. 566, [1989] A.W.L.D.
231, [1989] C.L.D. 336, 64 Alta. L.R. (2d) 139, 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 20

**NORCEN ENERGY RESOURCES LIMITED and PRAIRIE OIL
ROYALTIES COMPANY LTD. v. OAKWOOD PETROLEUMS LTD.**

Forsyth J.

Judgment: December 22, 1988

Docket: No. 8801-14453

Counsel: *J.J. Marshall, Q.C.*, and *J.A. Legge*, for Norcen Energy Resources Limited and Prairie Oil Royalties Company, Ltd.
E.D. Tavender, Q.C., *D. Lloyd*, *R. Wigham* and *R.C. Dixon*, for Oakwood Petroleums Ltd.

B. Tait and *B.D. Newton*, for Bank of Montreal.

B. O'Leary, *M.R. Russo*, *A. Pettie* and *A.Z. Breitman*, for Sceptre Resources Limited.

L. Robinson, for Royal Bank of Canada.

P.T. McCarthy and *T. Warner*, for HongKong Bank of Canada.

R. Gregory and *P. Jull*, for Bank America, Canada.

R.C. Pittman and *B.J. Roth*, for Esso Resources.

W. Corbett, for Canadian Co-operative Society and Saskatchewan Co-operative Society.

T.L. Czechowskyj, for National Bank.

J.G. Hanley and *H.J.R. Clarke*, for A.B.C. noteholders.

V.P. Lalonde and *L.R. Duncan*, for Innovex Equities Corporation.

I. Kerr, for Alberta Securities.

G.K. Randall, Q.C., for Director C.B.C.A.

Subject: Corporate and Commercial; Insolvency; Criminal

Headnote

Corporations --- Arrangemen and compromises — Under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Arrangements — Approval by Court

Corporations — Arrangements and compromises — Voting on plan of arrangement — Classifications of creditors — Court applying "commonality of interest" test to determine whether creditors properly included in same class — Commonality not requiring "identity of interests" — Court discussing relevant factors — Proposed classification approved.

O. Ltd. filed a plan of arrangement pursuant to, inter alia, the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act ("C.C.A.A.") and sought approval of a proposed classification of creditors and shareholders for the purpose of voting on the plan. One of its proposals was that a certain prospective purchaser, which was also a secured creditor, would value the security of each secured creditor, each secured creditor would be given one vote for each dollar of "security value" it held, and all secured creditors would vote on the plan as one class. Any dispute over the valuations would be settled at a fairness hearing. Two secured creditors opposed this classification on the basis that they should constitute a separate class of secured creditors, entitled to vote by themselves or to realize on their security. They argued that as each secured creditor had taken separate security on different assets, the commonality of interest necessary to treat them as one class was lacking. They also argued

that the value of their security made them unique because it was close to the value of their loans, while other creditors, whose security was valued at more than or less than the amount of their outstanding loans, would have a greater interest in approving the plan. Finally, it was argued that since a secured creditor bank was also the principal lender in the prospective purchase of O. Ltd., that bank had an interest not shared by the other secured creditors.

Held:

Application granted.

Neither the "minority veto test" nor the "bona fide/lack of oppression test" applied in these circumstances. The commonality of interest test should be applied, keeping in mind the purpose of the C.C.A.A. However, that did not mean there must be an "identity of interests" such that secured creditors should not be members of the same class "unless their security is on the same or substantially the same property and in equal priorities". It is clear that the C.C.A.A. grants the court the authority to alter the legal rights of parties other than the debtor without their consent. The primary purpose of the Act is to facilitate reorganizations, and this factor must be given due consideration at every stage of the process, including the classification of creditors under a proposed plan. To accept the "identity of interest" proposition as a starting point in classifying the creditors necessarily results in a "multiplicity of discrete classes", which would make any reorganization difficult if not impossible to achieve. That each creditor holds distinct security does not necessitate a separate class for each. The argument that creditors should be distinguished on the basis of values of their various security was essentially a throwback to the "identity of interest" proposition, since differing security positions and changing security values are a fact of life in the world of secured financing. To accept that argument would again result in a different class of creditor for each secured lender. Finally, the one bank's position as a principal lender in the reorganization was separate from its status as a secured creditor and arose from a separate business decision. In the absence of any allegation that the bank would not act bona fide in considering the benefit of the plan of the secured creditors as a class, its presence in the same class could not be criticized.

Table of Authorities**Cases considered:**

Alabama, New Orleans, Texas & Pac. Junction Ry. Co., Re, [1891] 1 Ch. 213 (C.A.) — *distinguished*

Amoco Can. Petroleum Co. v. Dome Petroleum Ltd., Calgary No. 8701-20108 (not yet reported) — *distinguished*

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, Re; A.G. Can. v. A.G. Que., [1934] S.C.R. 659, 16 C.B.R. 1, [1934] 4 D.L.R. 75 — *referred to*

Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd. (1988), 71 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1, 63 Alta. L.R. (2d) 361 (Q.B.) — *considered*

Palisades-on-the-Desplaines, Re; Seidel v. Palisades-on-the-Desplaines, 89 F. 2d 214 (1937, Ill.) — *referred to*

Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co. (1988), 59 Alta. L.R. (2d) 260, 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154, 87 A.R. 321 (C.A.) [leave to appeal to S.C.C. refused 60 Alta. L.R. (2d) 1v, 89 A.R. 80] — *applied*

Sovereign Life Assur. Co. v. Dodd, [1892] 2 Q.B. 573 (C.A.) — *referred to*

Statutes considered:

Business Corporations Act, S.A. 1981, c. B-15

s. 186 [am. 1988, c. 7, s. 3]

Canada Business Corporations Act, S.C. 1974-75-76, c. 33 [now R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44]

s. 185 [now s. 191]

s. 185.1 [en. 1978-79, c. 9, s. 61; now s. 192]

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1970, c. C-25 [now R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36]

s. 4

s. 5

s. 6

Authorities considered:

Edwards, "Reorganization under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1947), 25 Can. Bar Rev. 587, p. 603.

Robertson, "Legal Problems on Reorganization of Major Financial and Commercial Debtors", Canadian Bar Association — Ontario Continuing Legal Education, 5th April 1983, pp. 15, 16, 19-21.

Application to approve classification of creditors for purpose of voting on plan of arrangement.

Forsyth J.:

1 On 12th December 1988 Oakwood Petroleum Limited ("Oakwood") filed with the court a plan of arrangement ("the plan") made pursuant to the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (Canada), R.S.C. 1970, c. C-25 [now R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36] ("C.C.A.A."), as amended, ss. 185 and 185.1 [now ss. 191 and 192] of the Canada Business Corporations Act, S.C. 1974-75-76 [now R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44] as amended, and s. 186 of the Business Corporations Act (Alberta), S.A. 1981, c. B-15, as amended.

2 On 16th December 1988 Oakwood brought an application before me for an order which would, inter alia, approve the classification of creditors and shareholders proposed in the plan. I would note that the classifications requested are made pursuant to ss. 4, 5 and 6 of the C.C.A.A. for the purpose of holding a vote within each class to approve the plan.

3 Since my concern primarily is with the secured creditors of Oakwood, I shall set out, in part, the sections of the C.C.A.A. relevant to the court's authority with respect to compromises with secured creditors:

4 5. Where a compromise or arrangement is proposed between a debtor company and its secured creditors or any class of them, the court may ... order a meeting of such creditors or class of creditors ...

5 6. Where a majority in numbers representing three-fourths in value of the creditors, or class of creditors, as the case may be, present and voting either in person or by proxy at the meeting or meetings ... held pursuant to sections 4 and 5 ... agree to any compromise or arrangement ... [it] may be sanctioned by the court, and if so sanctioned is binding on all the creditors ...

6 The plan filed with the court envisions five separate classes of creditors and shareholders. They are as follows:

7 (i) The secured creditors;

8 (ii) The unsecured creditors;

9 (iii) The preferred shareholders of Oakwood;

10 (iv) The common shareholders and holders of class A non-voting shares of Oakwood;

11 (v) The shareholders of New York Oils Ltd.

12 With the exception of the proposed class comprising the secured creditors of Oakwood, there has been for the moment no objection to the proposed groupings. I add here that shareholders of course have not yet had notice of the proposal with respect to voting percentages and classes with respect to their particular interests. With that caveat, and leaving aside the proposed single class of secured creditors, I am satisfied that the other classes suggested are appropriate and they are approved.

13 I turn now to the proposed one class of secured creditors. The membership of and proposed scheme of voting within the secured creditors class is dependent upon the value of each creditor's security as determined by Sceptre Resources Ltd. ("Sceptre"), the purchaser under the plan.

14 As a result of those valuations, the membership of that class was determined to include: the Bank of Montreal, the A.B.C. noteholders, the Royal Bank of Canada, the National Bank of Canada and the HongKong Bank of Canada and the Bank of America Canada. Within the class, each secured creditor will receive one vote for each dollar of "security value". The valuations made by Sceptre represent what it considers to be a fair value for the securities.

15 Any dispute over the amount of money each creditor is to receive for its security will be determined at a subsequent fairness hearing where approval of the plan will be sought. Further, it should be noted that all counsel have agreed that, on the facts of this case, any errors made in the valuations would not result in any significant shift of voting power within the proposed class so as to alter the outcome of any vote. Therefore, the valuations made by Sceptre do not appear to be a major issue before me at this time insofar as voting is concerned.

16 The issue with which I am concerned arises from the objection raised by two of Oakwood's secured creditors, namely, HongKong Bank and Bank of America Canada, that they are grouped together with the other secured creditors. They have brought applications before me seeking leave to realize upon their security or, in the alternative, to be constituted a separate and exclusive class of creditors and to be entitled to vote as such at any meeting convened pursuant to the plan.

17 The very narrow issue which I must address concerns the propriety of classifying all the secured creditors of the company into one group. Counsel for Oakwood and Sceptre have attempted to justify their classifications by reference to the "commonality of interests test" described in *Sovereign Life Assur. Co. v. Dodd*, [1892] 2 Q.B. 573 (C.A.). That test received the approval of the Alberta Court of Appeal in *Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co.* (1988), 59 Alta. L.R. (2d) 260, 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154, 87 A.R. 321, where Kerans J.A., on behalf of the court, stated [pp. 264-65]:

18 We agree that the basic rule for the creation of groups for the consideration of fundamental corporate changes was expressed by Lord Esher in *Sovereign Life Assur. Co. v. Dodd*, [supra] when he said, speaking about creditors:

19 ... if we find a different state of facts existing among different creditors which may differently affect their minds and their judgments, they must be divided into different classes.

20 In the case of *Sovereign Life Assur. Co.*, Bowen L.J. went on to state at p. 583 that the class:

21 ... must be confined to those persons whose rights are not so dissimilar as to make it impossible for them to consult together with a view to their common interest.

22 Counsel also made reference to two other "tests" which they argued must be complied with — the "minority veto test" and the "bona fide lack of oppression test". The former, it is argued, holds that the classes must not be so numerous as to give a veto power to an otherwise insignificant minority. In support of this test, they cite my judgment in *Amoco Can. Petroleum Co. v. Dome Petroleum Ltd.*, Calgary No. 8701-20108, 28th January 1988 (not yet reported).

23 I would restrict my comments on the applicability of this test to the fact that, in the *Amoco* case, I was dealing with "a very small minority group of [shareholders] near the bottom of the chain of priorities". Such is not the case here.

24 In support of the "bona fide lack of oppression test", counsel cite *Re Alabama, New Orleans, Texas & Pac. Junction Ry. Co.*, [1891] 1 Ch. 213 (C.A.), where Lindley L.J. stated at p. 239:

25 The Court must look at the scheme, and see whether the Act has been complied with, whether the majority are acting *bona fide*, and whether they are coercing the minority in order to promote interests adverse to those of the class whom they purport to represent ...

26 Whether this test is properly considered at this stage, that is, whether the issue is the constitution of a membership of a class, is not necessary for me to decide as there have been no allegations by the HongKong Bank or Bank of America as to a lack of bona fides.

27 What I am left with, then, is the application to the facts of this case of the "commonality of interests test" while keeping in mind that the proposed plan of arrangement arises under the C.C.A.A.

28 Sceptre and Oakwood have argued that the secured creditors' interests are sufficiently common that they can be grouped together as one class. That class is comprised of six institutional lenders (I would note that the A.B.C. noteholders are actually a group of ten lenders) who have each taken first charges as security on assets upon which they have the right to realize in order to recover their claims. The same method of valuation was applied to each secured claim in order to determine the security value under the plan.

29 On the other hand, HongKong Bank and Bank of America have argued that their interests are distinguishable from the secured creditors class as a whole and from other secured creditors on an individual basis. While they have identified a number of individually distinguishing features of their interests vis-à-vis those of other secured parties (which I will address later), they have put forth the proposition that since each creditor has taken separate security on different assets, the necessary commonality of interests is not present. The rationale offered is that the different assets may give rise to a different state of facts which could alter the creditors' view as to the propriety of participating in the plan. For example, it was suggested that the relative ease of marketability of a distinct asset as opposed to the other assets granted as security could lead that secured creditor to choose to disapprove of the proposed plan. Similarly, the realization potential of assets may also lead to distinctions in the interests of the secured creditors and consequently bear upon their desire to participate in the plan.

30 In support of this proposition, the HongKong Bank and Bank of America draw from comments made by Ronald N. Robertson, Q.C., in a publication entitled "Legal Problems on Reorganization of Major Financial and Commercial Debtors", Canadian Bar Association — Ontario Continuing Legal Education, 5th April 1983, at p. 15, and by Stanley E. Edwards in an earlier article, "Reorganizations under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1947), 25 Can. Bar Rev. 587, at p. 603. Both authors gave credence to this "identity of interest" proposition that secured creditors should not be members of the same class "unless their security is on the same or substantially the same property and in equal priority". They also made reference to a case decided under c. 11 of the Bankruptcy Code of the United States of America which, while not applying that proposition in that given set of facts, accepted it as a "general rule". That authority is *Re Palisades-on-the-Desplaines; Seidel v. Palisades-on-the-Desplaines*, 89 F. 2d. 214 at 217-18 (1937, Ill.).

31 Basically, in putting forth that proposition, the HongKong Bank and Bank of America are asserting that they have made advances to Oakwood on the strength of certain security which they identified as sufficient and desirable security and which they alone have the right to realize upon. Of course, the logical extension of that argument is that in the facts of this case each secured creditor must itself comprise a class of creditors. While counsel for the HongKong Bank and Bank of America suggested it was not necessary to do so in this case, as they are the only secured creditors opposed to the classification put forth, in principle such would have to be the case if I were to accept their proposition.

32 To put the issue in another light, what I must decide is whether the holding of distinct security by each creditor necessitates a separate class of creditor for each, or whether notwithstanding this factor that they each share, nevertheless this factor does not override the grouping into one class of creditors. In my opinion, this decision cannot be made without considering the underlying purpose of the C.C.A.A.

33 In *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleum Ltd.*, Calgary No. 8801-14453, 17th November 1988 [now reported ante, p. 1, 63 Alta. L.R. (2d) 361], after canvassing the few authorities on point, I concluded that the purpose of the C.C.A.A. is to allow debtor companies to continue to carry on their business and that necessarily incidental to that purpose is the power to interfere with contractual relations. In referring to the case authority *Re Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act; A.G. Can. v. A.G. Que.*, [1934] S.C.R. 659, 16 C.B.R. 1, [1934] 4 D.L.R. 75, I stated at pp. 24 and 25 [p. 15]:

34 It was held in that case that the Act was valid as relating to bankruptcy and insolvency rather than property and civil rights. At p. 664, Cannon J. held:

35 Therefore, if the proceedings under this new Act of 1933 are not, strictly speaking, 'bankruptcy' proceedings, because they had not for object the sale and division of the assets of the debtor, they may, however, be considered as 'insolvency proceedings' with the object of preventing a declaration of bankruptcy and the sale of these assets. If the creditors directly interested for the time being reach the conclusion that an opportune arrangement to avoid such sale would better protect their interest, as a whole or in part, provisions for the settlement of the liabilities of the insolvent are an essential element of any insolvency legislation ...

36 I went on to note:

37 *The C.C.A.A. is an Act designed to continue, rather than liquidate companies ...* The critical part of the decision is that federal legislation pertaining to assisting in the continuing operation of companies is constitutionally valid. In effect the Supreme Court of Canada has given the term "insolvency" a broad meaning in the constitutional sense by bringing within that term *an Act designed to promote the continuation of an insolvent company*. [emphasis added]

38 In this regard, I would make extensive reference to the article by Mr. Robertson, Q.C., where, in discussing the classification of creditors under the C.C.A.A. and after stating the proposition referred to by counsel for the HongKong Bank and Bank of America, he states at p. 16 in his article:

39 An initial, almost instinctive, response that differences in claims and property subject to security automatically means segregation into different classes does not necessarily make economic or legal sense in the context of an act such as the C.C.A.A.

40 And later at pp. 19 and 20, in commenting on the article by Mr. Edwards, he states:

41 However, if the trend of Edwards' suggestions that secured creditors can only be classed together when they held security of the same priority, that perhaps classes should be sub-divided into further groups according to whether or not a member of the class also holds some other security or form of interest in the debtor company, *the multiplicity of discrete classes or subclasses classes might be so compounded as to defeat the object of the act*. As Edwards himself says, the subdivision of voting groups and the counting of angels on the heads of pins must top somewhere and some forms of differences must surely be disregarded.

42 In summarizing his discussion, he states on pp. 20-21:

43 From the foregoing one can perceive at least two potentially conflicting approaches to the issue of classification. On the one hand there is the concept that members of a class ought to have the same "interest" in the company, ought to be only creditors entitled to look to the same "source" or "fund" for payment, and ought to encompass all of the creditors who do have such an identity of legal rights. *On the other hand, there is recognition that the legislative intent is to facilitate*

reorganization, that excessive fragmentation of classes may be counter-productive and that some degree of difference between claims should not preclude creditors being put in the same class.

44 *It is fundamental to any imposed plan or reorganization that strict legal rights are going to be altered and that such alteration may be imposed against the will of at least some creditors.* When one considers the complexity and magnitude of contemporary large business organizations, and the potential consequences of their failure it may be that the courts will be compelled to focus less on whether there is any identity of legal rights and rather focus on whether or not those constituting the class are persons, to use Lord Esher's phrase, "whose rights are not so dissimilar as to make it impossible for them to consult together with a view to their common interest" ...

45 If the plan of reorganization is such that the creditors' particular priorities and securities are preserved, especially in the event of ultimate failure, *it may be that the courts will, for example in an apt case decide that creditors who have basically made the same kinds of loans against the same kind of security, even though on different terms and against different particular secured assets, do have a sufficient similarity of interest to warrant being put into one class and being made subject to the will of the required majority of that class.* [emphasis added]

46 These comments may be reduced to two cogent points. First, it is clear that the C.C.A.A. grants a court the authority to alter the legal rights of parties other than the debtor company without their consent. Second, the primary purpose of the Act is to facilitate reorganizations and this factor must be given due consideration at every stage of the process, including the classification of creditors made under a proposed plan. To accept the "identity of interest" proposition as a starting point in the classification of creditors necessarily results in a "multiplicity of discrete classes" which would make any reorganization difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

47 In the result, given that this planned reorganization arises under the C.C.A.A., I must reject the arguments put forth by the HongKong Bank and the Bank of America, that since they hold separate security over different assets, they must therefore be classified as a separate class of creditors.

48 I turn now to the other factors which the HongKong Bank and Bank of America submit distinguishes them on individual bases from other creditors of Oakwood. The HongKong Bank and Bank of America argue that the values used by Sceptre are significantly understated. With respect to the Bank of Montreal, it is alleged that that bank actually holds security valued close to, if not in excess of, the outstanding amount of its loans when compared to the HongKong Bank and Bank of America whose security, those banks allege, is approximately equal to the amount of its loans. It is submitted that a plan which understates the value of assets results in the oversecured party being more inclined to support a plan under which they will receive, without the difficulties of realization, close to full payments of their loans.

49 The problem with this argument is that it is a throwback to the "identity of interest" proposition. Differing security positions and changing security values are a fact of life in the world of secured financing. To accept this argument would again result in a different class of creditor for each secured lender, with the possible exception of the A.B.C. noteholders who could be lumped with the HongKong Bank or Bank of America, as their percentage realization under the proposed plan is approximately equal to that of the HongKong Bank and Bank of America.

50 Further, the HongKong Bank and Bank of America also submit that since the Royal Bank and National Bank of Canada are so much more undersecured on their loans, they too have a distinct interest in participating in the plan which is not shared by themselves. The sum total of their submissions would seem to be that, since oversecured and undersecured lenders have a greater incentive to participate, it is only those lenders, such as themselves with just the right amount of security, that do not share that common interest. Frankly, it appears to me that these arguments are drawn from the fact that they are the only secured creditors of Oakwood who would prefer to retain their right to realize upon their security, as opposed to participating in the plan. I do not wish to suggest that they should be chided for taking such a position, but surely expressed approval or disapproval of the plan is not a valid reason to create different classes of creditors. Further, as I have already clearly stated, the C.C.A.A. can validly be used to alter or remove the rights of creditors.

51 Finally, I wish to address the argument that, since Sceptre has made arrangements with the Royal Bank of Canada relating to the purchase of Oakwood, it has an interest not shared by the other secured creditors. The Royal Bank's position as a principal lender in the reorganization is separate from its status as a secured creditor of Oakwood and arises from a separate business decision. In the absence of any allegation that the Royal Bank will not act bona fide in considering the benefit of the plan of the secured creditors as a class, the HongKong Bank and Bank of America cannot be heard to criticize the Royal Bank's presence in the same class.

52 In light of my conclusions, the result is that I approve the proposed classification of secured creditors into one class.

53 There is one further comment I wish to make with respect to the valuations made by Sceptre for the purposes of the vote calculations. I assume that Sceptre will be relying on those valuations at any fairness hearing, assuming this matter proceeds. I would simply observe that the onus is of course on Sceptre to establish that the valuations relied on and set forth in their plan in fact represent fair value under all the circumstances.

54 It has been obvious during the course of the hearing of this phase of the application that at least two of the secured creditors, to whom reference has been made, are not satisfied that that is the case, and in the event evidence is led by them in an effort to establish that the values proposed do not represent the fair value, the onus will be on Sceptre and Oakwood to establish the contrary. Underlying my comments above are of course the court's concern of ensuring that approval of any plan proposed does not result in unfair confiscation of the property of any secured creditors. In that regard, the underlying value of the assets of each individual secured creditor on the facts of this case would appear to be of prime importance.

Application granted.

5

Most Negative Treatment: Distinguished

Most Recent Distinguished: [Stelco Inc., Re](#) | 2006 CarswellOnt 3050, 210 O.A.C. 129, 21 C.B.R. (5th) 157, [2006] O.J. No. 1996 | (Ont. C.A., May 16, 2006)

2005 CarswellOnt 6818
Ontario Court of Appeal

Stelco Inc., Re

2005 CarswellOnt 6818, [2005] O.J. No. 4883, 11 B.L.R. (4th) 185, 144 A.C.W.S. (3d) 15, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 307, 204 O.A.C. 205, 261 D.L.R. (4th) 368, 78 O.R. (3d) 241

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS
ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C., c. C-36, AS AMENDED**

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT
WITH RESPECT TO STELCO INC., AND OTHER APPLICANTS LISTED IN SCHEDULE "A"

APPLICATION UNDER THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS
ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 AS AMENDED

Goudge, Sharpe, Blair JJ.A.

Heard: November 14, 2005
Judgment: November 17, 2005
Docket: CA C44436, M33171

Proceedings: additional reasons at *Stelco Inc., Re* ((2005)), 2005 CarswellOnt 6510, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 305 ((Ont. C.A.)); affirmed *Stelco Inc., Re* ((2005)), 2005 CarswellOnt 6483, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 297 ((Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]))

Counsel: Paul Macdonald, Andrew Kent, Brett Harrison for Informal Independent Converts' Committee
Michael E. Barrack, Geoff R. Hall for Stelco Inc.
Robert Staley, Alan Gardner for Senior Debenture Holders
Fred Myers for Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario, Superintendent of Financial Services
Ken Rosenberg for United Steelworkers of America
A Kauffman for Tricap Management Ltd.
Kyla Mahar for Monitor
Murray Gold for Salaried Retirees
Heath Whitley for CIBC
Steven Bosnick for U.S.W.A. Loc. 5328, 8782

Subject: Insolvency; Civil Practice and Procedure

Headnote

Bankruptcy and insolvency --- Proposal — Practice and procedure

Leave to appeal order made in Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act proceeding — S Inc. presented Proposed Plan of Compromise or Arrangement (Plan) to its unsecured creditors for approval — Plan included subordinated debenture holders, senior debt holders, and trade creditors in same group for purposes of voting on Plan — Prior to vote on Plan, subordinated debenture holders brought motion seeking order classifying themselves as separate class for voting purposes on basis that they had different interests from rest of group — Supervising judge dismissed motion — Subordinated

debenture holders sought leave to appeal dismissal of motion — Leave to appeal granted — Leave is only sparingly granted with regard to orders made in Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) proceedings because of their "real time" dynamic and because of generally discretionary character underlying many of orders made by supervising judges in such proceedings — Here, leave to appeal was granted because proposed appeal raised issue of significance to practice, namely nature of common interest test to be applied by courts for purposes of classification of creditors in CCAA proceedings — Where there is urgency that leave application be expedited in public interest, court will do so in this area of law as it does in other area; however, where what is involved is essentially attempt to review discretionary order made on facts of case, in tightly supervised process with which judge is intimately familiar, collapsed process that was made available in this particular situation will not generally be afforded — Issues raised on this appeal, and timing factor involved, warranted expedited procedure that was ordered.

Bankruptcy and insolvency --- Proposal — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Miscellaneous issues

S Inc. presented Proposed Plan of Compromise or Arrangement (Plan) to its unsecured creditors for approval — Plan included subordinated debenture holders, senior debt holders, and trade creditors in same group for purposes of voting on Plan — Prior to vote, subordinated debenture holders brought motion seeking order classifying themselves as separate class for voting purposes on basis that they had different interests from rest of group — Supervising judge dismissed motion — Subordinated debenture holders appealed from dismissal of motion — Appeal dismissed — No error could be found in supervising judge's factual findings or in his exercise of discretion in determining that subordinated debenture holders should remain in same class as other creditors — There was no material distinction between legal rights of subordinated debenture holders and those of senior debt holders vis-à-vis S Inc. — Supervising judge was correct in law in applying principles dealing with commonality of interest test as summarized in recent case, which principles were cited with approval by Court of Appeal in another recent decision — Principles applied by supervising judge were not inconsistent with earlier decision of present court in other case dealing with common interest test, because differing interests in question were not different legal interest as between two creditors; they were different legal interests as between each of creditors and debtor company — Case cited by subordinated debenture holders did not deal with issue of whether creditors with divergent interests as amongst themselves, as opposed to divergent legal interests vis-à-vis debtor company, could be forced to vote as members of common class — Creditors should be classified in accordance with their contract rights, i.e., according to their respective interests in debtor company — To hold classification and voting process hostage to vagaries of potentially infinite variety of disputes, as between already disgruntled creditors who had been caught in maelstrom of Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) restructuring, would run risk of hobbling that process unduly and could lead to very type of fragmentation and multiplicity of discrete classes or sub-classes of classes that judges have warned might well defeat purpose of CCAA.

Table of Authorities

Cases considered by Blair J.A.:

Campeau Corp., Re (1991), 10 C.B.R. (3d) 100, 86 D.L.R. (4th) 570, 1991 CarswellOnt 155 (Ont. Gen. Div.) — referred to

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re (2000), 2000 CarswellAlta 623, 19 C.B.R. (4th) 12 (Alta. Q.B.) — followed

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re (2000), 2000 ABCA 149, 2000 CarswellAlta 503, 80 Alta. L.R. (3d) 213, 19 C.B.R. (4th) 33, 261 A.R. 120, 225 W.A.C. 120 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]) — referred to

Country Style Food Services Inc., Re (2002), 2002 CarswellOnt 1038, 158 O.A.C. 30 (Ont. C.A. [In Chambers]) — referred to

Fairview Industries Ltd., Re (1991), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 71, (sub nom. *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re (No. 3)*) 109 N.S.R. (2d) 32, (sub nom. *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re (No. 3)*) 297 A.P.R. 32, 1991 CarswellNS 36 (N.S. T.D.) — referred to

Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleum Ltd. (1988), 64 Alta. L.R. (2d) 139, [1989] 2 W.W.R. 566, 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 20, 1988 CarswellAlta 319 (Alta. Q.B.) — referred to

Northland Properties Ltd., Re (1988), 31 B.C.L.R. (2d) 35, 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 166, 1988 CarswellBC 556 (B.C. S.C.) — referred to

Northland Properties Ltd., Re (1989), (sub nom. *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada*) 34 B.C.L.R. (2d) 122, (sub nom. *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada*) 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195, (sub nom. *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada*) [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363, 1989 CarswellBC 334 (B.C. C.A.) — referred to

Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of) (1990), 1 C.B.R. (3d) 101, (sub nom. *Elan Corp. v. Comiskey*) 1 O.R. (3d) 289, (sub nom. *Elan Corp. v. Comiskey*) 41 O.A.C. 282, 1990 CarswellOnt 139 (Ont. C.A.) — considered

NsC Diesel Power Inc., Re (1990), 79 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1, 97 N.S.R. (2d) 295, 258 A.P.R. 295, 1990 CarswellNS 33 (N.S. T.D.) — referred to

Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. v. Air Canada (2001), 2001 BCSC 1721, 2001 CarswellBC 2943, 19 B.L.R. (3d) 286 (B.C. S.C.) — considered

Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co. (1988), 59 Alta. L.R. (2d) 260, 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154, 40 B.L.R. 188, (sub nom. *Amoco Acquisition Co. v. Savage*) 87 A.R. 321, 1988 CarswellAlta 291 (Alta. C.A.) — referred to

Sklar-Peppler Furniture Corp. v. Bank of Nova Scotia (1991), 8 C.B.R. (3d) 312, 86 D.L.R. (4th) 621, 1991 CarswellOnt 220 (Ont. Gen. Div.) — referred to

Sovereign Life Assurance Co. v. Dodd (1892), [1891-94] All E.R. Rep. 246, [1892] 2 Q.B. 573 (Eng. C.A.) — considered

Stelco Inc., Re (2005), 253 D.L.R. (4th) 109, 75 O.R. (3d) 5, 2005 CarswellOnt 1188, 2 B.L.R. (4th) 238, 9 C.B.R. (5th) 135, 196 O.A.C. 142 (Ont. C.A.) — referred to

Wellington Building Corp., Re (1934), 16 C.B.R. 48, [1934] O.R. 653, [1934] 4 D.L.R. 626, 1934 CarswellOnt 103 (Ont. S.C.) — referred to

Woodward's Ltd., Re (1993), 20 C.B.R. (3d) 74, 84 B.C.L.R. (2d) 206, 1993 CarswellBC 555 (B.C. S.C.) — referred to

Statutes considered:

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36
Generally — referred to

Joint Stock Companies Arrangements Act, 1870 (33 & 34 Vict.), c. 104
Generally — referred to

ADDITIONAL REASONS to judgment reported at *Stelco Inc., Re* (2005), 2005 CarswellOnt 6510, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 305 (Ont. C.A.).

Blair J.A.:

Background

1 This appeal arises out of the reorganization of Stelco Inc., and related companies, pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA").¹ Stelco has been in the midst of this fractious process for approximately twenty-one months. Justice Farley has been the supervising judge throughout.

2 Stelco has presented a Proposed Plan of Compromise or Arrangement to its creditors for their approval. The vote was scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2005. On Thursday, November 10, a group of creditors known as the Informal Independent Converts' Committee ("the Converts' Committee") sought an order from the supervising judge, amongst other things, classifying the Subordinated Debenture Holders whom they represent as a separate class for voting purposes. Justice Farley dismissed the motion. In the face of the pending vote, the Converts' Committee sought leave to appeal on Thursday afternoon (The courts were closed on Friday, November 11, for Remembrance Day). Rosenberg J.A. dealt with the matter and directed that the application for leave, and if leave be granted, the appeal, be heard by a panel of this court on Monday, November 14, 2005.

3 This panel heard the application for leave and the appeal on Monday. We concluded that leave should be granted, but that the appeal must be dismissed, and at the conclusion of argument — and in order to clarify matters so that the vote could proceed the following day — we issued a brief endorsement with our decision, but indicating that more detailed reasons would follow.

4 The endorsement read as follows:

In our view, the appellants have not demonstrated a different legal interest from the other unsecured creditors vis à vis the debtor, nor any basis for setting aside the finding of Farley J. that there are no different practical interests such that the appellants deserve a separate class. We see no legal error or error in principle in his exercise of discretion.

Leave to appeal is granted, but the appeal must therefore be dismissed. Because of the importance of the issue for Ontario practice in this area, we propose to expand somewhat on these reasons in due course.

5 These are those expanded reasons.

Facts

6 Stelco's Proposed Plan is made to unsecured creditors only. It is not intended to affect the claims of secured creditors.

7 The Converts' Committee represents unsecured creditors who hold \$90 million of convertible unsecured subordinated debentures issued by Stelco pursuant to a Supplemental Trust Indenture dated January 21, 2002, and due in 2007. With interest, the claims of the Subordinated Debenture Holders now amount to approximately \$110 million. Those claims are subordinated to approximately \$328 million in favour of Senior Debt Holders. In addition, Stelco has unsecured trade debts totalling approximately, \$228 million. In the Proposed Plan, these three groups of unsecured creditors — the Subordinated Debenture Holders (represented by the Converts' Committee), the Senior Debt Holders, and the Trade Creditors — have all been included in the same class for the purposes of voting on the Proposed Plan or any amended version of it.

8 The Converts' Committee takes issue with this, and seeks to have the Subordinated Debenture Holders classified as a separate class of creditors for voting purposes. They argue that their interests are different than those of the Bondholders and that creditors who do not have common interests should not be classified in the same group for voting purposes. They submit, therefore, that the supervising judge erred in law in not granting them a separate classification. In that regard, they rely upon this court's decision in *Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)* (1990), 1 O.R. (3d) 289 (Ont. C.A.). They also argue

that the supervising judge was wrong, on the facts contained in the record, in finding that the Subordinated Debenture Holders and the Bondholders did not have conflicting interests.

9 In making their argument about a different interest, the appellants rely upon their status as subordinated debt holders as shaped particularly by Articles 6.2 and 6.3 of the Supplemental Trust Indenture. In essence those provisions reinforce the subordinated nature of their debt. They stipulate (a) that if the Subordinated Debenture Holders receive any payment from Stelco, or any distribution from the assets of Stelco, before the Senior Debt is fully paid, they are obliged to remit any such payment or distribution to the Senior Debt Holders until the latter have been paid in full (Art. 6.2(3)), but (b) that no such payment or distribution by Stelco shall be deemed to constitute a payment on the Subordinated Debenture Holders' debt (Art. 6.3). The parties refer to these provisions as the "Turnover Payment" provisions.

10 In short, although Stelco is obliged to pay both groups of creditors in full, as between the Subordinated Debenture Holders and the Senior Debt Holders, the latter are entitled to be paid in full before the former receive anything. The Supplemental Trust Indenture makes it clear that the provisions of Article 6 "are intended solely for the purpose of defining the relative rights of [the Subordinated Debenture Holders] and the holders of the Senior Debt" (Art. 6.3).

11 The appellants contend that the Turnover Payment provisions distinguish their interests from those of the Subordinated Debenture Holders when it comes to voting on Stelco's Proposed Plan. They say that the Subordinated Debenture Holders' interest in maximizing the amounts to be made available to unsecured creditors ends once they have received full recovery, in part as a result of the Turnover Payments that the Subordinated Debenture Holders will be required to make from their portion of the funds. On the other hand, the Subordinated Debenture Holders will have an interest in seeking more because their recovery, for practical purposes, will have only begun once that point is reached.

12 The respondents submit, for their part, that the appellants are seeking a separate classification for a collateral purpose, i.e., so that they will be able to veto the Proposed Plan, or at least threaten to veto it, unless they are granted a benefit to which they are not entitled — the elimination of their subordinated position by virtue of the Turnover Payment provisions.

13 Farley J. rejected the appellants' arguments. The thrust of his decision in this regard is found in paragraphs 13 and 14 of his reasons:

[13] I would note as well that the primary and most significant attribute of the ConCom debt and that of the BondCom debt/Senior Debt² plus the trade debt vis-à-vis Stelco is that it is all unsecured debt. Thus absent valid reason to have separate classes it would be reasonable, logical, rational and practical to have all this unsecured debt in the same class. Certainly that would avoid any unnecessary fragmentation — and in this respect multiplicity of classes does not mean that that fragmentation starts only when there are many classes. Unless more than one class is necessary, fragmentation would start at two classes. Fragmentation if necessary, but not necessarily fragmentation.

[14] Is it necessary to have more than one class? Firstly, it would not appear to me that as between Stelco and the unsecured creditors overall there is any material distinction. Secondly, there would not appear to me to be any confiscation of any rights (or the other side of the coin any new imposition of obligations) upon the holders of the ConCom debt. The subrogation issue was something which these holders assumed on the issue of that debt. Thirdly, I do not see that there is a realistic conflict of interest. Each group of unsecured creditors including the ConCom debt holders and the BondCom debt holders has the same general interest vis-à-vis Stelco, namely to extract from Stelco through the Plan the maximum value in the sense of consideration possible. . . . That situation is not impacted for our purposes here in this motion by the possibility that in a subsequent dispute between the ConCom holders and the BondCom holders there may be a difference of opinion as to the variation of the consideration obtained.

14 We agree with his conclusion and see no basis to interfere with his findings in that regard.

The Leave Application

15 The principles to be applied by this court in determining whether leave to appeal should be granted to someone dissatisfied with an order made in a CCAA proceeding are not in dispute. Leave is only sparingly granted in such matters because of their "real time" dynamic and because of the generally discretionary character underlying many of the orders made by supervising judges in such proceedings. There must be serious and arguable grounds that are of real and significant interest to the parties. The court has assessed this criterion on the basis of a four-part test, namely,

- a) whether the point on appeal is of significance to the practice;
- b) whether the point is of significance to the action;
- c) whether the appeal is *prima facie* meritorious or frivolous; and
- d) whether the appeal will unduly hinder the progress of the action.

See *Stelco Inc. (Re)* (2005), 75 O.R. (3d) 5 (Ont. C.A.) at para. 24; *Country Style Food Services Inc., Re*, [2002] O.J. No. 1377, 158 O.A.C. 30 (Ont. C.A. [In Chambers]) at para. 15; *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* (2000), 19 C.B.R. (4th) 33 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]) at para. 7.

16 Here, we granted leave to appeal because the proposed appeal raised an issue of significance to the practice, namely the nature of the "common interest" test to be applied by the courts for purposes of the classification of creditors in CCAA proceedings. Although the law seems to have progressed in the lower courts along the lines developed in Alberta, beginning with the decision of Paperny J. in *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* (2000), 19 C.B.R. (4th) 12 (Alta. Q.B.), this court has not dealt with the issue since its decision in *Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)*, *supra*, and the Converts' Committee argues that the Alberta line of authorities is contrary to *Nova Metal Products Inc.*

17 A brief further comment respecting the leave process may be in order.

18 The court recognizes the importance of its ability to react in a responsible and timely fashion to the appellate needs arising in the "real time" dynamics of CCAA restructurings. Often, as in the case of this restructuring, they involve a significant public dimension. For good policy reasons, however, appellate courts in Canada — including this one — have developed relatively stringent parameters for the granting of leave to appeal in CCAA cases. As noted, leave is only sparingly granted. The parameters as set out in the authorities cited above remain good law.

19 Merely because a corporate restructuring is a big one and money is no object to the participants in the process, does not mean that the court will necessarily depart from the normal leave to appeal process that applies to other cases. In granting leave to appeal in these circumstances, we do not wish to be taken as supporting a notion that the fusion of leave applications with the hearing of the appeal in CCAA restructurings — particularly in major ones such as this one involving Stelco — has become the practice. Where there is an urgency that a leave application be expedited in the public interest, the court will do so in this area of the law as it does in other areas. However, where what is involved is essentially an attempt to review a discretionary order made on the facts of the case, in a tightly supervised process with which the judge is intimately familiar, the collapsed process that was made available in this particular situation will not generally be afforded.

20 As these reasons demonstrate, however, the issues raised on this particular appeal, and the timing factor involved, warranted the expedited procedure that was ordered by Justice Rosenberg.

The Appeal

No Error in Law or Principle

21 Everyone agrees that the classification of creditors for CCAA voting purposes is to be determined generally on the basis of a "commonality of interest" (or a "common interest") between creditors of the same class. Most analyses of this approach start with a reference to *Sovereign Life Assurance Co. v. Dodd* (1892), [1891-94] All E.R. Rep. 246 (Eng. C.A.), which dealt

with the classification of creditors for voting purposes in a winding-up proceeding. Two passages from the judgments in that decision are frequently cited:

At pp. 249-250 Lord Esher said:

The Act provides that the persons to be summoned to the meeting, all of whom, it is to be observed, are creditors, are persons who can be divided into different classes, classes which the Act³ recognizes, though it does not define. The creditors, therefore, must be divided into different classes. What is the reason for prescribing such a course? It is because the creditors composing the different classes have different interests, and, therefore, if a different state of facts exists with respect to different creditors, which may affect their minds and judgments differently, they must be separated into different classes.

At p. 251, Bowen L.J. stated:

The word "class" used in the statute is vague, and to find out what it means we must look at the general scope of the section, which enables the court to order a meeting of a "class of creditors" to be summoned. It seems to me that we must give such a meaning to the term 'class' as will prevent the section being so worked as to produce confiscation and injustice, and that we must confine its meaning to those persons whose rights are not so dissimilar as to make it impossible for them to consult together with a view to their common interest.

22 These views have been applied in the CCAA context. But what comprises those "not so dissimilar" rights and what are the components of that "common interest" have been the subject of debate and evolution over time. It is clear that classification is a fact-driven exercise, dependent upon the circumstances of each particular case. Moreover, given the nature of the CCAA process and the underlying flexibility of that process — a flexibility which is its genius — there can be no fixed rules that must apply in all cases.

23 In *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* (2000), 19 C.B.R. (4th) 12 (Alta. Q.B.), Paperny J. nonetheless extracted a number of principles to be considered by the courts in dealing with the commonality of interest test. At para. 31 she said:

In summary, the cases establish the following principles applicable to assessing commonality of interest:

1. Commonality of interest should be viewed based on the non-fragmentation test, not on an identity of interest test;
2. The interests to be considered are the legal interests that a creditor holds qua creditor in relationship to the debtor company prior to and under the plan as well as on liquidation.
3. The commonality of interests are to be viewed purposively, bearing in mind the object of the C.C.C.A., namely to facilitate reorganizations if possible.
4. In placing a broad and purposive interpretation on the C.C.C.A., the court should be careful to resist classification approaches that would potentially jeopardize viable plans.
5. Absent bad faith, the motivations of creditors to approve or disapprove [of the Plan] are irrelevant.
6. The requirement of creditors being able to consult together means being able to assess their legal entitlement *as creditors* before or after the plan in a similar manner.

24 In developing this summary of principles, Paperny J. considered a number of authorities from across Canada, including the following: *Sklar-Peppler Furniture Corp. v. Bank of Nova Scotia* (1991), 86 D.L.R. (4th) 621 (Ont. Gen. Div.); *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd.* (1988), 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 20 (Alta. Q.B.); *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re* (1991), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 71 (N.S. T.D.); *Woodward's Ltd., Re* (1993), 84 B.C.L.R. (2d) 206 (B.C. S.C.); *Northland Properties Ltd., Re* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 166 (B.C. S.C.); *Northland Properties Ltd., Re* (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C. C.A.); *NsC Diesel Power Inc., Re* (1990), 79 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1 (N.S. T.D.); *Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co.* (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154 (Alta. C.A.), (*sub nom. Amoco Acquisition Co. v. Savage*); *Wellington Building Corp., Re* (1934), 16 C.B.R. 48 (Ont. S.C.). Her

summarized principles were cited by the Alberta Court of Appeal, apparently with approval, in a subsequent *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* decision: *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* (2000), 19 C.B.R. (4th) 33 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]) at para. 27.

25 In the passage from his reasons cited above (paragraphs 13 and 14) the supervising judge in this case applied those principles. In our view he was correct in law in doing so.

26 We do not read the foregoing principles as being inconsistent with the earlier decision of this court in *Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)*. There the court applied a common interest test in determining that the two creditors in question ought not to be grouped in the same class of creditors for voting purposes. But the differing interests in question were not different legal interests as between the two creditors; they were different legal interests as between each of the creditors and the debtor company. One creditor (the Bank) held first security over the debtor company's receivables and the other creditor (RoyNat) held second security on those assets; RoyNat, however, held first security over the debtor's building and realty, whereas the Bank was second in priority in relation to those assets. The two creditors had differing commercial interests in how the assets should be dealt with (it was in the interests of the bank, with a smaller claim, to collect and retain the more realizable receivable assets, but in the interests of RoyNat to preserve the cash flow and have the business sold as a going concern). Those differing commercial interests were rooted in differing legal interests as between the individual creditors and the debtor company, arising from the different security held. Because of the size of its claim, RoyNat would dominate any group that it was in, and Finlayson J.A. was of the view that RoyNat, as the holder of second security, should not be able to override the Bank's legal interest as the first secured creditor with respect to the receivables by virtue of its voting rights. On the basis that there was "no true community of interest" between the secured creditors (p. 259), given their different legal interests, he ordered that the Bank be placed in a separate class for voting purposes.

27 *Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)* did not deal with the issue of whether creditors with divergent interests as amongst themselves — as opposed to divergent legal interests vis-à-vis the debtor company — could be forced to vote as members of a common class. Nor did it apply an "identity of interest" test — a test that has been rejected as too narrow and too likely to lead to excessive fragmentation: see *Sklar-Peppler Furniture Corp. v. Bank of Nova Scotia, supra.*; *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd., supra*; *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re, supra*; *Woodward's Ltd., Re, supra*. In our view, there is nothing in the decision in *Nova Metal Products Inc.* that is inconsistent with the evolutionary set of principles developed in the Alberta jurisprudence and applied by the supervising judge here.

28 In addition to commonality of interest concerns, a court dealing with a classification of creditors issue needs to be alert to concerns about the confiscation of legal rights and about avoiding what the parties have referred to as "a tyranny of the minority". Examples of the former include *Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)*⁴ and *Wellington Building Corp., Re, supra*⁵. Examples of the latter include *Sklar-Peppler, supra*⁶ and *Campeau Corp., Re* (1991), 10 C.B.R. (3d) 100 (Ont. Gen. Div.)⁷.

29 Here, as noted earlier in these reasons, the respondents argue that the appellants are seeking a separate classification in order to extract a benefit to which they are not entitled, namely a concession that the Turnover Payment requirements of their subordinated position be extinguished by the Proposed Plan, thus avoiding their obligation to transfer payments to the Senior Debt Holders until they have been paid in full, and freeing up all of the distribution the appellants will receive from Stelco for payment on account of their own claims. On the other hand, the appellants point to this conflict between the Subordinated Debenture Holders and the Senior Debt Holders as evidence that they do not have a commonality of interest or the ability to consult together with a view to whatever commonality of interest they may have vis-à-vis Stelco.

30 We agree with the line of authorities summarized in *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* and applied by the supervising judge in this case which stipulate that the classification of creditors is determined by their legal rights in relation to the debtor company, as opposed to their rights as creditors in relation to each other. To the extent that other authorities at the trial level in other jurisdictions may suggest to the contrary — see, for example *NsC Diesel Power Inc., Re, supra* — we prefer the Alberta approach.

31 There are good reasons for such an approach.

32 First, as the supervising judge noted, the CCAA itself is more compendiously styled "An act to facilitate compromises and arrangements between companies and their creditors". There is no mention of dealing with issues that would change the nature of the relationships as between the creditors themselves. As Tysoe J. noted in *Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. v. Air Canada*, [2001] B.C.J. No. 2580 (B.C. S.C.) at para. 24 (after referring to the full style of the legislation):

[The purpose of the CCAA proceeding] is not to deal with disputes between a creditor of a company and a third party, even if the company was also involved in the subject matter of the dispute. While issues between the debtor company and non-creditors are sometimes dealt with in CCAA proceedings, it is not a proper use of a CCAA proceeding to determine disputes between parties other than the debtor company.

33 In this particular case, the supervising judge was very careful to say that nothing in his reasons should be taken to determine or affect the relationship between the Subordinate Debenture Holders and the Senior Debt Holders.

34 Secondly, it has long been recognized that creditors should be classified in accordance with their contract rights, that is, according to their respective interests in the debtor company: see Stanley E. Edwards, "Reorganizations Under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1947) 25 Can. Bar. Rev. 587, at p. 602.

35 Finally, to hold the classification and voting process hostage to the vagaries of a potentially infinite variety of disputes as between already disgruntled creditors who have been caught in the maelstrom of a CCAA restructuring, runs the risk of hobbling that process unduly. It could lead to the very type of fragmentation and multiplicity of discrete classes or sub-classes of classes that judges and legal writers have warned might well defeat the purpose of the Act: see Stanley Edwards, "Reorganizations under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act", *supra*; Ronald N. Robertson Q.C., "Legal Problems on Reorganization of Major Financial and Commercial Debtors", Canadian Bar Association — Ontario Continuing Legal Education, 5th April 1983 at 19-21; *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleum Ltd.*, *supra*, at para. 27; *Northland Properties Ltd., Re*, *supra*; *Sklar-Peppler*, *supra*; *Woodward's Ltd., Re*, *supra*.

36 In the end, it is important to remember that classification of creditors, like most other things pertaining to the CCAA, must be crafted with the underlying purpose of the CCAA in mind, namely facilitation of the reorganization of an insolvent company through the negotiation and approval of a plan of compromise or arrangement between the debtor company and its creditors, so that the debtor company can continue to carry on its business to the benefit of all concerned. As Paperny J. noted in *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*, "the Court should be careful to resist classification approaches that would potentially jeopardize viable Plans."

Discretion and Fact Finding

37 Having concluded that the supervising judge made no error in law or principle in his approach to the classification issue, we can find no error in his factual findings or in his exercise of discretion in determining that the Subordinate Debenture Holders should remain in the same class as the Senior Debt Holders and Trade Creditors in the circumstances of this case.

38 We agree that there is no material distinction between the legal rights of the Subordinated Debenture Holders and those of the Senior Debt Holders vis-à-vis Stelco. Each is entitled to be paid the monies owing under their respective debt contracts. The only difference is that the former creditors are subordinated in interest to the latter and have agreed to pay over to the latter any portion of their recovery received until the Senior Debt has been paid in full. As between the two groups of creditors, this merely reflects the very deal the Subordinated Debenture Holders bought into when they purchased their subordinated debentures. For that reason, the supervising judge was also entitled to determine that this was not a case involving any confiscation of legal rights.

39 Finally, the supervising judge's finding that there is no "realistic conflict of interest" between the creditors is supported on the record. Each has the same general interest in relation to Stelco, namely to be paid under their contracts, and to maximize the amount recoverable from the debtor company through the Plan negotiation process. We do not accept the argument that

the Senior Debt Holder's efforts will be moderated in some respect because they will be content to make their recovery on the backs of the Subordinated Debenture Holders through the Turnover Payment process. In order to carry the class, the Senior Debt Holders will require the support of the Trade Creditors, whose interest is not affected by the subordination agreement. Thus the Senior Debt Holders will be required to support the maximization approach.

40 We need not deal with whether a realistic and genuine conflict of interest, produced by different legal positions of creditors vis-à-vis each other, could ever warrant separate classes, as we are satisfied that even if it could, this is not such a case.

Disposition

41 Accordingly, we would not interfere with the supervising judge's decision that the appellants had not made out a case for a separate class. The appeal is therefore dismissed.

Goudge J.A.:

I agree.

Sharpe J.A.:

I agree.

Application granted; appeal dismissed.

Footnotes

- 1 R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended.
- 2 Farley J. uses the term "ConCom debt" to refer to the debt represented by the Converts' Committee (i.e., that of the Subordinated Debenture Holders), and the term "BondCom debt" to refer to that of the Senior Debt Holders.
- 3 The *Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act*, 1870.
- 4 A second secured creditor with superior voting power was separated from a first secured creditor for voting purposes, in order prevent the former from utilising its superior voting strength to adversely affect the latter's prior security position.
- 5 The court refused to allow subsequent mortgagees to vote in the same class as a first mortgagee because in the circumstances the subsequent mortgagees would be able to use their voting power to destroy the priority rights and security of the first mortgagee.
- 6 Borins J., as he then was, warned against the dangers of "excessive fragmentation" and of creating "a special class simply for the benefit of the opposing creditor, which would give that creditor the potential to exercise an unwarranted degree of power".
- 7 Montgomery J. declined to grant a separate classification to a minority group of creditors who would use that classification to extract benefits to which it was not otherwise entitled.

6

Most Negative Treatment: Distinguished

Most Recent Distinguished: [San Francisco Gifts Ltd., Re](#) | 2004 ABQB 705, 2004 CarswellAlta 1241, [2004] A.J. No. 1062, 134 A.C.W.S. (3d) 239, 42 Alta. L.R. (4th) 352, [2004] A.W.L.D. 579, 359 A.R. 71, 5 C.B.R. (5th) 92 | (Alta. Q.B., Sep 28, 2004)

2000 CarswellAlta 623
Alberta Court of Queen's Bench

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re

2000 CarswellAlta 623, [2000] A.W.L.D. 642, [2000] A.J. No. 1693, 19 C.B.R. (4th) 12

In the Matter of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36

In the Matter of the Business Corporations Act (Alberta) S.A. 1981, c. B-15, As Amended, Section 185

In the Matter of Canadian Airlines Corporation and Canadian Airlines International Ltd.

Paperny J.

Judgment: May 12, 2000 *

Docket: Calgary 0001-05071

Proceedings: refused leave to appeal *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*, 2000 ABCA 149, 80 Alta. L.R. (3d) 213 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers])

Counsel: *A.L. Friend, Q.C., H.M. Kay, Q.C.*, and *R.B. Low, Q.C.*, for Canadian Airlines.

V.P. Lalonde and *Ms M. Lalonde*, for AMR Corporation.

S. Dunphy, for Air Canada.

P.T. McCarthy, Q.C., for PricewaterhouseCoopers.

D. Nishimura, for Resurgence Asset Management LLC.

E. Halt, for Claims Officer.

A.J. McConnell, for Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company of New York and Montreal Trust Co. of Canada.

Subject: Corporate and Commercial; Insolvency

Headnote

Corporations --- Arrangements and compromises — Under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Miscellaneous issues

Creditors of corporation gave corporation concessions worth \$200 million in exchange for assurance from airline that creditors would cease to be affected by CCAA proceedings — Concessions were reflected in promissory notes assigned to airline in exchange for its guarantee of aircraft leases — Representative of 60 per cent of unsecured noteholders in corporation brought application for order that all unsecured claims held or controlled by airline be placed in separate class from other unsecured claims for voting purposes, and for order striking portion of reorganization plan — Application dismissed — Class of creditors should include all those with commonality of interest — Commonality of interest refers to rights creditor has vis-à-vis debtor — "Interest" does not include personality or identity of creditor, and absent bad faith, motivation of creditor for supporting plan is not classification issue — Proper point at which to consider effect of airline's status as assignee of unsecured debt was at fairness hearing — Legal rights of unsecured noteholders and airline were essentially same — Votes cast by airline should be tabulated separately to provide evidentiary record for fairness hearing — Propriety of airline voting to share in pool of cash funded by it for benefit of unsecured creditors was also issue

best considered at fairness hearing — Provision of plan that released directors, officers and others should not be struck at classification stage as fairness of proposed compromises or claims was issue for fairness hearing — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36.

Table of Authorities

Cases considered by *Paperny J.*:

Fairview Industries Ltd., Re (1991), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 71, (sub nom. *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re (No. 3)*) 109 N.S.R. (2d) 32, (sub nom. *Fairview Industries Ltd., Re (No. 3)*) 297 A.P.R. 32 (N.S. T.D.) — considered

Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd. (1988), 64 Alta. L.R. (2d) 139, [1989] 2 W.W.R. 566, 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 20, 72 C.R. (N.S.) 20 (Alta. Q.B.) — considered

Northland Properties Ltd., Re (1988), 31 B.C.L.R. (2d) 35, 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 166 (B.C. S.C.) — considered

Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada, 34 B.C.L.R. (2d) 122, 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195, [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363 (B.C. C.A.) — considered

NsC Diesel Power Inc., Re (1990), 79 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1, 97 N.S.R. (2d) 295, 258 A.P.R. 295 (N.S. T.D.) — considered

Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co. (1988), 59 Alta. L.R. (2d) 260, 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154, 40 B.L.R. 188, (sub nom. *Amoco Acquisition Co. v. Savage*) 87 A.R. 321 (Alta. C.A.) — considered

Sklar-Peppler Furniture Corp. v. Bank of Nova Scotia (1991), 8 C.B.R. (3d) 312, 86 D.L.R. (4th) 621 (Ont. Gen. Div.) — considered

Sovereign Life Assurance Co. v. Dodd (1891), [1891-4] All E.R. Rep. 246, [1892] 2 Q.B. 573 (Eng. C.A.) — applied

Wellington Building Corp., Re, 16 C.B.R. 48, [1934] O.R. 653, [1934] 4 D.L.R. 626 (Ont. S.C.) — distinguished

Woodward's Ltd., Re (1993), 20 C.B.R. (3d) 74, 84 B.C.L.R. (2d) 206 (B.C. S.C.) — considered

Statutes considered:

Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3

Generally — referred to

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36

Generally — considered

s. 5.1 [en. 1997, c. 12, s. 122] — referred to

s. 5.1(3) [en. 1997, c. 12, s. 122] — considered

APPLICATION by unsecured creditors of corporation for order that unsecured claims held by Air Canada should be placed in separate class from other unsecured creditors, and for order striking portion of reorganization plan.

***Paperny J.* (orally):**

1 Resurgence Asset Management LLC "Resurgence" appeared on behalf of holders of approximately 60 percent of the unsecured notes issued by Canadian Airlines Corporation in the total amount of \$100 million U.S. These unsecured note holders are proposed to be classified as unsecured creditors in the plan that is the subject of these proceedings.

2 Resurgence applied for the following relief:

1. An order lifting the stay of proceedings against Canadian Airlines Corporation and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (respectively "CAC" and "CAIL" and collectively called "Canadian") to permit Resurgence to commence and proceed with an oppression action against Canadian, Air Canada and others.

2. Further, and in the alternative, Resurgence sought the same relief described in item one above in the context of the C.C.A.A. proceedings.

3. An order that any and all unsecured claims held or controlled, directly or indirectly by Air Canada shall be placed in a separate class and either not allowed to be voted at all, or, alternatively, allowed to be voted in separate class from all other affected unsecured claims.

4. An order that there be a separation in class between creditors of CAC and CAIL

5. An order striking Section 6.2(2)(ii) of the plan on the basis that it is contrary to the C.C.A.A.

3 Resurgence abandoned the application described in item 1 above, and the application in item 2 was addressed in my ruling given May 8, 2000, in these proceedings.

Standing

4 Prior to dealing with the remaining issues of classification, voting and Section 6.2(2)(ii) of the plan, the issue of standing needs to be addressed. This was a matter of some debate, largely in the context of the first two applications. Canadian argued that Resurgence was only a fund manager and did not hold the unsecured notes, beneficially or otherwise, and, accordingly, did not have standing to make any of the applications. The evidence establishes that Resurgence is not the legal owner and the evidence of beneficial ownership is equivocal.

5 Canadian has not raised this issue on any of the previous occasions on which Resurgence has been before the court in these proceedings. There has been a consent order involving Resurgence and Canadian.

6 In my view, it is not appropriate now for Canadian to suggest that Resurgence does not represent the interests of the holders of 60 percent of the unsecured notes and essentially seek a declaration that Resurgence is a stranger to these proceedings.

7 I am not prepared to dismiss the applications of Resurgence on classification, voting and amending the plan out of hand on the basis of standing.

8 Resurgence was also supported in these applications by the senior secured note holders. For the purposes of these applications, I accept that Resurgence is representing the interests of 60 percent of the unsecured note holders.

Classification of Air Canada's Unsecured Claim

9 By my April 14, 2000 order in these proceedings, I approved transactions involving CAIL, a large number of aircraft lessors and Air Canada, which achieved approximately \$200 million worth of concessions for CAIL. In exchange for granting the concession, each creditor received a guarantee from Air Canada and the assurance that the creditor would immediately cease to be affected by the C.C.A.A. proceedings.

10 These concessions or deficiency claims were quantified and reflected in promissory notes which were assigned to Air Canada in exchange for its guarantee of the aircraft leases. The monitor approved the method of quantifying these claims

and recognized the value of the concessions to Canadian. In that order I reserved the issue of classification and voting to be determined at some later date. The plan provides for two classes of creditors, secured and unsecured.

11 The unsecured class is composed of a number of types of unsecured claims, including aircraft financings, executory contracts, unsecured notes, litigation claims, real estate leases and the deficiencies, if any, of the senior secured note holders.

12 In one portion of the application, Resurgence seeks to have Air Canada vote the promissory notes in separate class and relied on several factors to distinguish the claims of other Affected, Unsecured Creditors from Air Canada's unsecured claim, including the following:

1. The Air Canada appointed board caused Canadian to enter into these C.C.A.A. proceedings under which Air Canada stands to gain substantial benefits in its own operations and in the merged operations and ownership contemplated after the compromise of debts under the plan.

2. Air Canada is providing the fund of money to be distributed to the Affected Unsecured Creditors and will, therefore, end up paying itself a portion of that money if it is included in the Affected Unsecured Creditors' class and permitted to vote.

3. Air Canada gave no real consideration in acquiring the deficiency claims and manufactured them only to secure a 'yes' vote.

13 Air Canada and Canadian argue that the legal right associated with Air Canada's unsecured promissory notes and with the other Affected, Unsecured Claims, are the same and that the matters raised by Resurgence, as relating to classification, are really matters of fairness, more appropriately dealt with at the fairness hearing. Air Canada and Canadian emphasized that classification must be determined according to the rights of the creditors, not their personalities.

14 The starting point in determining classification is the statute under which the parties are operating and from which the court obtains its jurisdiction. The primary purpose of the C.C.A.A. is to facilitate the re-organization of insolvent companies, and this goal must be given proper consideration at every stage of the C.C.A.A. process, including classification of claims; see, for example, *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleums Ltd.* (1988), 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 20 (Alta. Q.B.)

15 Beyond identifying secured and unsecured classes, the C.C.A.A. does not offer any guidance to the classification of claims. The process, instead, has developed in the case law.

16 A frequently cited description of the method of classification of creditors for the purposes of voting on a plan, under the C.C.A.A., is *Sovereign Life Assurance Co. v Dodd* (1891), [1892] 2 Q.B. 573 (Eng. C.A.).

17 At page 583 (Q.B.), Bowen, L.J. stated:

The word 'class' is vague and to find out what is meant by it, we must look at the scope of the section which is a section enabling the court to order a meeting of a class of creditors to be called. It seems plain that we must give such a meaning to the term 'class' as will prevent the section being so worked as to result in confiscation and injustice, and that it must be confined to those persons whose rights are not so dissimilar as to make it impossible for them to consult together with the view to their common interest.

This test has been described as the "commonality of interest" test. All counsel agree that this is the test to apply in classification of claims under the C.C.A.A. However, there is a dispute on the types of interests that are to be considered in determining commonality.

18 Generally, the cases hold that classification is a fact-driven determination unique to the circumstances of every case, upon which the court should be loathe to impose rules for universal application, particularly in light of the flexible and remedial jurisdiction involved; see, for example, *Re Fairview Industries Ltd.* (1991), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 71 (N.S. T.D.)

19 The majority of the cases presented to me, held that commonality of the interest is to be determined by the rights the creditor has vis-a-vis the debtor. Courts have also found it helpful to consider the context of the proposed plan and treatment of creditors under a liquidation scenario. In the absence of bad faith, motivation for supporting or rejecting a plan is not a classification issue in the authorities.

20 In considering what interests are included in the commonality of interest test, Forsyth J., in *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd.* (Supra) had to determine whether all the secured creditors of the company ought to be included in one class. The creditors all had first-charge security and the same method of valuation was applied to each secured claim in order to determine security value under the plan. The distinguishing features were submitted to be based on the difference in the security held, including ease of marketability and realization potential. In holding that a separate class was not necessary, Forsyth J., said at page 29:

Different security positioning and changing security values are a fact of life in the world of secured financing. To accept this argument would again result in a different class of creditor for each secured lender.

In doing so, Forsyth J. rejected the "identity of the interest" approach in which creditors in a class must have identical interests.

21 It was also submitted in *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd.* that since the purchaser under the plan had made financing arrangements with the Royal Bank, the bank had an interest not shared by the other secured creditors. Forsyth J., held that in the absence of any allegation that the Royal Bank was not acting bona fide in considering the benefit of the plan, the secured creditors could not be heard to criticize the presence of the Royal Bank in their class.

22 Forsyth J., also emphasized in *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd.* that the commonality test cannot be considered without also considering the underlying purpose of the C.C.A.A., which is to facilitate reorganizations of insolvent companies. To that end, the court should not approve a classification scheme which would make a reorganization difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. At the same time, while the C.C.A.A. grants the court the authority to alter the legal rights of parties other than the debtor company without their consent, the court will not permit a confiscation of rights or an injustice to occur.

23 The *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd.* approach was specifically adopted in British Columbia in *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada* (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C. C.A.), where it was held that various mortgagees with different mortgages against different properties were included in the same class.

24 In *Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co.* (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154 (Alta. C.A.) the Alberta Court of Appeal rejected the argument that shareholders who have private arrangements with the applicant or who are brokers or officers or otherwise in a special position vis-a-vis the debtor company, should be put in a special category.

25 At page 158 the court stated in regard to the test applied to classification:

We do not think that this rule justifies the division of shareholders into separate classes on the basis of their presumed prior commitment to a point of view. The state of facts, common to all, is that they are all offered this proposal, face as an alternative the break-up of this apparently insolvent company and hold shares that appear to be worthless on break-up. In any event, any attempt to divide them on the basis suggested, would be futile. One would have as many groups as there are shareholders.

The commonality of interest test was addressed by the British Columbia Supreme Court in *Re Woodward's Ltd.* (1993), 84 B.C.L.R. (2d) 206 (B.C. S.C.). Tysoe J. rejected the identity of interest approach and held that it was permissible to include creditors with different legal rights in the same class, so long as their legal rights were not so dissimilar that it was still possible for them to vote with a common interest.

26 Tysoe J. went on to find that legal interests should be considered in the context of the proposed plan and that it was also necessary to examine the legal rights of creditors in the context of the possible failure of the plan.

27 In other words, "interest" for the purpose of classification does not include the personality or identity of the creditor, and the interests it may have in the broader commercial sphere that might influence its decision or predispose it to vote in a particular way; rather, "interest" involves the entitlement of the debt holder viewed within the context of the provisions of the proposed plan. In that regard, see *Woodward's Ltd.* at page 212.

28 In *Fairview Industries Ltd.*, the court held that in classification there need not be a commonality of interest of debts involved, so long as the legal interests were the same. Justice Glube (as she then was) stated that it did not automatically follow that those with different commercial interests, for example, those with security on "quick" assets, are necessarily in conflict with those with security on "fixed" assets. She stated that just saying there is a conflict is insufficient to warrant separation.

29 In *Sklar-Peppler Furniture Corp. v. Bank of Nova Scotia (1991)*, 86 D.L.R. (4th) 621 (Ont. Gen. Div.) at 626 like *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd.*, the "identity of interests" approach was rejected. The court preserved a class of creditors which included debenture holders, terminated employees, realty lessors and equipment lessors.

30 Borins J. held that not every difference in the nature of the debt warrants a separate class and that in placing a broad and purposive interpretation on the C.C.A.A., the court should "take care to resist approaches which would potentially jeopardize a potentially viable plan." He observed that "excessive fragmentation is counterproductive to the legislative intent to facilitate corporate reorganization" and that it would be "improper to create a special class simply for the benefit of an opposing creditor which would give that creditor the potential to exercise an unwarranted degree of power." (p. 627).

31 In summary, the cases establish the following principles applicable to assessing commonality of interest:

1. Commonality of interest should be viewed on the basis of the non-fragmentation test, not on an identity of interest test;
2. The interests to be considered are the legal interests the creditor holds qua creditor in relationship to the debtor company, prior to and under the plan as well as on liquidation;
3. The commonality of these interests are to be viewed purposively, bearing in mind the object of the C.C.A.A., namely to facilitate reorganizations if at all possible;
4. In placing a broad and purposive interpretation on the C.C.A.A., the court should be careful to resist classification approaches which would potentially jeopardize potentially viable plans.
5. Absent bad faith, the motivations of the creditors to approve or disapprove are irrelevant.
6. The requirement of creditors being able to consult together means being able to assess their legal entitlement *as creditors* before or after the plan in a similar manner.

32 With this background, I will make several observations relating to the reasons asserted by Resurgence that distinguish Air Canada from the rest of the Affected Unsecured Creditors.

33 The first two reasons given relate to interests of Air Canada extraneous to its legal rights as a unsecured creditor. The third reason relates largely to the further assertion that Air Canada should not be allowed to vote at all. The matter of voting is addressed more specifically later in these reasons.

34 The factors described by Resurgence distinguish between Air Canada and other unsecured creditors relate largely to the fact that Air Canada is the assignee of the unsecured debt. In my view, that approach is to be discouraged at the classification stage. To require the court to consider who holds the claim, as distinct from what they hold, at that point would be untenable. I note that Mr. Edwards recognizes in 1947 in his article, "*Reorganizations under the Companies Creditors Arrangement Act*", (1947), 25 Cdn. Bar Rev. 587, and observe this concern is heightened in the current commercial reality of debt trading.

35 Resurgence also asserted that a court should avoid placing creditors with a potential conflict of interest in the same class and relies on *Re NsC Diesel Power Inc.* (1990), 79 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1 (N.S. T.D.), a case in which the court considered a potential conflict of interest between subcontractors and direct contractors. To the extent this case can be seen as decided on the basis of the distinct legal rights of the creditors, I agree with the result. To the extent that the case determined that a class could be separated based on a conflict of interest not based on legal right, I disagree. In my view, this would be the sort of issue the court should consider at the fairness hearing.

36 Resurgence also relied on the decisions of the British Columbia Supreme Court in *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 166 (B.C. S.C.), a case decided prior to *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd.*. In that case the court held that a subsidiary wholly owned by Northland Bank was incorporated to purchase certain bonds from Northland in exchange for preferred shares and was not entitled to vote. The court found that would be tantamount to Northland Bank voting in its own reorganization and relied on *Re Wellington Building Corp.*, [1934] O.R. 653, 16 C.B.R. 48 (Ont. S.C.) In this regard. I would note that the passage relied upon at page 5 in that case, in *Wellington Building Corp* (Supra) dealt with whether the scheme, as proposed, was unfair.

37 All creditors proposed to be included in the class of Affected, Unsecured Creditors, are all unsecured and are treated the same under the plan. All would be treated similarly under the BIA. The plan provides that they will receive 12 cents on the dollar. The Monitor opined that in liquidation unsecured creditors would realize a maximum of 3 cents on the dollar. Their legal interests are essentially the same. Issue is taken with the presence of Air Canada, supporter and funder of the plan, also having taken an assignment of a substantial, unsecured claim. However, absent bad faith, who creditors are is not relevant. Air Canada's mere presence in the class does not in and of itself constitute bad faith.

38 Further, all of these methods of distinguishing Air Canada's unsecured claim at their core are fundamentally issues of fairness which will be addressed by the Court at the fairness hearing on June 5, 2000. I am prepared to give serious consideration to these matters at that time and direct that there be a separate tabulation of the votes cast by Air Canada arising from any assignments of promissory notes they have taken, so that there is an evidentiary record to assist me in assessing the fairness of the vote when and if I am called upon to sanction the plan. This approach was taken by Justice Forsyth in *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd.*, and in my view is consistent with the underlying purpose of the C.C.A.A. I wish to emphasize that the concerns raised by Resurgence will form part of the assessment of the overall fairness of the plan.

39 Permitting the classification to remain intact for voting purposes will not result in a confiscation of rights of or injustice to the unsecured note holders. Their treatment does not at this point depart from any other Affected Unsecured Creditors and recognizes the similarity of legal rights. Although based on different legal instruments, the legal rights of the unsecured note holders and Air Canada are essentially the same. Neither has security, nor specific entitlement to assets. Further, the ability of all of the Affected Unsecured Creditors to realize their claims against the debtor companies, depend in significant part, on the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

40 The separate tabulation of votes will allow the "voice" of unsecured creditors to be heard, while at the same time, permit rather than rule out the possibility that a plan might proceed.

41 It is important to preserve this possibility in the interests of facilitating the aim of the C.C.A.A. and protecting interests of all constituents. To fracture the class prior to the vote, may have the effect of denying the court jurisdiction to consider sanctioning a plan which may pass the fairness test but which has been rejected by one creditor. This would be contrary to the purpose of the C.C.A.A.

Separating the Claims Against CAC and CAIL

42 Resurgence briefly argued that since Air Canada's debt is owed by CAIL only, it could only look to CAIL's assets in a bankruptcy and would not be able to look to any CAC assets. In contrast, Resurgence suggested that the unsecured note holders are creditors of both CAIL under a guarantee, and CAC under the notes. Resurgence submitted that the resulting difference in legal rights destroys the commonality of interests.

43 There is insufficient evidence to suggest that the unsecured note holders are also creditors of CAIL. Counsel referred only to a statement made by Mr. Carty on cross-examination that there was an "unsecured guarantee". However, no documents have been brought to my attention that would support this statement and, in of itself, the statement is not determinative. In any case, I do not have sufficient evidence before me to conclude that there would be a meaningful difference in recoveries for unsecured creditors of CAC and CAIL in the event of bankruptcy. I, therefore, cannot conclude on this basis that rights are being confiscated, unlike Tysoe J.'s ability to do so in *Re Woodward's Ltd.* Simply looking to different assets or pools of assets will not alone fracture a class; some unique additional legal right of value in liquidation going unrecognized in a plan and not balanced by others losing rights as well is needed on the analysis of Tysoe J.

44 I recognize the struggle between the unsecured note holders, represented by Resurgence on one side, and Air Canada and Canadian on the other. Resurgence fears the inclusion of Air Canada and the Affected Unsecured Creditors' class will swamp the vote. Air Canada and Canadian fear that exclusion of Air Canada will result in the voting down of a plan which, in their view, otherwise stands a realistic chance of approval. As unsecured creditors, they do share similar legal rights. As supporters or opponents of the plan, they may well have distinctly different financial or strategic interests. I believe that in the circumstances of this case, these other interests and their impact on the plan, are best addressed as matters of fairness at the June 5, 2000 hearing, and in this way, the concerns will be heard by the court without necessarily putting an end to the entire process.

Voting

45 Although my decision on classification makes it clear that I will permit Air Canada to vote on the plan, I wish to comment further on this issue. Air Canada submitted that it should be entitled to vote the face value of the promissory notes which represent deficiency claims assigned to it from aircraft lessors in the same fashion as any other creditor who has acquired the claims by assignment. All parties accept that deficiency claims such as these would normally be included and voted upon in an unsecured claims class. The request by Resurgence to deny them a vote would have the effect of varying rights associated with those notes.

46 The concessions achieved in the re-negotiation of the aircraft leases, represent value to CAIL. The methodology of calculation of the claims and their valuation was reviewed by the Monitor and this is not being challenged. Rather, it is because it is Air Canada that now holds them, that it is objectionable to Resurgence. Resurgence asserts that Air Canada manufactured the assignment so it could preserve a 'yes' vote. This, in my view, is a matter going to fairness. Is it fair for Air Canada to vote to share in the pool of cash funded by it for the benefit of unsecured creditors? That matter is best resolved at the fairness hearing.

47 Resurgence relied on *Northland Properties Ltd.* in which a wholly owned subsidiary of the debtor company was not allowed to vote because to do so would amount to the debtor company voting in its own reorganization. The corporate relationship between Air Canada and CAIL can be distinguished from the parent and wholly owned subsidiary in *Northland Properties Ltd.* Air Canada is not CAIL's parent and owns 10 percent of a numbered company which owns 82 percent of CAIL. Further, as noted above, the court in *Northland Properties Ltd.* apparently relied on the passage from *Wellington Building Corp* which indicated in that case the court was being asked to approve a plan as fair. Again, the basis on which Resurgence seeks to deprive Air Canada of its vote is really an issue of fairness.

Section 6(2)(2) of the Plan

48 Resurgence wishes me to strike out Section 6(2)(2) of the plan, which essentially purports to provide a release by affected creditors of all claims based in whole or in part on any act, omission transaction, event or occurrence that took place prior to the effective date in any way relating to the debtor companies and subsidiaries, the C.C.A.A. proceeding or the plan against:

1. The debtor companies and its subsidiaries;
2. The directors, officers and employees;
3. The former directors, officers and employees of the debtor companies and its subsidiaries; or

4. The respective current and former professionals of the entities, including the Monitor, its counsel and its current officers and directors, et cetera. Resurgence submits that this provision constitutes a wholesale release of directors and others which is beyond that permitted by Section 5.1 of the C.C.A.A. CAIL and CAC submit that the proposed release was not intended to preclude rights expressly preserved by the statute and are prepared to amend the plan to state this.

49 Section 5.1(3) of the C.C.A.A. provides that the court may declare that a claim against directors shall not be compromised if it is satisfied that the compromise would not be fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

50 In this application of Resurgence, the court must deal with two issues: One, what releases are permitted under the statute; and, two, what releases ought to be permitted, if any, under the plan.

51 In my view, I will be in a better position to assess the fairness of the proposed compromise of claims which is drafted in extremely broad terms, when I consider the other issues of fairness raised by Resurgence. Accordingly, I leave that matter to the fairness hearing as well.

52 In summary, the application contained in paragraph (d) of the Resurgence Notice of Motion is dismissed. The application in paragraph (e) is adjourned to June 5, 2000.

Application dismissed.

Footnotes

* [Leave to appeal refused 2000 ABCA 149, 80 Alta L.R. \(3d\) 213, 19 C.B.R. \(4th\) 33 \(Alta C.A. \[In Chambers\]\)](#).

7

2008 CarswellOnt 3523

Ontario Superior Court of Justice [Commercial List]

ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.

2008 CarswellOnt 3523, [2008] O.J. No. 2265, 168 A.C.W.S. (3d) 244, 43 C.B.R. (5th) 269, 47 B.L.R. (4th) 74

**In The Matter of the Companies' Creditors
Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as Amended**

And In The Matter of a Plan of Compromise and Arrangement Involving Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII Corp., 6932819 Canada Inc. and 4446372 Canada Inc., Trustees of the Conduits Listed in Schedule "A" Hereto

The Investors Represented on the Pan-Canadian Investors Committee for Third-Party Structured Asset-Backed Commercial Paper Listed in Schedule "B" Hereto (Applicants) and Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III, Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI, Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII, Corp., 6932819 Canada Inc. and 4446372 Canada Inc., Trustees of the Conduits Listed in Schedule "A" Hereto (Respondents)

C. Campbell J.

Heard: May 12-13, 2008; June 3, 2008

Judgment: June 5, 2008

Docket: 08-CL-7440

Counsel: B. Zarnett, F. Myers, B. Empey, for Applicants

Donald Milner, Graham Phoenix, Xeno C. Martis, David Lemieux, Robert Girard, for Respondents, Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII Corp.

Aubrey Kauffman, Stuart Brotman, for Respondents, 4446372 Canada Inc., 6932819 Canada Inc., as Issuer Trustees

Subject: Insolvency; Corporate and Commercial

Headnote

Bankruptcy and insolvency --- Proposal — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Arrangements — Approval by court — Miscellaneous issues

Releases — Parties were financial institutions, dealers and noteholders in market for Asset Backed Commercial Paper ("ABCP") — Canadian ABCP market experienced liquidity crisis — Plan of Compromise and Arrangement ("Plan") was put forward under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act ("CCAA") — Plan included Releases for claims against banks and dealers in negligence, misrepresentation and fraud, with "carve out" allowing fraudulent misrepresentations claims — Noteholders voted in favour of Plan — Minority of noteholders ("opponents") opposed Plan based on Releases — Applicants brought application for approval of Plan — Application granted — CCAA provided jurisdiction to approve Releases since they were appropriate for success of Plan — Decisions cited by opponents were not helpful as they concerned releases that did not extend to third party or that did not directly involve company — In case at bar, parties released were directly involved in company, and opponents' claims were directly related to value of company — Releases

were fair and reasonable — Given purpose of CCAA, it was reasonable to compromise claims to complete restructuring — Carve out balanced benefits to noteholders and recovery for fraud — No plan brought forward would permit fraud claims urged by opponents — Plan would be withdrawn without Releases — Plan was legitimate use of CCAA to restore confidence in Canadian financial system.

Table of Authorities

Cases considered by C. Campbell J.:

ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp. (2008), 2008 CarswellOnt 2653, 42 C.B.R. (5th) 102 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) — referred to

ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp. (2008), 2008 CarswellOnt 2820 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) — referred to

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re (2000), [2000] 10 W.W.R. 269, 20 C.B.R. (4th) 1, 84 Alta. L.R. (3d) 9, 9 B.L.R. (3d) 41, 2000 CarswellAlta 662, 2000 ABQB 442, 265 A.R. 201 (Alta. Q.B.) — considered

Canadian Red Cross Society / Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge, Re (1998), 1998 CarswellOnt 3346, 5 C.B.R. (4th) 299, 72 O.T.C. 99 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) — considered

Continental Insurance Co. v. Dalton Cartage Co. (1982), 25 C.P.C. 72, [1982] 1 S.C.R. 164, 131 D.L.R. (3d) 559, (sub nom. *Dalton Cartage Ltd. v. Continental Insurance Co.*) 40 N.R. 135, [1982] I.L.R. 1-1487, 1982 CarswellOnt 372, 1982 CarswellOnt 719 (S.C.C.) — considered

Ecolab Ltd. v. Greenspace Services Ltd. (1996), 1996 CarswellOnt 3788 (Ont. Gen. Div.) — referred to

Kripps v. Touche Ross & Co. (1997), 1997 CarswellBC 925, 89 B.C.A.C. 288, 145 W.A.C. 288, 35 C.C.L.T. (2d) 60, [1997] 6 W.W.R. 421, 33 B.C.L.R. (3d) 254 (B.C. C.A.) — considered

Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re (2006), 25 C.B.R. (5th) 231, 2006 CarswellOnt 6230 (Ont. S.C.J.) — considered

Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re (2007), 30 C.B.R. (5th) 59, 2007 CarswellOnt 1029 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) — considered

NBD Bank, Canada v. Dofasco Inc. (1999), 1999 CarswellOnt 4077, 1 B.L.R. (3d) 1, 181 D.L.R. (4th) 37, 46 O.R. (3d) 514, 47 C.C.L.T. (2d) 213, 127 O.A.C. 338, 15 C.B.R. (4th) 67 (Ont. C.A.) — distinguished

Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co. (1993), 17 C.B.R. (3d) 1, (sub nom. *Olympia & York Developments Ltd., Re*) 12 O.R. (3d) 500, 1993 CarswellOnt 182 (Ont. Gen. Div.) — considered

Peek v. Derry (1889), 14 H. of L. 337, 38 W.R. 33, 1 Megones Companies Act Cas 292, L.R. 14 App. Cas. 337, [1886-1890] All E.R. Rep. 1, 58 L.J. Ch. 864, 61 L.T. 265, 54 J.P. 148, 5 T.L.R. 625, 14 A.C. 337 (U.K. H.L.) — referred to

Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud (1993), [1993] R.J.Q. 1684, 55 Q.A.C. 298, 1993 CarswellQue 229, 1993 CarswellQue 2055, 42 C.B.R. (5th) 1 (Que. C.A.) — considered

Stelco Inc., Re (2005), 2005 CarswellOnt 6483, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 297 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) — considered

Stelco Inc., Re (2005), 2005 CarswellOnt 6818, 204 O.A.C. 205, 78 O.R. (3d) 241, 261 D.L.R. (4th) 368, 11 B.L.R. (4th) 185, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 307 (Ont. C.A.) — considered

Stelco Inc., Re (2007), 2007 ONCA 483, 2007 CarswellOnt 4108, 35 C.B.R. (5th) 174, 32 B.L.R. (4th) 77, 226 O.A.C. 72 (Ont. C.A.) — considered

Toronto Dominion Bank v. Leigh Instruments Ltd. (Trustee of) (1998), 1998 CarswellOnt 2565, 63 O.T.C. 1, 40 B.L.R. (2d) 1 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) — followed

U.S. v. Energy Resources Co. (1990), 495 U.S. 545, 65 A.F.T.R.2d 90-1078, 58 U.S.L.W. 4609, 109 L.Ed.2d 580, 110 S.Ct. 2139 (U.S. Sup. Ct.) — considered

Viewwest, Re (2003), 2003 CarswellOnt 3600 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) — referred to

Statutes considered:

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36

Generally — referred to

s. 5 — referred to

s. 5.1 [en. 1997, c. 12, s. 122] — referred to

Interpretation Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-21

s. 10 — considered

Negligence Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. N.1

Generally — referred to

Words and phrases considered:

fraud

The definition of fraud in a corporate context in the common law of Canada starts with the proposition that it must be made (1) knowingly; (2) without belief in its truth; (3) recklessly, careless whether it be true or false. . . . It is my understanding that while expressed somewhat differently, the above-noted ingredients form the basis of fraud claims in the civil law of Quebec, although there are differences.

APPLICATION for approval of Plan of Compromise and Arrangement under *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* to address liquidity crisis in market for Asset Backed Commercial Paper.

C. Campbell J.:

1 This decision follows a sanction hearing in parts in which applicants sought approval of a Plan under the *Companies Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA.") Approval of the Plan as filed and voted on by Noteholders was opposed by a number of corporate and individual Noteholders, principally on the basis that this Court does not have the jurisdiction under the CCAA or if it does should not exercise discretion to approve third party releases.

History of Proceedings

2 On Monday, March 17, 2008, two Orders were granted. The first, an Initial Order on essentially an *ex parte* basis and in a form that has become familiar to insolvency practitioners, granted a stay of proceedings, a limitation of rights and remedies, the appointment of a Monitor and for service and notice of the Order.

3 The second Order made dated March 17, 2008 provided for a meeting of Noteholders and notice thereof, including the sending of what by then had become the Amended Plan of Compromise and Arrangement. Reasons for Decision were issued on April 8, 2008 elaborating on the basis of the Initial Order.

4 No appeal was taken from either of the Orders of March 17, 2008. Indeed, on the return of a motion made on April 23, 2008 by certain Noteholders (the moving parties) to adjourn the meeting then scheduled for and held on April 25, 2008, no challenge was made to the Initial Order.

5 Information was sought and provided on the issue of classification of Noteholders. The thrust of the Motions was and has been the validity of the releases of various parties provided for in the Plan.

6 The cornerstone to the material filed in support of the Initial Order was the affidavit of Purdy Crawford, O.C., Q.C., Chairman of the Applicant Pan Canadian Investors Committee. There has been no challenge to Mr. Crawford's description of the Asset Backed Commercial Paper ("ABCP") market or in general terms the circumstances that led up to the liquidity crisis that occurred in the week of August 13, 2007, or to the formation of the Plan now before the Court.

7 The unchallenged evidence of Mr. Crawford with respect to the nature of the ABCP market and to the development of the Plan is a necessary part of the consideration of the fairness and indeed the jurisdiction, of the Court to approve the form of releases that are said to be integral to the Plan.

8 As will be noted in more detail below, the meeting of Noteholders (however classified) approved the Plan overwhelmingly at the meeting of April 25, 2008.

Background to the Plan

9 Much of the description of the parties and their relationship to the market are by now well known or referred to in the earlier reasons of March 17 or April 4, 2008.

10 The focus here will be on that portion of the background that is necessary for an understanding of and decision on, the issues raised in opposition to the Plan.

11 Not unlike a sporting event that is unfamiliar to some attending without a program, it is difficult to understand the role of various market participants without a description of it. Attached as Appendix 2 are some of the terms that describe the parties, which are from the Glossary that is part of the Information Statement, attached to various of the Monitor's Reports.

12 A list of these entities that fall into various definitional categories reveals that they comprise Canadian chartered banks, Canadian investment houses and foreign banks and financial institutions that may appear in one or more categories of conduits, dealers, liquidity providers, asset providers, sponsors or agents.

13 The following paragraphs from Mr. Crawford's affidavit succinctly summarize the proximate cause of the liquidity crisis, which since August 2007 has frozen the market for ABCP in Canada:

[7] Before the week of August 13, 2007, there was an operating market in ABCP. Various corporations (referred to below as "Sponsors") arranged for the Conduits to make ABCP available as an investment vehicle bearing interest at rates slightly higher than might be available on government or bank short-term paper.

[8] The ABCP represents debts owing by the trustees of the Conduits. Most of the ABCP is short-term commercial paper (usually 30 to 90 days). The balance of the ABCP is made up of commercial paper that is extendible for up to 364 days and longer-term floating rate notes. The money paid by investors to acquire ABCP was used to purchase a portfolio of financial assets to be held, directly or through subsidiary trusts, by the trustees of the Conduits. Repayment of each series of ABCP is supported by the assets held for that series, which serves as collateral for the payment obligations. ABCP is therefore said to be "asset-backed."

[9] Some of these supporting assets were mid-term, but most were long-term, such as pools of residential mortgages, credit card receivables or credit default swaps (which are sophisticated derivative products). Because of the generally long-term nature of the assets backing the ABCP, the cash flow they generated did not match the cash flow required to repay maturing ABCP. Before mid-August 2007, this timing mismatch was not a problem because many investors did not require repayment of ABCP on maturity; instead they reinvested or "rolled" their existing ABCP at maturity. As well, new ABCP was continually being sold, generating funds to repay maturing ABCP where investors required payment. Many of the trustees of the Conduits also entered into back-up liquidity arrangements with third-party lenders ("Liquidity Providers") who agreed to provide funds to repay maturing ABCP in certain circumstances.

[10] In the week of August 13, 2007, the ABCP market froze. The crisis was largely triggered by market sentiment, as news spread of significant defaults on U.S. sub-prime mortgages. In large part, investors in Canadian ABCP lost confidence because they did not know what assets or mix of assets backed their ABCP. Because of this lack of transparency, existing holders and potential new investors feared that the assets backing the ABCP might include sub-prime mortgages or other overvalued assets. Investors stopped buying new ABCP, and holders stopped "rolling" their existing ABCP. As ABCP became due, Conduits were unable to fund repayments through new issuances or replacement notes. Trustees of some Conduits made requests for advances under the back-up arrangements that were intended to provide liquidity; however, most Liquidity Providers took the position that the conditions to funding had not been met. With no new investment, no reinvestment, and no liquidity funding available, and with long-term underlying assets whose cash flows did not match maturing short-term ABCP, payments due on the ABCP could not be made — and no payments have been made since mid-August.

14 Between mid-August 2007 and the filing of the Plan, Mr. Crawford and the Applicant Committee have diligently pursued the object of restructuring not just the specific trusts that are part of this Plan, but faith in a market structure that has been a significant part of the broader Canadian financial market, which in turn is directly linked to global financial markets that are themselves in uncertain times.

15 The previous reasons of March 17, 2008 that approved for filing the Initial Plan, recognized not just the unique circumstances facing conduits and their sponsors, but the entire market in Canada for ABCP and the impact for financial markets generally of the liquidity crisis.

16 Unlike many CCAA situations, when at the time of the first appearance there is no plan in sight, much less negotiated, this rescue package has been the product of painstaking, complicated and difficult negotiations and eventually agreement.

17 The following five paragraphs from Mr. Crawford's affidavit crystallize the problem that developed in August 2007:

[45] Investors who bought ABCP often did not know the particular assets or mix of assets that backed their ABCP. In part, this was because ABCP was often issued and sold before or at about the same time the assets were acquired. In addition, many of the assets are extremely complex and parties to some underlying contracts took the position that the terms were confidential.

[46] Lack of transparency became a significant problem as general market fears about the credit quality of certain types of investment mounted during the summer of 2007. As long as investors were willing to roll their ABCP or buy new ABCP to replace maturing notes, the ABCP market was stable. However, beginning in the first half of 2007, the economy in the United States was shaken by what is referred to as the "sub-prime" lending crisis.

[47] U.S. sub-prime lending had an impact in Canada because ABCP investors became concerned that the assets underlying their ABCP either included U.S. sub-prime mortgages or were overvalued like the U.S. sub-prime mortgages. The lack of transparency into the pools of assets underlying ABCP made it difficult for investors to know if their ABCP investments included exposure to U.S. sub-prime mortgages or other similar products. In the week of August 13, that concern intensified to the point that investors stopped rolling their maturing ABCP, and instead demanded repayment, and new investors could not be found. Certain trustees of the Conduits then tried to draw on their Liquidity Agreements to repay ABCP. Most of the Liquidity Providers did not agree that the conditions for liquidity funding had occurred and did not provide funding, so the ABCP could not be repaid. Deteriorating conditions in the credit market affected all the ABCP, including ABCP backed by traditional assets not linked to sub-prime lending.

[48] Some of the Asset Providers made margin calls under LSS swaps on certain of the Conduits, requiring them to post additional collateral. Since they could not issue new ABCP, roll over existing ABCP or draw on their Liquidity Agreements, those Conduits were not able to post the additional collateral. Had there been no standstill arrangement, as described below, these Asset Providers could have unwound the swaps and ultimately could have liquidated the collateral posted by the Conduits.

[49] Any liquidation of assets under an LSS swap would likely have further depressed the LSS market, creating a domino effect under the remaining LSS swaps by triggering their "mark-to-market" triggers for additional margin calls, ultimately leading to the sale of more assets, at very depressed prices. The standstill arrangement has, to date, through successive extensions, prevented this from occurring, in anticipation of the restructuring.

18 The "Montreal Accord," as it has been called, brought together various industry representatives, Asset Providers and Liquidity Providers who entered into a "Standstill Agreement," which committed to the framework for restructuring the ABCP such that (a) all outstanding ABCP would be converted into term floating rate notes maturing at the same time as the corresponding underlying assets. This was intended to correct the mismatch between the long-term nature of the financial assets and the short-term nature of the ABCP; and (b) margin provisions under certain swaps would be changed to create renewed stability, reducing the likelihood of margin calls. This contract was intended to reduce the risk that the Conduits would have to post additional collateral for the swap obligations or be subject to having their assets seized and sold, thereby preserving the value of the assets and of the ABCP.

19 The Investors Committee of which Mr. Crawford is the Chair has been at work since September to develop a Plan that could be implemented to restore viability to the notes that have been frozen and restore liquidity so there can be a market for them.

20 Since the Plan itself is not in issue at this hearing (apart from the issue of the releases), it is not necessary to deal with the particulars of the Plan. Suffice to say I am satisfied that as the Information to Noteholders states at p. 69, "The value of the Notes if the Plan does not go forward is highly uncertain."

The Vote

21 A motion was held on April 25, 2008, brought by various corporate and individual Noteholders seeking:

- a) changing classification each in particular circumstances from the one vote per Noteholder regime;
- b) provision of information of various kinds;
- c) adjourning the vote of April 25, 2008 until issues of classification and information were fully dealt with;
- d) amending the Plan to delete various parties from release.

22 By endorsement of April 24, 2008 [2008 CarswellOnt 2653 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])] the issue of releases was in effect adjourned for determination later. The vote was not postponed, as I was satisfied that the Monitor would be able to tally the votes in such a way that any issue of classification could be dealt with at this hearing.

23 I was also satisfied that the Applicants and the Monitor had or would make available any and all information that was in existence and pertinent to the issue of voting. Of understandable concern to those identified as the moving parties are the developments outside the Plan affecting Noteholders holding less than \$1 million of Notes. Certain dealers, Canaccord and National Bank being the most prominent, agreed in the first case to buy their customers' ABCP and in the second to extend financing assistance.

24 A logical conclusion from these developments outside the Plan is that they were designed (with apparent success) to obtain votes in favour of the Plan from various Noteholders.

25 On a one vote per Noteholder basis, the vote was overwhelmingly in favour of the Plan approximately 96%. At a case conference held on April 29, 2008, the Monitor was asked to tabulate votes that would isolate into Class A all those entities in any way associated with the formulation of the Plan, whether or not they were Noteholders or sold or advised on notes, and into Class B all other Noteholders.

26 The results of the vote on the Restructuring Resolution, tabulated on the basis set out in paragraph 30 of the Monitor's 7th Report and using the Class structure referred to in the preceding paragraph, are summarized below:

	Number	Dollar Value
Class A		
Votes FOR the Restructuring Resolution	1,572 99.4%	\$23,898, 232,639 100.0%
Votes AGAINST the Restructuring —Resolution	9 0.6%	\$867,666 0.0%
CLASS B		
Votes FOR the Restructuring Resolution	289 80.5%	\$5,046, 951,989 81.2%
Votes AGAINST the Restructuring— Resolution	70 19.5%	\$1,168, 136,123 18.8%

27 I am satisfied that reclassification would not alter the strong majority supporting the Restructuring. The second request made at the case conference on April 29 was that the moving parties provide the Monitor with information that would permit a summary to be compiled of the claims that would have been made or anticipated to be made against so-called third parties, including Conduits and their trustees.

28 The information compiled by the Monitor reveals that the primary defendants are or are anticipated to be banks, including four Canadian chartered banks and dealers (many associated with Canadian banks). In the case of banks, they and their employees may be sued in more than one capacity.

29 The claims against proposed defendants are for the most part claims in tort, and include negligence, misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, failure to act prudently as a dealer/adviser, acting in conflict of interest and in a few instances, fraud or potential fraud.

30 Again in general terms, the claims for damages include the face value of notes plus interest and additional penalties and damages that may be allowable at law. It is noteworthy that the moving parties assume that they would be able to mitigate their claim for damages by taking advantage of the Plan offer without the need to provide releases.

31 The information provided by the potential defendants indicates the likelihood of claims over against parties such that no entity, institution or party involved in the Restructuring Plan could be assured being spared from likely involvement in lawsuits by way of third party or other claims over.

32 The chart prepared by the Monitor that is Appendix 3 to these Reasons shows graphically the extent of those entities that would be involved in future litigation.

Law and Analysis

33 Some of the moving parties in their written and oral submissions assumed that this Court has the power to amend the Plan to allow for the proposed lawsuits, whether in negligence or fraud. The position of the Applicants and supporting parties is that the Plan is to be accepted on the basis that it satisfies the criteria established under the CCAA, or it will be rejected on the basis that it does not.

34 I am satisfied that the Court does not have the power to amend the Plan. The Plan is that of the Applicants and their supporters. They have made it clear that the Plan is a package that allows only for acceptance or rejection by the Court. The Plan has been amended to address the concerns expressed by the Court in the May 16, 2008 [2008 CarswellOnt 2820 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])] endorsement.

35 I am satisfied and understand that if the Plan is rejected by the Court, either on the basis of fairness (i.e., that claims should be allowed to proceed beyond those provided for in the Plan) or lack of jurisdiction to compel compromise of claims, there is no reliable prospect that the Plan would be revised.

36 I do not consider that the Applicants or those supporting them are bluffing or simply trying to bargain for the best position for themselves possible. The position has been consistent throughout and for what I consider to be good and logical reasons. Those parties described as Asset or Liquidity Providers have a first secured interest in the underlying assets of the Trusts. To say that the value of the underlying assets is uncertain is an understatement after the secured interest of Asset Providers is taken into account.

37 When one looks at the Plan in detail, its intent is to benefit ALL Noteholders. Given the contribution to be made by those supporting the Plan, one can understand why they have said forcefully in effect to the Court, 'We have taken this as far as we can, particularly given the revisions. If it is not accepted by the Court as it has been overwhelmingly by Noteholders, we hold no prospect of another Plan coming forward.'

38 I have carefully considered the submissions of all parties with respect to the issue of releases. I recognize that to a certain extent the issues raised chart new territory. I also recognize that there are legitimate principle-based arguments on both sides.

39 As noted in the Reasons of April 8, 2008 and as reflected in the March 17, 2008 Order and May 16 Endorsement, the Plan represents a highly complex unique situation.

40 The vehicles for the Initial Order are corporations acting in the place of trusts that are insolvent. The trusts and the respondent corporations are not directly related except in the sense that they are all participants in the Canadian market for ABCP. They are each what have been referred to as issuer trustees.

41 There are a great number of other participants in the ABCP market in Canada who are themselves intimately connected with the Plan, either as Sponsors, Asset Providers, Liquidity Providers, participating banks or dealers.

42 I am satisfied that what is sought in this Plan is the restructuring of the ABCP market in Canada and not just the insolvent corporations that are issuer trustees.

43 The impetus for this market restructuring is the Investors Committee chaired by Mr. Crawford. It is important to note that all of the members of the Investors Committee, which comprise 17 financial and investment institutions (see Schedule B, attached), are themselves Noteholders with no other involvement. Three of the members of that Committee act as participants in other capacities.

44 The Initial Order, which no party has appealed or sought to vary or set aside, accepts for the purpose of placing before all Noteholders the revised Plan that is currently before the Court.

45 Those parties who now seek to exclude only some of the Release portions of the Plan do not take issue with the legal or practical basis for the goal of the Plan. Indeed, the statement in the Information to Noteholders, which states that

...as of August 31, 2007, of the total amount of Canadian ABCP outstanding of approximately \$116.8 billion (excluding medium-term and floating rate notes), approximately \$83.8 billion was issued by Canadian Schedule I bank-administered Conduits and approximately \$33 billion was issued by non-bank administered conduits)¹

is unchallenged.

46 The further description of the ABCP market is also not questioned:

ABCP programs have been used to fund the acquisition of long-term assets, such as mortgages and auto loans. Even when funding short-term assets such as trade receivables, ABCP issuers still face the inherent timing mismatch between cash generated by the underlying assets and the cash needed to repay maturing ABCP. Maturing ABCP is typically repaid with the proceeds of newly issued ABCP, a process commonly referred to as "rolling". Because ABCP is a highly rated commercial obligation with a long history of market acceptance, market participants in Canada formed the view that, absent a "general market disruption", ABCP would readily be saleable without the need for extraordinary funding measures. However, to protect investors in case of a market disruption, ABCP programs typically have provided liquidity back-up facilities, usually in amounts that correspond to the amount of the ABCP programs typically have provided liquidity back-up facilities, usually in amounts that correspond to the amount of the ABCP outstanding. In the event that an ABCP issuer is unable to issue new ABCP, it may be able to draw down on the liquidity facility to ensure that proceeds are available to repay any maturing ABCP. As discussed below, there have been important distinctions between different kinds of liquidity agreements as to the nature and scope of drawing conditions which give rise to an obligation of a liquidity provider to fund²

47 The activities of the Investors Committee, most of whom are themselves Noteholders without other involvement, have been lauded as innovative, pioneering and essential to the success of the Plan. In my view, it is entirely inappropriate to classify the vast majority of the Investors Committee, and indeed other participants who were not directly engaged in the sale of Notes, as third parties.

48 Given the nature of the ABCP market and all of its participants, it is more appropriate to consider all Noteholders as claimants and the object of the Plan to restore liquidity to the assets being the Notes themselves. The restoration of the liquidity of the market necessitates the participation (including more tangible contribution by many) of all Noteholders.

49 In these circumstances, it is unduly technical to classify the Issuer Trustees as debtors and the claims of Noteholders as between themselves and others as being those of third party creditors, although I recognize that the restructuring structure of the CCAA requires the corporations as the vehicles for restructuring.

50 The insolvency is of the ABCP market itself, the restructuring is that of the market for such paper - restructuring that involves the commitment and participation of all parties. The Latin words *sui generis* are used to mean something that is "one off" or "unique." That is certainly the case with this Plan.

51 The Plan, including all of its constituent parts, has been overwhelmingly accepted by Noteholders no matter how they are classified. In the sense of their involvement I do not think it appropriate to label any of the participants as Third Parties. Indeed, as this matter has progressed, additions to the supporter side have included for the proposed releases the members of the Ad Hoc Investors' Committee. The Ad Hoc group had initially opposed the release provisions. The Committee members account for some two billion dollars' worth of Notes.

52 It is more appropriate to consider all participants part of the market for the restructuring of ABCP and therefore not merely third parties to those Noteholders who may wish to sue some or all of them.

53 The benefit of the restructuring is only available to the debtor corporations with the input, contribution and direct assistance of the Applicant Noteholders and those associated with them who similarly contribute. Restructuring of the ABCP market cannot take place without restructuring of the Notes themselves. Restructuring of the Notes cannot take place without the input and capital to the insolvent corporations that replace the trusts.

54 A hearing was held on May 12 and 13 to hear the objections of various Noteholders to approval of the Plan insofar as it provided for comprehensive releases.

55 On May 16, 2008, by way of endorsement the issue of scope of the proposed releases was addressed. The following paragraphs from the endorsement capsulize the adjournment that was granted on the issue of releases:

[10] I am not satisfied that the release proposed as part of the Plan, which is broad enough to encompass release from fraud, is in the circumstances of this case at this time properly authorized by the CCAA, or is necessarily fair and reasonable. I simply do not have sufficient facts at this time on which to reach a conclusion one way or another.

[11] I have also reached the conclusion that in the circumstances of this Plan, at this time, it may well be appropriate to approve releases that would circumscribe claims for negligence. I recognize the different legal positions but am satisfied that this Plan will not proceed unless negligence claims are released.

56 The endorsement went on to elaborate on the particular concerns that I had with releases sought by the Applicants that could in effect exonerate fraud. As well, concern was expressed that the Plan might unduly bring hardship to some Noteholders over others.

57 I am satisfied that based on Mr. Crawford's affidavit and the statements commencing at p. 126 of the Information to Noteholders, a compelling case for the need for comprehensive releases, with the exception of certain fraud claims, has been made out.

The Released Parties have made comprehensive releases a condition of their participation in the Plan or as parties to the Approved Agreements. Each Released Party is making a necessary contribution to the Plan without which the Plan cannot be implemented. The Asset Providers, in particular, have agreed to amend certain of the existing contracts and/or enter into new contracts that, among other things, will restructure the trigger covenants, thereby increasing their risk of loss and decreasing the risk of losses being borne by Noteholders. In addition, the Asset Providers are making further contributions that materially improve the position of Noteholders generally, including through forbearing from making collateral calls since August 15, 2007, participating in the MAV2 Margin Funding Facility at pricing favourable to the Noteholders, accepting additional collateral at par with respect to the Traditional Assets and disclosing confidential information, none of which they are contractually obligated to do. The ABCP Sponsors have also released confidential information, co-operated with the Investors Committee and its advisors in the development of the Plan, released their claims in respect of certain future fees that would accrue to them in respect of the assets and are assisting in the transition of administration services to the Asset Administrator, should the Plan be implemented. The Original Issuer Trustees, the Issuer Trustees, the Existing Note Indenture Trustees and the Rating Agency have assisted in the restructuring process as needed and have co-operated with the Investors Committee in facilitating an essential aspect of the court proceedings required to complete the restructuring of the ABCP Conduits through the replacement of the Original Issuer Trustees where required.

In many instances, a party had a number of relationships in different capacities with numerous trades or programs of an ABCP Conduit, rendering it difficult or impracticable to identify and/or quantify any individual Released Party's contribution. Certain of the Released Parties may have contributed more to the Plan than others. However, in order for the releases to be comprehensive, the Released Parties (including those Released Parties without which no restructuring could occur) require that all Released Parties be included so that one Person who is not released by the Noteholders is unable to make a claim-over for contribution from a Released Party and thereby defeat the effectiveness of the releases. Certain entities represented on the Investors Committee have also participated in the Third-Party ABCP market in a variety of capacities other than as Noteholders and, accordingly, are also expected to benefit from these releases.

The evidence is unchallenged.

58 The questions raised by moving parties are (a) does the Court have jurisdiction to approve a Plan under the CCAA that provides for the releases in question?; and if so, (b) is it fair and reasonable that certain identified dealers and others be released?

59 I am also satisfied that those parties and institutions who were involved in the ABCP market directly at issue and those additional parties who have agreed solely to assist in the restructuring have valid and legitimate reasons for seeking such releases. To exempt some Noteholders from release provisions not only leads to the failure of the Plan, it does likely result in many Noteholders having to pursue fraud or negligence claims to obtain any redress, since the value of the assets underlying the Notes may, after first security interests be negligible.

Restructuring under the CCAA

60 This Application has brought into sharp focus the purpose and scope of the CCAA. It has been accepted for the last 15 years that the issue of releases beyond directors of insolvent corporations dates from the decision in *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*³ where Paperny J. said:

[87] Prior to 1997, the CCAA did not provide for compromises of claims against anyone other than the petitioning company. In 1997, section 5.1 was added to the CCAA. Section 5.1 states:

5.1 (1) A compromise or arrangement made in respect of a debtor company may include in its terms provision for the compromise of claims against directors of the company that arose before the commencement of proceedings under this Act and relate to the obligations of the company where the directors are by law liable in their capacity as directors for the payment of such obligations.

(2) A provision for the compromise of claims against directors may not include claims that:

(a) relate to contractual rights of one or more creditors; or

(b) are based on allegations of misrepresentations made by directors to creditors or of wrongful or oppressive conduct by directors.

(3) The Court may declare that a claim against directors shall not be compromised if it is satisfied that the compromise would not be fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

61 The following paragraphs from that decision are reproduced at some length, since, in the submission principally of Mr. Woods, the releases represent an illegal or improper extension of the wording of the CCAA. Mr. Woods takes issue with the reasoning in the *Canadian Airlines* decision, which has been widely referred to in many cases since. Mme Justice Paperny continued:

[88] Resurgence argued that the form of release does not comply with section 5.1 of the CCAA insofar as it applies to individuals beyond directors and to a broad spectrum of claims beyond obligations of the Petitioners for which their directors are "by law liable". Resurgence submitted that the addition of section 5.1 to the CCAA constituted an exception to a long standing principle and urged the court to therefore interpret s. 5.1 cautiously, if not narrowly.

...

[92] While it is true that section 5.2 of the CCAA does not authorize a release of claims against third parties other than directors, it does not prohibit such releases either. The amended terms of the release will not prevent claims from which the CCAA expressly prohibits release. Aside from the complaints of Resurgence, which by their own submissions are addressed in the amendment I have directed, and the complaints of JHHD Aircraft Leasing No. 1 and No. 2, which would also be addressed in the amendment, the terms of the release have been accepted by the requisite majority of creditors and I am loathe to further disturb the terms of the Plan, with one exception. [Emphasis added.]

[93] Amex Bank of Canada submitted that the form of release appeared overly broad and might compromise unaffected claims of affected creditors. For further clarification, Amex Bank of Canada's potential claim for

defamation is unaffected by the Plan and I am prepared to order Section 6.2(2)(ii) be amended to reflect this specific exception.

[94] In determining whether to sanction a plan of arrangement under the CCAA, the court is guided by two fundamental concepts: "fairness" and "reasonableness". While these concepts are always at the heart of the court's exercise of its discretion, their meanings are necessarily shaped by the unique circumstances of each case, within the context of the Act and accordingly can be difficult to distill and challenging to apply. Blair J. described these concepts in *Olympia and York Dev. Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.*⁴ at page 9:

"Fairness" and "reasonableness" are, in my opinion, the two keynote concepts underscoring the philosophy and workings of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act. Fairness is the quintessential expression of the court's equitable jurisdiction - although the jurisdiction is statutory, the broad discretionary powers given to the judiciary by the legislation which make its exercise an exercise in equity - and "reasonableness" is what lends objectivity to the process.

[95] The legislation, while conferring broad discretion on the court, offers little guidance. However, the court is assisted in the exercise of its discretion by the purpose of the CCAA: to facilitate the reorganization of a debtor company for the benefit of the company, its creditors, shareholders, employees and, in many instances, a much broader constituency of affected persons. Parliament has recognized that reorganization, if commercially feasible, is in most cases preferable, economically and socially, to liquidation: *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleum Ltd.*, [1989] 2 W.W.R. 566 at 574 (Alta.Q.B.); *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada*, [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363 at 368 (B.C.C.A.).

[96] The sanction of the court of a creditor-approved plan is not to be considered as a rubber stamp process. Although the majority vote that brings the plan to a sanction hearing plays a significant role in the court's assessment, the court will consider other matters as are appropriate in light of its discretion. In the unique circumstances of this case, it is appropriate to consider a number of additional matters:

- a. The composition of the unsecured vote;
- b. What creditors would receive on liquidation or bankruptcy as compared to the Plan;
- c. Alternatives available to the Plan and bankruptcy;
- d. Oppression;
- e. Unfairness to Shareholders of CAC; and
- f. The public interest.

[97] As noted above, an important measure of whether a plan is fair and reasonable is the parties' approval and the degree to which it has been given. Creditor support creates an inference that the plan is fair and reasonable because the assenting creditors believe that their interests are treated equitably under the plan. Moreover, it creates an inference that the arrangement is economically feasible and therefore reasonable because the creditors are in a better position than the courts to gauge business risk. As stated by Blair J. at page 11 of *Olympia & York Developments Ltd.*, *supra*:

As other courts have done, I observe that it is not my function to second guess the business people with respect to the "business" aspect of the Plan or descending into the negotiating arena or substituting my own view of what is a fair and reasonable compromise or arrangement for that of the business judgment of the participants. The parties themselves know best what is in their interests in those areas.

62 The liberal interpretation to be given to the CCAA was and has been accepted in Ontario. In *Canadian Red Cross Society / Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge, Re*⁵, Blair J. (as he then was) has been referred to with approval in later cases:

[45] It is very common in CCAA restructurings for the Court to approve the sale and disposition of assets during the process and before the Plan if formally tendered and voted upon. There are many examples where this had occurred, the recent Eaton's restructuring being only one of them. The CCAA is designed to be a flexible instrument, and it is that very flexibility which gives it its efficacy. As Farley J said in *Dylex Ltd.* supra (p. 111), "the history of CCAA law has been an evolution of judicial interpretation". It is not infrequently that judges are told, by those opposing a particular initiative at a particular time, that if they make a particular order that is requested it will be the first time in Canadian jurisprudence (sometimes in global jurisprudence, depending upon the level of the rhetoric) that such an order has made! Nonetheless, the orders are made, if the circumstances are appropriate and the orders can be made within the framework and in the spirit of the CCAA legislation. Mr. Justice Farley has well summarized this approach in the following passage from his decision in *Lehndorff General Partner Ltd., Re* (1993), 17 C.B.R. (3d) 24 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]), at p. 31, which I adopt:

The CCAA is intended to facilitate compromises and arrangements between companies and their creditors as an alternative to bankruptcy and, as such, is remedial legislation entitled to a liberal interpretation. It seems to me that the purpose of the statute is to enable insolvent companies to carry on business in the ordinary course or otherwise deal with their assets so as to enable plan of compromise or arrangement to be prepared, filed and considered by their creditors for the proposed compromise or arrangement which will be to the benefit of both the company and its creditors. See the preamble to and sections 4,5,7,8 and 11 of the CCAA (a lengthy list of authorities cited here is omitted).

The CCAA is intended to provide a structured environment for the negotiation of compromises between a debtor company and its creditors for the benefit of both. Where a debtor company realistically plans to continue operating or to otherwise deal with its assets but it requires the protection of the court in order to do so and it is otherwise too early for the court to determine whether the debtor company will succeed, relief should be granted under the CCAA (citations omitted)

[Emphasis added]

63 In a 2006 decision in *Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re*⁶, which adopted the *Canadian Airlines* test, Ground J. said:

[7] With respect to the relief sought relating to Claims against Third Parties, the position of the Objecting Claimants appears to be that this court lacks jurisdiction to make any order affecting claims against third parties who are not applicants in a CCAA proceeding. I do not agree. In the case at bar, the whole plan of compromise which is being funded by Third Parties will not proceed unless the plan provides for a resolution of all claims against the Applicants and Third Parties arising out of "the development, advertising and marketing, and sale of health supplements, weight loss and sports nutrition or other products by the Applicants or any of them" as part of a global resolution of the litigation commenced in the United States. In his Endorsement of January 18, 2006, Farley J. stated:

the Product Liability system vis-à-vis the Non-Applicants appears to be in essence derivative of claims against the Applicants and it would neither be logical nor practical/functional to have that Product Liability litigation not be dealt with on an all encompassing basis.

64 This decision is also said to be beyond the Court's jurisdiction to follow.

65 In a later decision⁷ in the same matter, Ground J. said in 2007:

[18] It has been held that in determining whether to sanction a plan, the court must exercise its equitable jurisdiction and consider the prejudice to the various parties that would flow from granting or refusing to grant approval of the plan and must consider alternatives available to the Applicants if the plan is not approved. An important factor to be considered by the court in determining whether the plan is fair and reasonable is the degree of approval given to the plan by the creditors. It has also been held that, in determining whether to approve the plan, a court should not second-guess the business aspects of the plan or substitute its views for that of the stakeholders who have approved the plan.

[19] In the case at bar, all of such considerations, in my view must lead to the conclusion that the Plan is fair and reasonable. On the evidence before this court, the Applicants have no assets and no funds with which to fund a distribution to creditors. Without the Contributed Funds there would be no distribution made and no Plan to be sanctioned by this court. Without the Contributed Funds, the only alternative for the Applicants is bankruptcy and it is clear from the evidence before this court that the unsecured creditors would receive nothing in the event of bankruptcy.

[20] A unique feature of this Plan is the Releases provided under the Plan to Third Parties in respect of claims against them in any way related to "the research, development, manufacture, marketing, sale, distribution, application, advertising, supply, production, use or ingestion of products sold, developed or distributed by or on behalf of" the Applicants (see Article 9.1 of the Plan). It is self-evident, and the Subject Parties have confirmed before this court, that the Contributed Funds would not be established unless such Third Party Releases are provided and accordingly, in my view it is fair and reasonable to provide such Third Party releases in order to establish a fund to provide for distributions to creditors of the Applicants. With respect to support of the Plan, in addition to unanimous approval of the Plan by the creditors represented at meetings of creditors, several other stakeholder groups support the sanctioning of the Plan, including Iovate Health Sciences Inc. and its subsidiaries (excluding the Applicants) (collectively, the "Iovate Companies"), the Ad Hoc Committee of Muscle Tech Tort Claimants, GN Oldco, Inc. f/k/a General Nutrition Corporation, Zurich American Insurance Company, Zurich Insurance Company, HVL, Inc. and XL Insurance America Inc. It is particularly significant that the Monitor supports the sanctioning of the Plan.

[21] With respect to balancing prejudices, if the Plan is not sanctioned, in addition to the obvious prejudice to the creditors who would receive nothing by way of distribution in respect of their claims, other stakeholders and Third Parties would continue to be mired in extensive, expensive and in some cases conflicting litigation in the United States with no predictable outcome.

66 I recognize that in *MuscleTech*, as in other cases such as *Vicwest, Re*,⁸ there has been no direct opposition to the releases in those cases. The concept that has been accepted is that the Court does have jurisdiction, taking into account the nature and purpose of the CCAA, to sanction release of third parties where the factual circumstances are deemed appropriate for the success of a Plan.⁹

67 The moving parties rely on the decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal in *NBD Bank, Canada v. Dofasco Inc.*¹⁰ for the proposition that compromise of claims in negligence against those associated with a debtor corporation within a CCAA context is not permitted.

68 The claim in that case was by NBD as a creditor of Algoma Steel, then under CCAA protection against its parent Dofasco and an officer of both Algoma and Dofasco. The claim was for negligent misrepresentation by which NBD was induced to advance funds to Algoma shortly before the CCAA filing.

69 In the approved CCAA order only the debtor Algoma was released. The Court of Appeal held that the benefit of the release did not extend to officers of Algoma or to the parent corporation Dofasco or its officers.

70 Rosenberg J.A. writing for the Court said:

[51] Algoma commenced the process under the CCAA on February 18, 1991. The process was a lengthy one and the Plan of Arrangement was approved by Farley J. in April 1992. The Plan had previously been accepted by the overwhelming majority of creditors and others with an interest in Algoma. The Plan of Arrangement included the following term:

6.03 Releases

From and after the Effective Date, each Creditor and Shareholder of Algoma prior to the Effective Date (other than Dofasco) will be deemed to forever release Algoma from any and all suits, claims and causes of action that it may have had against Algoma or its directors, officers, employees and advisors. [Emphasis added.]

...

[54] In fact, to refuse on policy grounds to impose liability on an officer of the corporation for negligent misrepresentation would contradict the policy of Parliament as demonstrated in recent amendments to the CCAA and the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3. Those Acts now contemplate that an arrangement or proposal may include a term for compromise of certain types of claims against directors of the company except claims that "are based on allegations of misrepresentations made by directors". L. W. Houlden and C. H. Morawetz, the editors of *The 2000 Annotated Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Toronto: Carswell, 1999) at p. 192 are of the view that the policy behind the provision is to encourage directors of an insolvent corporation to remain in office so that the affairs of the corporation can be reorganized. I can see no similar policy interest in barring an action against an officer of the company who, prior to the insolvency, has misrepresented the financial affairs of the corporation to its creditors. It may be necessary to permit the compromise of claims against the debtor corporation, otherwise it may not be possible to successfully reorganize the corporation. The same considerations do not apply to individual officers. Rather, it would seem to me that it would be contrary to good policy to immunize officers from the consequences of their negligent statements which might otherwise be made in anticipation of being forgiven under a subsequent corporate proposal or arrangement. [Reference omitted]

71 In my view, there is little factual similarity in *NBD* to the facts now before the Court. In this case, I am not aware of any claims sought to be advanced against directors of Issuer Trustees. The release of Algoma in the *NBD* case did not on its face extend to Dofasco, the third party. Accordingly, I do not find the decision helpful to the issue now before the Court. The moving parties also rely on decisions involving another steel company, Stelco, in support of the proposition that a CCAA Plan cannot be used to compromise claims as between creditors of the debtor company.

72 In *Stelco Inc., Re*,¹¹ Farley J., dealing with classification, said in November 2005:

[7] The CCAA is styled as "An act to facilitate compromises and arrangements between companies and their creditors" and its short title is: *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. Ss. 4, 5 and 6 talk of compromises or arrangements between a company and its creditors. There is no mention of this extending by statute to encompass a change of relationship among the creditors vis-à-vis the creditors themselves and not directly involving the company. See *Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. v. Air Canada*, [2001] B.C.J. No. 2580 (S.C.) at paras. 24-25; *Royal Bank of Canada v. Gentra Canada Investments Inc.*, [2000] O.J. No. 315 (S.C.J.) at para. 41, appeal dismissed [2001] O.J. No. 2344 (C.A.); *Re 843504 Alberta Ltd.*, [2003] A.J. No. 1549 (Q.B.) at para. 13; *Re Royal Oak Mines Inc.*, [1999] O.J. No. 709 (Gen. Div.) at para. 24; *Re Royal Oak Mines Inc.*, [1999] O.J. No. 864 (Gen. Div.) at para. 1.

73 The Ontario Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal from that decision.¹² Blair J.A., quoting Paperny J. in *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re, supra*, said:

[23] In *Re Canadian Airlines Corp.* (2000), 19 C.B.R. (4th) 12 (Alta. Q.B.), Paperny J. nonetheless extracted a number of principles to be considered by the courts in dealing with the commonality of interest test. At para. 31 she said:

In summary, the cases establish the following principles applicable to assessing commonality of interest:

1. Commonality of interest should be viewed based on the non-fragmentation test, not on an identity of interest test;
2. The interests to be considered are the legal interests that a creditor holds qua creditor in relationship to the debtor company prior to and under the plan as well as on liquidation.
3. The commonality of interests are to be viewed purposively, bearing in mind the object of the C.C.C.A., namely to facilitate reorganizations if possible.
4. In placing a broad and purposive interpretation on the C.C.C.A., the court should be careful to resist classification approaches that would potentially jeopardize viable plans.
5. Absent bad faith, the motivations of creditors to approve or disapprove [of the Plan] are irrelevant.
6. The requirement of creditors being able to consult together means being able to assess their legal entitlement *as creditors* before or after the plan in a similar manner.

[24] In developing this summary of principles, Paperny J. considered a number of authorities from across Canada, including the following: *Sklar-Pepler Furniture Corp. v. Bank of Nova Scotia* (1991), 86 D.L.R. (4th) 621 (Ont. Gen. Div.); *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleum Ltd.* (1988), 72 C.B.R. (N.S.) 20 (Alta. Q.B.); *Re Fairview Industries Ltd.* (1991), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 71 (N.S.T.D.); *Re Woodward's Ltd.* 1993 CanLII 870 (BC S.C.), (1993), 84 B.C.L.R. (2d) 206 (B.C.S.C.); *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 166 (B.C.S.C.); *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada* (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C.C.A.); *Re NsC Diesel Power Inc.* (1990), 79 C.B.R. (N.S.) 1 (N.S.T.D.); *Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co.* (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154, (*sub nom.* *Amoco Acquisition Co. v. Savage*) (Alta. C.A.); *Re Wellington Building Corp.* (1934), 16 C.B.R. 48 (Ont. H.C.J.). Her summarized principles were cited by the Alberta Court of Appeal, apparently with approval, in a subsequent *Canadian Airlines decision: Re Canadian Airlines Corp.* 2000 ABCA 149 (CanLII), (2000), 19 C.B.R. (4th) 33 (Alta. C.A.) at para. 27.

.....

[32] First, as the supervising judge noted, the CCAA itself is more compendiously styled "An act to facilitate compromises and arrangements between companies and their creditors". There is no mention of dealing with issues that would change the nature of the relationships as between the creditors themselves. As Tysoe J. noted in *Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. v. Air Canada*, [2001] B.C.J. No. 2580 (B.C.S.C.) at para. 24 (after referring to the full style of the legislation):

[The purpose of the CCAA proceeding] is not to deal with disputes between a creditor of a company and a third party, even if the company was also involved in the subject matter of the dispute. While issues between the debtor company and non-creditors are sometimes dealt with in CCAA proceedings, it is not a proper use of a CCAA proceeding to determine disputes between parties other than the debtor company.

[33] In this particular case, the supervising judge was very careful to say that nothing in his reasons should be taken to determine or affect the relationship between the Subordinate Debenture Holders and the Senior Debt Holders.

[34] Secondly, it has long been recognized that creditors should be classified in accordance with their contract rights, that is, according to their respective interests in the debtor company: see Stanley E. Edwards, "Reorganizations Under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act" (1947) 25 Can. Bar. Rev. 587, at p. 602.

[35] Finally, to hold the classification and voting process hostage to the vagaries of a potentially infinite variety of disputes as between already disgruntled creditors who have been caught in the maelstrom of a CCAA restructuring, runs the risk of hobbling that process unduly. It could lead to the very type of fragmentation and multiplicity of discrete classes or sub-classes of classes that judges and legal writers have warned might well defeat the purpose of the Act: see Stanley Edwards, "Reorganizations under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act", *supra*; Ronald N. Robertson Q.C., "Legal Problems on Reorganization of Major Financial and Commercial Debtors", Canadian Bar Association - Ontario Continuing Legal Education, 5th April 1983 at 19-21; *Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. v. Oakwood Petroleum Ltd.*, *supra*, at para. 27; *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada*, *supra*; *Sklar-Pepler*, *supra*; *Re Woodward Ltd.*, *supra*.

[36] In the end, it is important to remember that classification of creditors, like most other things pertaining to the CCAA, must be crafted with the underlying purpose of the CCAA in mind, namely facilitation of the reorganization of an insolvent company through the negotiation and approval of a plan of compromise or arrangement between the debtor company and its creditors, so that the debtor company can continue to carry on its business to the benefit of all concerned. As Paperny J. noted in *Re Canadian Airlines*, "the Court should be careful to resist classification approaches that would potentially jeopardize viable Plans."

74 In 2007, in *Stelco Inc., Re*¹³, the Ontario Court of Appeal dismissed a further appeal and held:

[44] We note that this approach of delaying the resolution of inter-creditor disputes is not inconsistent with the scheme of the CCAA. In a ruling made on November 10, 2005, in the proceedings relating to Stelco reported at [15 C.B.R. \(5th\) 297](#), Farley J. expressed this point (at para. 7) as follows:

The CCAA is styled as "An Act to facilitate compromises and arrangements between companies and their creditors" and its short title is: *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. Ss. 4, 5 and 6 talk of compromises or arrangements between a company and its creditors. There is no mention of this extending by statute to encompass a change of relationship among the creditors *vis-à-vis* the creditors themselves and not directly involving the company.

[45] Thus, we agree with the motion judge's interpretation of s. 6.01(2). The result of this interpretation is that the Plan extinguished the provisions of the Note Indenture respecting the rights and obligations as between Stelco and the Noteholders on the Effective Date. However, the Turnover Provisions, which relate only to the rights and obligations between the Senior Debt Holders and the Noteholders, were intended to continue to operate.

75 I have quoted from the above decisions at length since they support rather than detract from the basic principle that in my view is operative in this instance.

76 I do not consider that the Plan in this case involves a change in relationship among creditors "that does not directly involve the Company." Those who support the Plan and are to be released are "directly involved in the Company" in the sense that many are foregoing immediate rights to assets and are providing real and tangible input for the preservation and enhancement of the Notes. It would be unduly restrictive to suggest that the moving parties' claims against released parties do not involve the Company, since the claims are directly related to the value of the Notes. The value of the Notes is in this case the value of the Company.

77 This Plan, as it deals with releases, doesn't change the relationship of the creditors apart from involving the Company and its Notes. The only contract between creditors in this case relates directly to the Notes.

U.S. Law

78 Issue was taken by some counsel for parties opposing the Plan with the comments of Justice Ground in *Muscletech* [2007]¹⁴ at paragraph 26, to the effect that third party creditor Releases have been recognized under United States bankruptcy

law. I accept the comment of Mr. Woods that the U.S. provisions involve a different statute with different language and therefore different considerations.

79 That does not mean that the U.S. law is to be completely ignored. It is instructive to consideration of the release issue under the CCAA to know that there has been a principled debate within judicial circles in the United States on the issue of releases in a bankruptcy proceeding of those who are not themselves directly parties in bankruptcy.

80 [A very comprehensive article authored by Joshua M. Silverstein of Emory University School of Law in 2006, 23 Bank. Dev. J. 13](#), outlines both the line of U.S. decisions that hold that bankruptcy courts may not use their general equitable powers to modify non-bankruptcy rights, and those that hold that non-bankruptcy law is not an absolute bar to the exercise of equitable powers, particularly with respect to third party releases.

81 The author concludes at paragraph 137 that a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *U.S. v. Energy Resources Co.*, [495 U.S. 545](#) (U.S. Sup. Ct. 1990) offers crucial support for the pro-release position.

82 I do not take any of the statements to referencing U.S. law on this topic as being directly applicable to the case now before this Court, except to say that in resolving a very legitimate debate, it is appropriate to do so in a purposive way but also very much within a case-specific fact-contextual approach, which seems to be supported by the United States Supreme Court decision above.

Steinberg Decision

83 Against the authorities referred to above, those opposed to the Plan releases rely on the June 16, 1993 decision of the Quebec Court of Appeal in [Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud](#)¹⁵

84 Mr. Woods for some of the moving parties urges that the decision, which he asserts makes third party releases illegal, is still good law and binding on this Court, since no other Court of Appeal in Canada has directly considered or derogated from the result. (It appears that the decision has not been reported in English, which may explain some of the absence of comment.)

85 The Applicants not surprisingly take an opposite view. Counsel submits that undoubtedly in direct response to the *Steinberg* decision, Parliament added s. 5.1 (see above paragraph [60]) thereby opening the door for the analysis that has followed with the decisions of *Canadian Airlines*, *Muscletech* and others. In other words, it is urged the caselaw that has developed in the 15 years since *Steinberg* now provide a basis for recognition of third party releases in appropriate circumstances.

86 The *Steinberg* decision dealt directly with releases proposed for acts of directors. The decision appears to have focused on the nature of the contract created and binding between creditors and the company when the plan is approved. I accept that the effect of a Court-approved CCAA Plan is to impose a contract on creditors.

87 Reliance is placed on the decision of Deschamps J.A. (as she then was) at the following paragraphs of the *Steinberg* decision:

[54] Even if one can understand the extreme pressure weighing on the creditors and the respondent at the time of the sanctioning, a plan of arrangement is not the appropriate forum to settle disputes other than the claims that are the subject of the arrangement. In other words, one cannot, under the pretext of an absence of formal directives in the Act, transform an arrangement into a potpourri.

[57] If the arrangement is imposed on the dissenting creditors, it means that the rules of civil law founded on consent are set aside, at least with respect to them. One cannot impose on creditors, against their will, consequences that are attached to the rules of contracts that are freely agreed to, like releases and other notions to which clauses 5.3 and 12.6 refer. Consensus corresponds to a reality quite different from that of the majorities provided for in section 6 of the Act and cannot be attributed to dissenting creditors.

[59] Under the Act, the sanctioning judgment is required for the arrangement to bind all the creditors, including those who do not consent to it. The sanctioning cannot have as a consequence to extend the effect of the Act. As the clauses in the arrangement founded on the rules of the Civil Code are foreign to the Act, the sanctioning cannot have any effect on them.

[68] The Act offers the respondent a way to arrive at a compromise with its creditors. It does not go so far as to offer an umbrella to all the persons within its orbit by permitting them to shelter themselves from any recourse.

[74] If an arrangement is imposed on a creditor that prevents him from recovering part of his claim by the effect of the Act, he does not necessarily lose the benefit of other statutes that he may wish to invoke. In this sense, if the Civil Code provides a recourse in civil liability against the directors or officers, this right of the creditor cannot be wiped out, against his will, by the inclusion of a release in an arrangement.

88 If it were necessary to do so, I would accept the position of the Applicants that the history of judicial interpretation of the CCAA at both the appellate and trial levels in Canada, along with the change to s. 5.1, leaves the decision in *Steinberg* applicable to a prior era only.

89 I do not think it necessary to go that far, however. One must remember that *Steinberg* dealt with release of claims against directors. As Mme. Justice Deschamps said at paragraph 54, "[A] plan of arrangement is not the appropriate forum to settle disputes other than the claims that are the subject of the arrangement."

90 In this case, all the Noteholders have a common claim, namely to maximize the value obtainable under their notes. The anticipated increase in the value of the notes is directly affected by the risk and contribution that will be made by asset and liquidity providers.

91 In my view, depriving all Noteholders from achieving enhanced value of their notes to permit a few to pursue negligence claims that do not affect note value is quite a different set of circumstances from what was before the Court in *Steinberg*. Different in kind and quality.

92 The sponsoring parties have accepted the policy concern that exempting serious claims such as some frauds could not be regarded as fair and reasonable within the context of the spirit and purpose of the CCAA.

93 The sponsoring parties have worked diligently to respond to that concern and have developed an exemption to the release that in my view fairly balances the rights of Noteholders with serious claims, with the risk to the Plan as a Whole.

Statutory Interpretation of the CCAA

94 Reference was made during argument by counsel to some of the moving parties to rules of statutory interpretation that would suggest that the Court should not go beyond the plain and ordinary words used in the statute.

95 Various of the authorities referred to above emphasize the remedial nature of the legislation, which leaves to the greatest extent possible the stakeholders of the debtor corporation to decide what Plan will or will not be accepted with the scope of the statute.

96 The nature and extent of judicial interpretation and innovation in insolvency matters has been the subject of recent academic and judicial comment.

97 Most recently, Madam Justice Georgina R. Jackson and Dr. Janis Sarra in "Selecting the Judicial Tool to get the Job Done: An Examination of Statutory Interpretation, Discretionary Power and Inherent Jurisdiction in Insolvency Matters,"¹⁶ wrote:

The paper advances the thesis that in addressing the problem of under-inclusive or skeletal legislation, there is a hierarchy or appropriate order of utilization of judicial tools. First, the courts should engage in statutory interpretation to determine

the limits of authority, adopting a broad, liberal and purposive interpretation that may reveal the authority. We suggest that it is important that courts first interpret the statute before them and exercise their authority pursuant to the statute, before reaching for other tools in the judicial tool box. Examination of the statutory language and framework of the legislation may reveal a discretion, and statutory interpretation may determine the extent of the discretion or statutory interpretation may reveal a gap. The common law may permit the gap to be filled; if it does, the chambers judge still has a discretion as to whether he or she invokes the authority to fill the gap. The exercise of inherent jurisdiction may fill the gap; if it does, the chambers judge still has a discretion as to whether he or she invokes the authority revealed by the discovery of inherent jurisdiction. This paper considers these issues at some length.¹⁷

Second, we suggest that inherent jurisdiction is a misnomer for much of what has occurred in decision making under the CCAA. Appeal court judgments in cases such as *Skeena Cellulose Inc.* and *Stelco* discussed below, have begun to articulate this view. As part of this observation, we suggest that for the most part, the exercise of the court's authority is frequently, although not exclusively, made on the basis of statutory interpretation.¹⁸

Third, in the context of commercial law, a driving principle of the courts is that they are on a quest to do what makes sense commercially in the context of what is the fairest and most equitable in the circumstances. The establishment of specialized commercial lists or rosters in jurisdictions such as Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan are aimed at the same goal, creating an expeditious and efficient forum for the fair resolution of commercial disputes effectively and on a timely basis. Similarly, the standards of review applied by appellate courts, in the context of commercial matters, have regard to the specialized expertise of the court of first instance and demonstrate a commitment to effective processes for the resolution of commercial disputes.¹⁹ [cities omitted]

98 The case now before the Court does not involve confiscation of any rights in Notes themselves; rather the opposite: the opportunity in the business circumstances to maximize the value of the Notes. The authors go on to say at p. 45:

Iacobucci J., writing for the Court in *Rizzo Shoes*, reaffirmed Driedger's Modern Principle as the best approach to interpretation of the legislation and stated that "statutory interpretation cannot be founded on the wording of the legislation alone". He considered the history of the legislation and the benefit-conferring nature of the legislation and examined the purpose and object of the Act, the nature of the legislation and the consequences of a contrary finding, which he labeled an absurd result. Iacobucci J. also relied on s. 10 of the *Interpretation Act*, which provides that every Act "shall be deemed to be remedial" and directs that every Act "shall accordingly receive such fair, large and liberal construction and interpretation as will best ensure the attainment of the object of the Act according to its true intent, meaning and spirit". The Court held:

23 Although the Court of Appeal looked to the plain meaning of the specific provisions in question in the present case, with respect, I believe that the court did not pay sufficient attention to the scheme of the ESA, its object or the intention of the legislature; nor was the context of the words in issue appropriately recognized. I now turn to a discussion of these issues.

...

40 As I see the matter, when the express words of ss. 40 and 40a of the ESA are examined in their entire context, there is ample support for the conclusion that the words "terminated by the employer" must be interpreted to include termination resulting from the bankruptcy of the employer. Using the broad and generous approach to interpretation appropriate for benefits-conferring legislation, I believe that these words can reasonably bear that construction.

Thus, in *Rizzo Shoes* we see the Court extending the legislation or making explicit that which was implicit only, as it were, by reference to the Modern Principle, the purpose and object of the Act and the consequences of a contrary result. No reference is made to filling the legislative gap, but rather, the Court is addressing a fact pattern not explicitly contemplated by the legislation and extending the legislation to that fact pattern.

Professor Cote also sees the issue of legislative gaps as part of the discussion of "legislative purpose", which finds expression in the codification of the mischief rule by the various Canadian interpretation statutes. The ability to extend the meaning of the provision finds particular expression when one considers the question posed by him: "can the purposive method make up for lacunae in the legislation". He points out, as does Professor Sullivan, that the courts have not provided a definitive answer, but that for him there are two schools of thought. One draws on the "literal rule" which favours judicial restraint, whereas the other, the "mischief rule", "posits correction of the text to make up for lacunae." To temper the extent of the literal rule, Professor Cote states:

First, the judge is not legislating by adding what is already implicit. The issue is not the judge's power to actually add terms to a statute, but rather whether a particular concept is sufficiently implicit in the words of an enactment for the judge to allow it to produce effect, and if so, whether there is any principle preventing the judge from making explicit what is already implicit. Parliament is required to be particularly explicit with some types of legislation such as expropriation statutes, for example.

Second, the Literal Rule suggests that as soon as the courts play any creative role in settling a dispute rather than merely administering the law, they assume the duties of Parliament. But by their very nature, judicial functions have a certain creative component. If the law is silent or unclear, the judge is still required to arrive at a decision. In doing so, he [she] may quite possibly be required to define rules which go beyond the written expression of the statute, but which in no way violate its spirit.

In certain situations, the courts may refuse to correct lacunae in legislation. This is not necessarily because of a narrow definition of their role, but rather because general principles of interpretation require the judge, in some areas, to insist on explicit indications of legislative intent. It is common, for example, for judges to refuse to fill in the gaps in a tax statute, a retroactive law, or legislation that severely affects property rights. [Emphasis added. Footnotes omitted.]²⁰

99 The modern purposive approach is now well established in interpreting CCAA provisions, as the authors note. The phrase more than any other with which issue is taken by the moving parties is that of Paperny J. that s. 5 of the CCAA does not preclude releases other than those specified in s. 5.1.

100 In this analysis, I adopt the purposive language of the authors at pp 55-56:

It may be that with the increased codification in statutes, courts have lost sight of their general jurisdiction where there is a gap in the statutory language. Where there is a highly codified statute, courts may conclude that there is less room to undertake gap-filling. This is accurate insofar as the Parliament or Legislative Assembly has limited or directed the court's general jurisdiction; there is less likely to be a gap to fill. However, as the Ontario Court of Appeal observed in the above quote, the court has unlimited jurisdiction to decide what is necessary to do justice between the parties except where legislators have provided specifically to the contrary.

The court's role under the CCAA is primarily supervisory and it makes determinations during the process where the parties are unable to agree, in order to facilitate the negotiation process. Thus the role is both procedural and substantive in making rights determinations within the context of an ongoing negotiation process. The court has held that because of the remedial nature of the legislation, the judiciary will exercise its jurisdiction to give effect to the public policy objectives of the statute where the express language is incomplete. The nature of insolvency is highly dynamic and the complexity of firm financial distress means that legal rules, no matter how codified, have not been fashioned to meet every contingency. Unlike rights-based litigation where the court is making determinations about rights and remedies for actions that have already occurred, many insolvency proceedings involve the court making determinations in the context of a dynamic, forward moving process that is seeking an outcome to the debtor's financial distress.

The exercise of a statutory authority requires the statute to be construed. The plain meaning or textualist approach has given way to a search for the object and goals of the statute and the intentionalist approach. This latter approach makes

use of the purposive approach and the mischief rule, including its codification under interpretation statutes that every enactment is deemed remedial, and is to be given such fair, large and liberal construction and interpretation as best ensures the attainment of its objects. This latter approach advocates reading the statute as a whole and being mindful of Driedger's "one principle", that the words of the Act are to be read in their entire context, in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act, and the intention of Parliament. It is important that courts first interpret the statute before them and exercise their authority pursuant to the statute, before reaching for other tools in the judicial toolbox. Statutory interpretation using the principles articulated above leaves room for gap-filling in the common law provinces and a consideration of purpose in *Quebec* as a manifestation of the judge's overall task of statutory interpretation. Finally, the jurisprudence in relation to statutory interpretation demonstrates the fluidity inherent in the judge's task in seeking the objects of the statute and the intention of the legislature.

101 I accept the hierarchy suggested by the authors, namely statutory interpretation (which in the case of the CCAA has inherent in it "gap filling"), judicial discretion and thirdly inherent jurisdiction.

102 It simply does not make either commercial, business or practical common sense to say a CCAA plan must inevitably fail because one creditor cannot sue another for a claim that is over and above entitlement in the security that is the subject of the restructuring, and which becomes significantly greater than the value of the security (in this case the Notes) that would be available in bankruptcy. In CCAA situations, factual context is everything. Here, if the moving parties are correct, some creditors would recover much more than others on their security.

103 There may well be many situations in which compromise of some tort claims as between creditors is not directly related to success of the Plan and therefore should not be released; that is not the case here.

104 I have been satisfied the Plan cannot succeed without the compromise. In my view, given the purpose of the statute and the fact that this Plan is accepted by all appearing parties in principle, it is a reasonable gap-filling function to compromise certain claims necessary to complete restructuring by the parties. Those contributing to the Plan are directly related to the value of the notes themselves within the Plan.

105 I adopt the authors' conclusion at p. 94:

On the authors' reading of the commercial jurisprudence, the problem most often for the court to resolve is that the legislation in question is under-inclusive. It is not ambiguous. It simply does not address the application that is before the court, or in some cases, grants the court the authority to make any order it thinks fit. While there can be no magic formula to address this recurring situation, and indeed no one answer, it appears to the authors that practitioners have available a number of tools to accomplish the same end. In determining the right tool, it may be best to consider the judicial task as if in a hierarchy of judicial tools that may be deployed. The first is examination of the statute, commencing with consideration of the precise wording, the legislative history, the object and purposes of the Act, perhaps a consideration of Driedger's principle of reading the words of the Act in their entire context, in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act, and the intention of Parliament, and a consideration of the gap-filling power, where applicable. It may very well be that this exercise will reveal that a broad interpretation of the legislation confers the authority on the court to grant the application before it. Only after exhausting this statutory interpretive function should the court consider whether it is appropriate to assert an inherent jurisdiction. Hence, inherent jurisdiction continues to be a valuable tool, but not one that is necessary to utilize in most circumstances.

Fraud Claims

106 I have concluded that claims of fraud do fall into a category distinct from negligence. The concern expressed by the Court in the endorsement of May 16, 2008 resulted in an amendment to the Plan by those supporting it. The Applicants amended the release provisions of the Plan to in effect "carve out" some fraud claims.

107 The concern expressed by those parties opposed to the Plan — that the fraud exemption from the release was not sufficiently broad — resulted in a further hearing on the issue on June 3, 2008. Those opposed continue to object to the amended release provisions.

108 The definition of fraud in a corporate context in the common law of Canada starts with the proposition that it must be made (1) knowingly; (2) without belief in its truth; (3) recklessly, careless whether it be true or false.²¹ It is my understanding that while expressed somewhat differently, the above-noted ingredients form the basis of fraud claims in the civil law of Quebec, although there are differences.

109 The more serious nature of a civil fraud allegation, as opposed to a negligence allegation, has an effect on the degree of probability required for the plaintiff to succeed. In *Continental Insurance Co. v. Dalton Cartage Co.*²², Laskin J. wrote:

There is necessarily a matter of judgment involved in weighing evidence that goes to the burden of proof, and a trial judge is justified in scrutinizing evidence with greater care if there are serious allegations to be established by the proof that is offered. I put the matter in the words used by Lord Denning in *Bater v. Bater, supra*, at p. 459, as follows:

It is true that by our law there is a higher standard of proof in criminal cases than in civil cases, but this is subject to the qualification that there is no absolute standard in either case. In criminal cases the charge must be proved beyond reasonable doubt, but there may be degrees of proof within that standard. Many great judges have said that, in proportion as the crime is enormous, so ought the proof to be clear. So also in civil cases. The case may be proved by a preponderance of probability, but there may be degrees of probability within that standard. The degree depends on the subject-matter. A civil court, when considering a charge of fraud, will naturally require a higher degree of probability than that which it would require if considering whether negligence were established. It does not adopt so high a degree as a criminal court, even when it is considering a charge of a criminal nature, but still it does require a degree of probability which is commensurate with the occasion.

I do not regard such an approach as a departure from a standard of proof based on a balance of probabilities nor as supporting a shifting standard. The question in all civil cases is what evidence with what weight that is accorded to it will move the court to conclude that proof on a balance of probabilities has been established.

110 The distinction between civil fraud and negligence was further explained by Finch J.A. in *Kripps v. Touche Ross & Co.*:²³

[101] Whether a representation was made negligently or fraudulently, reliance upon that representation is an issue of fact as to the representee's state of mind. There are cases where the representee may be able to give direct evidence as to what, in fact, induced him to act as he did. Where such evidence is available, its weight is a question for the trier of fact. In many cases however, as the authorities point out, it would be reasonable to expect such evidence to be given, and if it were it might well be suspect as self-serving. This is such a case.

[102] The distinction between cases of negligent and fraudulent misrepresentation is that proof of a dishonest or fraudulent frame of mind on the defendant's part is required in actions of deceit. That, too, is an issue of fact and one which may also, of necessity, fall to be resolved by way of inference. There is, however, nothing in that which touches on the issue of the plaintiff's reliance. I can see no reason why the burden of proving reliance by the plaintiff, and the drawing of inferences with respect to the plaintiff's state of mind, should be any different in cases of negligent misrepresentation than it is in cases of fraud.

111 In *Toronto Dominion Bank v. Leigh Instruments Ltd. (Trustee of)*²⁴, Winkler J. (as he then was) reviewed the leading common law cases:

[477] Fraud is the most serious civil tort which can be alleged, and must be both strictly pleaded and strictly proved. The main distinction between the elements of fraudulent misrepresentation and negligent misrepresentation has been

touched upon above, namely the dishonest state of mind of the representor. The state of mind was described in the seminal case *Derry v. Peek (1889)*, 14 App. Cas. 337 (H.L.) which held fraud is proved where it is shown that a false representation has been made knowingly, or without belief in its truth, or recklessly, without caring whether it is true or false. The intention to deceive, or reckless disregard for the truth is critical.

[478] Where fraudulent misrepresentation is alleged against a corporation, the intention to deceive must still be strictly proved. Further, in order to attach liability to a corporation for fraud, the fraudulent intent must have been held by an individual person who is either a directing mind of the corporation, or who is acting in the course of their employment through the principle of *respondeat superior* or vicarious liability. In *B. G. Checo v. B. C. Hydro (1990)*, 4 C.C.L.T. (2d) 161 at 223 (Aff'd, [1993] 1 S.C.R. 12), Hinkson J.A., writing for the majority, traced the jurisprudence on corporate responsibility in the context of a claim in fraudulent misrepresentation at 222-223:

Subsequently, in *H.L. Bolton (Engineering) Co. v. T.J. Graham & Sons Ltd.*, [1957] 1 Q.B. 159, [1956] 3 All E.R. 624 (C.A.), Denning L.J. said at p. 172:

A company may in many ways be likened to a human body. It has a brain and nerve centre which controls what it does. It also has hands which hold the tools and act in accordance with directions from the centre. Some of the people in the company are mere servants and agents who are nothing more than hands to do the work and cannot be said to represent the mind or will. Others are directors and managers who represent the directing mind and will of the company, and control what it does. The state of mind of these managers is the state of mind of the company and is treated by the law as such. So you will find that in cases where the law requires personal fault as a condition of liability in tort, the fault of the manager will be the personal fault of the company. That is made clear by Lord Haldane's speech in *Leonard's Carrying Co. Ltd. v. Asiatic Petroleum Co. Ltd.*

It is apparent that the law in Canada dealing with the responsibility of a corporation for the tort of deceit is still evolving. In view of the English decisions and the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Dredging* case, supra, it would appear that the concept of vicarious responsibility based upon *respondent superior* is too narrow a basis to determine the liability of a corporation. The structure and operations of corporations are becoming more complex. However, the fundamental proposition that the plaintiff must establish an intention to deceive on the part of the defendant still applies.

See also: *Standard Investments Ltd. et al. v. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (1985)*, 52 O.R. (2d) 473 (C.A.) (Leave to appeal to Supreme Court of Canada refused Feb. 3, 1986).

[479] In the case of fraudulent misrepresentation, there are circumstances where silence may attract liability. If a material fact which was true at the time a contract was executed becomes false while the contract remains executory, or if a statement believed to be true at the time it was made is discovered to be false, then the representor has a duty to disclose the change in circumstances. The failure to do so may amount to a fraudulent misrepresentation. See: P. Perell, "False Statements" (1996), 18 Advocates' Quarterly 232 at 242.

[480] In *Rainbow Industrial Caterers Ltd. v. Canadian National Railway Co. (1988)*, 54 D.L.R. (4th) 43 (B.C.C.A.) (Aff'd on other grounds [1991] 3 S.C.R. 3), the British Columbia Court of Appeal overturned the trial judge's finding of fraud through non-disclosure on the basis that the defendant did not remain silent as to the changed fact but was simply slow to respond to the change and could only be criticized for its "communications arrangements." In so doing, the court adopted the approach to fraud through silence established by the House of Lords in *Brownlie v. Campbell (1880)*, 5 App. Cas. 925 at 950. Esson J.A. stated at 67-68:

There is much emphasis in the plaintiffs submissions and in the reasons of the trial judge on the circumstance that this is not a case of fraud "of the usual kind" involving positive representations of fact but is, rather, one concerned only with non-disclosure by a party which has become aware of an altered set of circumstances. It is,

I think, potentially misleading to regard these as different categories of fraud rather than as a different factual basis for a finding of fraud. Where the fraud is alleged to arise from failure to disclose, the plaintiff remains subject to all of the stringent requirements which the law imposes upon those who allege fraud. The authority relied upon by the trial judge was the speech of Lord Blackburn in *Brownlie v. Campbell*.... The trial judge quoted this excerpt:

... when a statement or representation has been made in the bona fide belief that it is true, and the party who has made it afterwards comes to find out that it is untrue, and discovers what he should have said, he can no longer honestly keep up that silence on the subject after that has come to his knowledge, thereby allowing the other party to go on, and still more, inducing him to go on, upon a statement which was honestly made at the time at which it was made, but which he has not now retracted when he has become aware that it can be no long honestly perservered [sic] in.

The relationship between the two bases for fraud appears clearly enough if one reads that passage in the context of the passage which immediately precedes it:

I quite agree in this, that whenever a man in order to induce a contract says that which is in his knowledge untrue with the intention to mislead the other side, and induce them to enter into the contract, that is downright fraud; in plain English, and Scotch also, it is a downright lie told to induce the other party to act upon it, and it should of course be treated as such. I further agree in this: that when a statement or representation...

[481] Fraud through "active non-disclosure" was considered by the Court of Appeal for Ontario in *Abel v. McDonald*, [1964] 2 O.R. 256 (C.A.) in which the court held at 259: "By active non-disclosure is meant that the defendants, with knowledge that the damage to the premises had occurred actively prevented as far as they could that knowledge from coming to the notice of the appellants.

112 I agree with the comment of Winkler J. in *Toronto Dominion Bank v. Leigh Instruments Ltd. (Trustee of) supra*, that the law in Canada for corporate responsibility for the tort of deceit is evolving. Hence the concern expressed by counsel for Asset Providers that a finding as a result of fraud (an intentional tort) could give rise to claims under the *Negligence Act* to extend to all who may be said to have contributed to the "fault."²⁵

113 I understand the reasoning of the Plan supporters for drawing the fraud "carve out" in a narrow fashion. It is to avoid the potential cascade of litigation that they fear would result if a broader "carve out" were to be allowed. Those opposed urged that quite simply to allow the restrictive fraud claim only would be to deprive them of a right at law.

114 The fraud issue was put in simplistic terms during the oral argument on June 3, 2008. Those parties who oppose the restrictions in the amended Release to deal with only some claims of fraud, argue that the amendments are merely cosmetic and are meaningless and would operate to insulate many individuals and corporations who *may* have committed fraud.

115 Mr. Woods, whose clients include some corporations resident in Quebec, submitted that the "carve out," as it has been called, falls short of what would be allowable under the civil law of Quebec as claims of fraud. In addition, he pointed out that under Quebec law, security for costs on a full indemnity basis would not be permitted.

116 I accept the submission of Mr. Woods that while there is similarity, there is no precise equivalence between the civil law of Quebec and the common law of Ontario and other provinces as applied to fraud.

117 Indeed, counsel for other opposing parties complain that the fraud carve out is unduly restrictive of claims of fraud that lie at common law, which their clients should be permitted in fairness to pursue.

118 The particular carve out concern, which is applicable to both the civil and common law jurisdictions, would limit causes of actions to authorized representatives of ABCP dealers. "ABCP dealers" is a defined term within the Plan. Those actions would proceed in the home province of the plaintiffs.

119 The thrust of the Plan opponents' arguments is that as drafted, the permitted fraud claims would preclude recovery in circumstances where senior bank officers who had the requisite fraudulent intent directed sales persons to make statements that the sales persons reasonably believed but that the senior officers knew to be false.

120 That may well be the result of the effect of the Releases as drafted. Assuming that to be the case, I am not satisfied that the Plan should be rejected on the basis that the release covenant for fraud is not as broad as it could be.

121 The Applicants and supporters have responded to the Court's concern that as initially drafted, the initial release provisions would have compromised all fraud claims. I was aware when the further request for release consideration was made that any "carve out" would unlikely be sufficiently broad to include any possibility of all deceit or fraud claims being made in the future.

122 The particular concern was to allow for those claims that might arise from knowingly false representations being made directly to Noteholders, who relied on the fraudulent misrepresentation and suffered damage as a result.

123 The Release as drafted accomplishes that purpose. It does not go as far as to permit all possible fraud claims. I accept the position of the Applicants and supporters that as drafted, the Releases are in the circumstances of this Plan fair and reasonable. I reach this conclusion for the following reasons:

1. I am satisfied that the Applicants and supporters will not bring forward a Plan that is as broad in permitting fraud claims as those opposing urge should be permitted.
2. None of the Plan opponents have brought forward particulars of claims against persons or parties that would fall outside those envisaged within the carve out. Without at least some particulars, expanded fraud claims can only be regarded as hypothetical or speculative.
3. I understand and accept the position of the Plan supporters that to broaden fraud claim relief does risk extensive complex litigation, the prevention of which is at the heart of the Plan. The likelihood of expanded claims against many parties is most likely if the fraud issue were open-ended.
4. Those who wish to claim fraud within the Plan can do so in addition to the remedies on the Notes that are available to them and to all other Noteholders. In other words, those Noteholders claiming fraud also obtain the other Plan benefits.

124 Mr. Sternberg on behalf of Hy Bloom did refer to the claims of his clients particularized in the Claim commenced in the Superior Court of Quebec. The Claim particularizes statements attributed to various National Bank representatives both before and after the August 2007 freeze of the Notes. Mr. Sternberg asked rhetorically how could the Court countenance the compromise of what in the future might be found to be fraud perpetrated at the highest levels of the Canadian and foreign banks.

125 The response to Mr. Sternberg and others is that for the moment, what is at issue is a liquidity crisis that affects the ABCP market in Canada. The Applicants and supporters have brought forward a Plan to alleviate and attempt to fix that liquidity crisis.

126 The Plan does in my view represent a reasonable balance between benefit to all Noteholders and enhanced recovery for those who can make out specific claims in fraud.

127 I leave to others the questions of all the underlying causes of the liquidity crisis that prompted the Note freeze in August 2007. If by some chance there is an organized fraudulent scheme, I leave it to others to deal with. At the moment, the Plan as proposed represents the best contract for recovery for the vast majority of Noteholders and hopefully restoration of the ABCP market in Canada.

Hardship

128 As to the hardship issue, the Court was apprised in the course of submissions that the Plan was said by some to act unfairly in respect of certain Noteholders, in particular those who hold Ironstone Series B notes. It was submitted that unlike other trusts for which underlying assets will be pooled to spread risk, the underlying assets of Ironstone Trust are being "siloeed" and will bear the same risk as they currently bear.

129 Unfortunately, this will be the case but the result is not due to any particular directive purpose of the Plan itself, but rather because the assets that underlie the trust have been determined to be totally "Ineligible Assets," which apparently have exposure to the U.S. residential sub-prime mortgage market.

130 I have concluded that within the context of the Plan as a whole it does not unfairly treat the Ironstone Noteholders (although their replacement notes may not be worth as much as others'.) The Ironstone Noteholders have still voted by a wide majority in favour of the Plan.

131 Since the Initial Order of March 17, there have been a number of developments (settlements) by parties outside the Plan itself of which the Court was not fully apprised until recently, which were intended to address the issue of hardship to certain investors. These efforts are summarized in paragraphs 10 to 33 of the Eighth Report of the Monitor.

132 I have reviewed the efforts made by various parties supporting the Plan to deal with hardship issues. I am satisfied that they represent a fair and reasonable attempt to deal with issues that result in differential impact among Noteholders. The pleas of certain Noteholders to have their individual concerns addressed have through the Monitor been passed on to those necessary for a response.

133 Counsel for one affected Noteholder, the Avrith family, which opposes the Plan, drew the Court's attention to their particular plight. In response, counsel for National Bank noted the steps it had taken to provide at least some hardship redress.

134 No Plan of this size and complexity could be expected to satisfy all affected by it. The size of the majority who have approved it is testament to its overall fairness. No plan to address a crisis of this magnitude can work perfect equity among all stakeholders.

135 The information available satisfies me that business judgment by a number of supporting parties has been applied to deal with a number of inequities. The Plan cannot provide complete redress to all Noteholders. The parties have addressed the concerns raised. In my view, the Court can ask nothing more.

Conclusion

136 I noted in the endorsement of May 16, 2008 my acceptance and understanding of why the Plan Applicants and sponsors required comprehensive releases of negligence. I was and am satisfied that there would be the third and fourth claims they anticipated if the Plan fails. If negligence claims were not released, any Noteholder who believed that there was value to a tort claim would be entitled to pursue the same. There is no way to anticipate the impact on those who support the Plan. As a result, I accept the Applicants' position that the Plan would be withdrawn if this were to occur.

137 The CCAA has now been accepted as a statute that allows for judicial flexibility to enable business people by the exercise of majority vote to restructure insolvent entities.

138 It would defeat the purpose of the statute if a single creditor could hold a restructuring Plan hostage by insisting on the ability to sue another creditor whose participation in and contribution to the restructuring was essential to its success. Tyranny by a minority to defeat an otherwise fair and reasonable plan is contrary to the spirit of the CCAA.

139 One can only speculate on what response might be made by any one of the significant corporations that are moving parties and now oppose confirmation of this Plan, if any of those entities were undergoing restructuring and had their Plans in jeopardy because a single creditor sought to sue a financing creditor, which required a release as part of its participation.

140 There are a variety of underlying causes for the liquidity crisis that has given rise to this restructuring.

141 The following quotation from the May 23, 2008 issue of The Economist magazine succinctly describes the problem:

If the crisis were simply about the creditworthiness of underlying assets, that question would be simpler to answer. The problem has been as much about confidence as about money. Modern financial systems contain a mass of amplifiers that multiply the impact of both losses and gains, creating huge uncertainty.

142 The above quote is not directly about the ABCP market in Canada, but about the potential crisis to the worldwide banking system at this time. In my view it is applicable to the ABCP situation at this time. Apart from the Plan itself, there is a need to restore confidence in the financial system in Canada and this Plan is a legitimate use of the CCAA to accomplish that goal.

143 I have as a result addressed a number of questions in order to be satisfied that in the specific context of this case, a Plan that includes third party releases is justified within CCAA jurisdiction. I have concluded that all of the following questions can be answered in the affirmative.

1. Are the parties to be released necessary and essential to the restructuring of the debtor?
2. Are the claims to be released rationally related to the purpose of the Plan and necessary for it?
3. Can the Court be satisfied that without the releases the Plan cannot succeed?
4. Are the parties who will have claims against them released contributing in a tangible and realistic way to the Plan?
5. Is the Plan one that will benefit not only the debtor but creditor Noteholders generally?
6. Have the voting creditors approved the Plan with knowledge of the nature and effect of the releases?
7. Is the Court satisfied that in the circumstances the releases are fair and reasonable in the sense that they are not overly broad and not offensive to public policy?

144 I have concluded on the facts of this Application that the releases sought as part of the Plan, including the language exempting fraud, to be permissible under the CCAA and are fair and reasonable.

145 The motion to approve the Plan of Arrangement sought by the Application is hereby granted on the terms of the draft Order filed and signed.

146 One of the unfortunate aspects of CCAA real time litigation is that it produces a tension between well-represented parties who would not be present if time were not of the essence.

147 Counsel for some of those opposing the Plan complain that they were not consulted by Plan supporters to "negotiate" the release terms. On the other side, Plan supporters note that with the exception of general assertions in the action on behalf of Hy Bloom (who claims negligence as well), there is no articulation by those opposing of against whom claims would be made and the particulars of those claims.

148 It was submitted on behalf of one Plan opponent that the limitation provisions are unduly restrictive and should extend to at least two years from the date a potential plaintiff becomes aware of an Expected Claim.

149 The open-ended claim potential is rejected by the Plan supporters on the basis that what is needed now, since Notes have been frozen for almost one year, is certainty of claims and that those who allege fraud surely have had plenty of opportunity to know the basis of their evidence.

150 Other opponents seek to continue a negotiation with Plan supporters to achieve a resolution with respect to releases satisfactory to each opponent.

151 I recognize that the time for negotiation has been short. The opponents' main opposition to the Plan has been the elimination of negligence claims and the Court has been advised that an appeal on that issue will proceed.

152 I can appreciate the desire for opponents to negotiate for any advantage possible. I can also understand the limitation on the patience of the variety of parties who are Plan supporters, to get on with the Plan or abandon it.

153 I am satisfied that the Plan supporters have listened to some of the concerns of the opponents and have incorporated those concerns to the extent they are willing in the revised release form. I agreed that it is time to move on.

154 I wish to thank all counsel for their cooperation and assistance. There would be no Plan except for the sustained and significant effort of Mr. Crawford and the committee he chairs.

155 This is indeed hopefully a unique situation in which it is necessary to look at larger issues than those affecting those who feel strongly that personal redress should predominate.

156 If I am correct, the CCAA is indeed a vehicle that can adequately balance the issues of all those concerned.

157 The Plan is a business proposal and that includes the releases. The Plan has received overwhelming creditor support. I have concluded that the releases that are part of the Plan are fair and reasonable in all the circumstances.

158 The form of Order that was circulated to the Service List for comment will issue as signed with the release of this decision.

Schedule "A"

Conduits

Apollo Trust

Apsley Trust

Aria Trust

Aurora Trust

Comet Trust

Encore Trust

Gemini Trust

Ironstone Trust

MMAI-I Trust

Newshore Canadian Trust

Opus Trust

Planet Trust

Rocket Trust

Selkirk Funding Trust

Silverstone Trust

Slate Trust

Structured Asset Trust

Structured Investment Trust III

Symphony Trust

Whitehall Trust

Schedule "B"

Applicants

ATB Financial

Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec

Canaccord Capital Corporation

Canada Post Corporation

Credit Union Central of Alberta Limited

Credit Union Central of British Columbia

Credit Union Central of Canada

Credit Union Central of Ontario

Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan

Desjardins Group

Magna International Inc.

National Bank Financial Inc./National Bank of Canada

NAV Canada

Northwater Capital Management Inc.

Public Sector Pension Investment Board

The Governors of the University of Alberta

Application granted.

APPENDIX 1

Parties & Their Counsel***Counsel***

Benjamin Zarnett Fred Myers Brian Empey

Donald Milner Graham Phoenix,
Xeno C. Martis David Lemieux
Robert GirardAubrey Kauffman Stuart Brotman
Craig J. Hill Sam P. Rappos Marc
DuchesneJeffrey Carhart Joseph Marin Jay
Hoffman

Arthur O. Jacques Thomas McRae

Henry Juroviesky Eliezer Karp

Jay A. Swartz Nathasha

MacParland

James A. Woods Mathieu Giguere

Sébastien Richemont Marie-Anne

Paquette

Peter F.C. Howard Samaneh

Hosseini William Scott

George S. Glezos Lisa C. Munro

Jeremy E. Dacks

Virginie Gauthier Mario Forte

Kevin P. McElcheran Malcolm M.

Mercer Geoff R. Hall

Harvey Chaiton

S. Richard Orzy Jeffrey S. Leon

Margaret L. Waddell

Robin B. Schwill James Rumball

J. Thomas Curry Usman M. Sheikh

Kenneth Kraft

David E. Baird, Q.C. Edmond

Lamek Ian D. Collins

Allan Sternberg Sam R. Sasso

Catherine Francis Phillip Bevans

Howard Shapray, Q.C. Stephen

Fitterman

Kenneth T. Rosenberg Lily Harmer

Massimo Starnino

Joel Vale

John Salmas

John B. Laskin Scott Bomhof

Robin D. Walker Clifton Prophet

Junior Sirivar

Timothy Pinos

Murray E. Stieber

Party Represented

Applicants: Pan-Canadian Investors Committee for Third-Party Structured Asset-Backed Commercial Paper

Respondents: Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII Corp.

Respondents: 4446372 Canada Inc. and 6932819 Canada Inc., as Issuer Trustees
Monitor: Ernst & Young Inc.

Ad Hoc Committee and PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., in its capacity as Financial Advisor

Ad Hoc Retail Creditors Committee (Brian Hunter, et al)

Ad Hoc Retail Creditors Committee (Brian Hunter, et al)

Administrator of Aria Trust, Encore Trust, Newshore Canadian Trust and Symphony Trust

Air Transat A.T. Inc., Transat Tours Canada Inc., The Jean Coutu Group (PJC) Inc., Aéroports de Montreal Inc., Aéroports de Montréal Capital Inc., Pomerleau Ontario Inc., Pomerleau Inc., Labopharm Inc., L'Agence Métropolitaine de Transport (AMT), Domtar Inc., Domtar Pulp and Paper Products Inc., Giro Inc., Vetements de sports RGR Inc., 131519 Canada Inc., Tecsys Inc., New Gold Inc., Services Hypothécaires La Patrimoniale Inc. and Jazz Air LLP

Asset Providers/Liquidity Suppliers: Bank of America, N.A.; Citibank, N.A.; Citibank Canada, in its capacity as Credit Derivative Swap Counterparty and not in any other capacity; Deutsche Bank AG; HSBC Bank Canada; HSBC Bank USA, National Association; Merrill Lynch International; Merrill Lynch Capital Services Inc.; Swiss Re Financial Products Corporation; and UBS AG

Becmar Investments Ltd, Dadrex Holdings Inc. and JTI-Macdonald Corp.

Blackrock Financial Management, Inc.

Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec

Canadian Banks: Bank of Montreal, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Royal

Bank of Canada, The Bank of Nova Scotia and The Toronto-Dominion Bank

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

CIBC Mellon Trust Company, Computershare Trust Company of Canada and BNY Trust Company of Canada, as Indenture Trustees

Cinar Corporation, Cinar Productions (2004) and Cookie Jar Animation Inc., ADR Capital Inc. and GMAC Leaseco Corporation

Coventree Capital Inc. and Nereus Financial Inc.

Coventree Capital Inc.

DBRS Limited

Desjardins Group

Hy Bloom Inc. and Cardacian Mortgages Services Inc.

Individual Noteholder

Ivanhoe Mines Inc.

Jura Energy Corporation, Redcorp Ventures Ltd. and as agent to Ivanhoe Mines Inc.

I. Mucher Family

Natcan Trust Company, as Note Indenture Trustee

National Bank Financial Inc. and National Bank of Canada

NAV Canada

Northern Orion Canada Pampas Ltd.

Paquette & Associés Huissiers en Justice, s.e.n.c. and André Perron

Susan Grundy	Public Sector Pension Investment Board
Dan Dowdall	Royal Bank of Canada
Thomas N.T. Sutton	Securitus Capital Corp.
Daniel V. MacDonald Andrew Kent	The Bank of Nova Scotia
James H. Grout	The Goldfarb Corporation
Tamara Brooks	The Investment Dealers Association of Canada and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada
Sam R. Sasso	Travelers Transportation Services Inc.
Scott A. Turner	WebTech Wireless Inc. and Wynn Capital Corporation Inc.
Peter T. Linder, Q.C. Edward H. Halt, Q.C.	West Energy Ltd., Petrolifera Petroleum Ltd., Vaquero Resources Ltd., UTS Energy Corporation, Nexstar Energy Ltd., Sabre Tooth Energy Ltd., Sabre Energy Ltd., Alliance Pipeline Ltd., Standard Energy Inc. and Power Play Resources Limited
Steven L. Graff	Woods LLP
Gordon Capern Megan E. Shortreed	Xceed Mortgage Corporation

APPENDIX 2

Terms

"*ABCP Conduits*" means, collectively, the trusts that are subject to the Plan, namely the following: Apollo Trust, Apsley Trust, Aria Trust, Aurora Trust, Comet Trust, Encore Trust, Gemini Trust, Ironstone Trust, MMAI-I Trust, Newshore Canadian Trust, Opus Trust, Planet Trust, Rocket Trust, SAT, Selkirk Funding Trust, Silverstone Trust, SIT III, Slate Trust, Symphony Trust and Whitehall Trust, and their respective satellite trusts, where applicable.

"*ABCP Sponsors*" means, collectively, the Sponsors of the ABCP Conduits (and, where applicable, such Sponsors' affiliates) that have issued the Affected ABCP, namely, Coventree Capital Inc., Quanto Financial Corporation, National Bank Financial Inc., Nereus Financial Inc., Newshore Financial Services Inc. and Securitus Capital Corp.

"*Ad Hoc Committee*" means those Noteholders, represented by the law firm of Miller Thomson LLP, who sought funding from the Investors Committee to retain Miller Thomson and PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., to assist it in starting to form a view on the restructuring. The Investors Committee agreed to fund up to \$1 million in fees and facilitated the entering into of confidentiality agreements among Miller Thomson, PwC, the Asset Providers, the Sponsors, JPMorgan and E&Y so that Miller Thomson and PwC, could carry out their mandate. Chairman Crawford met with representatives of Miller Thomson and PwC, and the Committee's advisors answered questions and discussed the proposed restructuring with them.

"*Applicants*" means, collectively, the 17 member institutions of the Investors Committee in their respective capacities as Noteholders.

"*CCAA Parties*" means, collectively, the Issuer Trustees in respect of the Affected ABCP, namely 4446372 Canada Inc., 6932819 Canada Inc., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII Corp. and the ABCP Conduits.

"*Conduit*" means a special purpose entity, typically in the form of a trust, used in an ABCP program that purchases assets and funds these purchases either through term securitizations or through the issuance of commercial paper.

"*Issuer Trustees*" means, collectively, the issuer trustees of each of the ABCP Conduits, namely, 4446372 Canada Inc., 6932819 Canada Inc., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI Corp. and Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII Corp. and "*Issuer Trustee*" means any one of them. The Issuer Trustees, together with the ABCP Conduits, are sometimes referred to, collectively, as the "*CCAA Parties*".

"*Liquidity Provider*" means like asset providers, dealer banks, commercial banks and other entities often the same as the asset providers who provide liquidity to ABCP, or a party that agreed to provide liquidity funding upon the terms and subject to the conditions of a liquidity agreement in respect of an ABCP program. The Liquidity Providers in respect of the Affected ABCP include, without limitation: ABN AMRO Bank N.V., Canada Branch; Bank of America N.A., Canada Branch; Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce; Citibank Canada; Citibank, N.A.; Danske Bank A/S; Deutsche Bank AG; HSBC Bank Canada; HSBC Bank USA National Association; Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc.; Merrill Lynch International; Royal Bank of Canada; Swiss Re Financial Products Corporation; The Bank of Nova Scotia; The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and UBS AG.

"*Noteholder*" means a holder of Affected ABCP.

"*Sponsors*" means, generally, the entities that initiate the establishment of an ABCP program in respect of a Conduit. Sponsors are effectively management companies for the ABCP program that arrange deals with Asset Providers and capture the excess spread on these transactions. The Sponsor approves the terms of an ABCP program and serves as administrative agent and/or financial services (or securitization) agent for the ABCP program directly or through its affiliates.

"*Traditional Assets*" means those assets held by the ABCP Conduits in non-synthetic securitization structures such as trade receivables, credit card receivables, RMBS and CMBS and investments in CDOs entered into by third-parties.

APPENDIX 3

[Missing text]

Footnotes

- 1 Information Statement, p. 18
- 2 Information Statement, p. 18
- 3 *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*, [2000] A.J. No. 771, 2000 ABQB 442, [2000] 10 W.W.R. 269, 84 Alta. L.R. (3d) 9, 265 A.R. 201, 9 B.L.R. (3d) 41, 20 C.B.R. (4th) 1, 98 A.C.W.S. (3d) 334 (Alta. Q.B.).
- 4 *Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.* (1993), 17 C.B.R. (3d) 1 (Ont. Gen. Div.)
- 5 *Canadian Red Cross Society / Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge, Re*, [1998] O.J. No. 3306, 72 O.T.C. 99, 5 C.B.R. (4th) 299, 81 A.C.W.S. (3d) 932 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List])
- 6 *Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re*, [2006] O.J. No. 4087, 25 C.B.R. (5th) 231, 152 A.C.W.S. (3d) 16, 2006 CarswellOnt 6230 (Ont. S.C.J.)
- 7 *Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re*, [2007] O.J. No. 695, 30 C.B.R. (5th) 59, 156 A.C.W.S. (3d) 22, 2007 CarswellOnt 1029 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])
- 8 *Vicwest, Re* (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) per Pepall J. at paragraph 23
- 9 The Court was provided with copies of 12 Plan approvals under the CCAA in which releases were granted. In various instances these included officers, directors and creditors. The moving parties note that no objection to the nature or extent of release was taken.
- 10 *NBD Bank, Canada v. Dofasco Inc.*, [1999] O.J. No. 4749, 46 O.R. (3d) 514, 181 D.L.R. (4th) 37, 127 O.A.C. 338, 1 B.L.R. (3d) 1, 15 C.B.R. (4th) 67, 47 C.C.L.T. (2d) 213, 93 A.C.W.S. (3d) 391 (Ont. C.A.)
- 11 *Stelco Inc., Re*, [2005] O.J. No. 4814, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 297, 143 A.C.W.S. (3d) 623, 2005 CarswellOnt 6483 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])
- 12 *Stelco Inc., Re*, [2005] O.J. No. 4883 (Ont. C.A.)
- 13 *Stelco Inc., Re*, [2007] O.J. No. 2533, 2007 ONCA 483, 226 O.A.C. 72, 32 B.L.R. (4th) 77, 35 C.B.R. (5th) 174, 158 A.C.W.S. (3d) 877, 2007 CarswellOnt 4108 (Ont. C.A.)
- 14 *Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re*, 30 C.B.R. (5th) 59, 156 A.C.W.S. (3d) 22, 2007 CarswellOnt 1029 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])
- 15 *Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud*, 1993 CanLII 3991, [1993 CarswellQue 229 (Que. C.A.)]
- 16 Annual Review of Insolvency Law, 2007 Thomson, Carswell. Janis Sarra edition
- 17 *Ibid*, p. 42

- 18 Ibid, pp. 44-45
- 19 Ibid, p. 45
- 20 Ibid pp 49-51
- 21 *Peek v. Derry* (1889), 14 A.C. 337 (U.K. H.L.)
- 22 *Continental Insurance Co. v. Dalton Cartage Co.*, [1982] 1 S.C.R. 164, 131 D.L.R. (3d) 559 (S.C.C.)
- 23 *Kripps v. Touche Ross & Co.*, [1997] 6 W.W.R. 421, 89 B.C.A.C. 288 (B.C. C.A.)
- 24 *Toronto Dominion Bank v. Leigh Instruments Ltd. (Trustee of)* (1998), 40 B.L.R. (2d) 1, 63 O.T.C. 1 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]).
- 25 See *Ecolab Ltd. v. Greenspace Services Ltd.*, [1996] O.J. No. 3528 (Ont. Gen. Div.) per Ground J.

End of Document

Copyright © Thomson Reuters Canada Limited or its licensors (excluding individual court documents). All rights reserved.

Most Negative Treatment: Recently added (treatment not yet designated)

Most Recent Recently added (treatment not yet designated): [Nelson Education Ltd., Re](#) | 2015 ONSC 5557, 2015 CarswellOnt 13576 | (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List], Sep 8, 2015)

2008 ONCA 587
Ontario Court of Appeal

ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.

2008 CarswellOnt 4811, 2008 ONCA 587, [2008] O.J. No. 3164, 168 A.C.W.S. (3d) 698, 240
O.A.C. 245, 296 D.L.R. (4th) 135, 45 C.B.R. (5th) 163, 47 B.L.R. (4th) 123, 92 O.R. (3d) 513

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS
ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED**

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE AND ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING
METCALFE & MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS II CORP., METCALFE & MANSFIELD
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS III CORP., METCALFE & MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS
V CORP., METCALFE & MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS XI CORP., METCALFE
& MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS XII CORP., 4446372 CANADA INC. AND
6932819 CANADA INC., TRUSTEES OF THE CONDUITS LISTED IN SCHEDULE "A" HERETO

THE INVESTORS REPRESENTED ON THE PAN-CANADIAN INVESTORS COMMITTEE FOR THIRD-
PARTY STRUCTURED ASSET-BACKED COMMERCIAL PAPER LISTED IN SCHEDULE "B" HERETO
(Applicants / Respondents in Appeal) and METCALFE & MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS II
CORP., METCALFE & MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS III CORP., METCALFE & MANSFIELD
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS V CORP., METCALFE & MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS
XI CORP., METCALFE & MANSFIELD ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS XII CORP., 4446372 CANADA
INC. AND 6932819 CANADA INC., TRUSTEES OF THE CONDUITS LISTED IN SCHEDULE "A" HERETO
(Respondents / Respondents in Appeal) and AIR TRANSAT A.T. INC., TRANSAT TOURS CANADA
INC., THE JEAN COUTU GROUP (PJC) INC., AÉROPORTS DE MONTRÉAL INC., AÉROPORTS DE
MONTRÉAL CAPITAL INC., POMERLEAU ONTARIO INC., POMERLEAU INC., LABOPHARM INC.,
DOMTAR INC., DOMTAR PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTS INC., GIRO INC., VÊTEMENTS DE SPORTS
R.G.R. INC., 131519 CANADA INC., AIR JAZZ LP, PETRIFOND FOUNDATION COMPANY LIMITED,
PETRIFOND FOUNDATION MIDWEST LIMITED, SERVICES HYPOTHÉCAIRES LA PATRIMONIALE
INC., TECSYS INC. SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DE FINANCEMENT DU QUÉBEC, VIBROSYSTEM INC.,
INTERQUISA CANADA L.P., REDCORP VENTURES LTD., JURA ENERGY CORPORATION, IVANHOE
MINES LTD., WEBTECH WIRELESS INC., WYNN CAPITAL CORPORATION INC., HY BLOOM INC.,
CARDACIAN MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., WEST ENERGY LTD., SABRE ENERTY LTD., PETROLIFERA
PETROLEUM LTD., VAQUERO RESOURCES LTD. and STANDARD ENERGY INC. (Respondents / Appellants)

J.I. Laskin, E.A. Cronk, R.A. Blair JJ.A.

Heard: June 25-26, 2008

Judgment: August 18, 2008 *

Docket: CA C48969

Proceedings: affirming *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.* (2008), 2008 CarswellOnt 3523, 43 C.B.R. (5th) 269 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])

Counsel: Benjamin Zarnett, Frederick L. Myers for Pan-Canadian Investors Committee

Aubrey E. Kauffman, Stuart Brotman for 4446372 Canada Inc., 6932819 Canada Inc.

Peter F.C. Howard, Samaneh Hosseini for Bank of America N.A., Citibank N.A., Citibank Canada, in its capacity as Credit Derivative Swap Counterparty and not in any other capacity, Deutsche Bank AG, HSBC Bank Canada, HSBC Bank USA, National Association, Merrill Lynch International, Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc., Swiss Re Financial Products Corporation, UBS AG

Kenneth T. Rosenberg, Lily Harmer, Max Starnino for Jura Energy Corporation, Redcorp Ventures Ltd.

Craig J. Hill, Sam P. Rappos for Monitors (ABCP Appeals)

Jeffrey C. Carhart, Joseph Marin for Ad Hoc Committee, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Inc., in its capacity as Financial Advisor

Mario J. Forte for Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec

John B. Laskin for National Bank Financial Inc., National Bank of Canada

Thomas McRae, Arthur O. Jacques for Ad Hoc Retail Creditors Committee (Brian Hunter, et al)

Howard Shapray, Q.C., Stephen Fitterman for Ivanhoe Mines Ltd.

Kevin P. McElcheran, Heather L. Meredith for Canadian Banks, BMO, CIBC RBC, Bank of Nova Scotia, T.D. Bank

Jeffrey S. Leon for CIBC Mellon Trust Company, Computershare Trust Company of Canada, BNY Trust Company of Canada, as Indenture Trustees

Usman Sheikh for Coventree Capital Inc.

Allan Sternberg, Sam R. Sasso for Brookfield Asset Management and Partners Ltd., Hy Bloom Inc., Cardacian Mortgage Services Inc.

Neil C. Saxe for Dominion Bond Rating Service

James A. Woods, Sebastien Richemont, Marie-Anne Paquette for Air Transat A.T. Inc., Transat Tours Canada Inc., Jean Coutu Group (PJC) Inc., Aéroports de Montréal, Aéroports de Montréal Capital Inc., Pomerleau Ontario Inc., Pomerleau Inc., Labopharm Inc., Agence Métropolitaine de Transport (AMT), Giro Inc., Vêtements de sports RGR Inc., 131519 Canada Inc., Tecsys Inc., New Gold Inc., Jazz Air LP

Scott A. Turner for Webtech Wireless Inc., Wynn Capital Corporation Inc., West Energy Ltd., Sabre Energy Ltd., Petrolifera Petroleum Ltd., Vaquero Resources Ltd., and Standard Energy Ltd.

R. Graham Phoenix for Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII Corp., Quanto Financial Corporation and Metcalfe & Mansfield Capital Corp.

Subject: Insolvency; Civil Practice and Procedure

Headnote

Bankruptcy and insolvency --- Proposal — Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act — Arrangements — Approval by court — Miscellaneous issues

Releases — Parties were financial institutions, dealers and noteholders in market for Asset Backed Commercial Paper ("ABCP") — Canadian ABCP market experienced liquidity crisis — Plan of Compromise and Arrangement ("Plan") was put forward under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act ("CCAA") — Plan included releases for claims against banks and dealers in negligence, misrepresentation and fraud, with "carve out" allowing fraudulent misrepresentations claims — Noteholders voted in favour of Plan — Minority noteholders ("opponents") opposed Plan based on releases — Applicants' application for approval of Plan was granted — Opponents brought application for leave to appeal and appeal from that decision — Application granted; appeal dismissed — CCAA permits inclusion of third party releases in plan of compromise or arrangement to be sanctioned by court where those releases were reasonably connected to proposed restructuring — It is implicit in language of CCAA that court has authority to sanction plans incorporating third-party releases that are reasonably related to proposed restructuring — CCAA is supporting framework for resolution of corporate insolvencies in public interest — Parties are entitled to put anything in Plan that could lawfully be incorporated into any contract — Plan of compromise or arrangement may propose that creditors agree to compromise claims against debtor and to release third

parties, just as any debtor and creditor might agree to such terms in contract between them — Once statutory mechanism regarding voter approval and court sanctioning has been complied with, plan becomes binding on all creditors.

Bankruptcy and insolvency --- Practice and procedure in courts — Appeals — To Court of Appeal — Availability — Miscellaneous cases

Leave to appeal — Parties were financial institutions, dealers and noteholders in market for Asset Backed Commercial Paper ("ABCP") — Canadian ABCP market experienced liquidity crisis — Plan of Compromise and Arrangement ("Plan") was put forward under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act ("CCAA") — Plan included releases for claims against banks and dealers in negligence, misrepresentation and fraud, with "carve out" allowing fraudulent misrepresentations claims — Noteholders voted in favour of Plan — Minority noteholders ("opponents") opposed Plan based on releases — Applicants' application for approval of Plan was granted — Opponents brought application for leave to appeal and appeal from that decision — Application granted; appeal dismissed — Criteria for granting leave to appeal in CCAA proceedings was met — Proposed appeal raised issues of considerable importance to restructuring proceedings under CCAA Canada-wide — These were serious and arguable grounds of appeal and appeal would not unduly delay progress of proceedings.

Table of Authorities

Cases considered by R.A. Blair J.A.:

Air Canada, Re (2004), 2004 CarswellOnt 1842, 2 C.B.R. (5th) 4 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) — referred to

Anvil Range Mining Corp., Re (1998), 1998 CarswellOnt 5319, 7 C.B.R. (4th) 51 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) — referred to

Bell ExpressVu Ltd. Partnership v. Rex (2002), 212 D.L.R. (4th) 1, 287 N.R. 248, [2002] 5 W.W.R. 1, 166 B.C.A.C. 1, 271 W.A.C. 1, 18 C.P.R. (4th) 289, 100 B.C.L.R. (3d) 1, 2002 SCC 42, 2002 CarswellBC 851, 2002 CarswellBC 852, 93 C.R.R. (2d) 189, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 559 (S.C.C.) — considered

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re (2000), [2000] 10 W.W.R. 269, 20 C.B.R. (4th) 1, 84 Alta. L.R. (3d) 9, 9 B.L.R. (3d) 41, 2000 CarswellAlta 662, 2000 ABQB 442, 265 A.R. 201 (Alta. Q.B.) — considered

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re (2000), 2000 CarswellAlta 919, [2000] 10 W.W.R. 314, 20 C.B.R. (4th) 46, 84 Alta. L.R. (3d) 52, 9 B.L.R. (3d) 86, 2000 ABCA 238, 266 A.R. 131, 228 W.A.C. 131 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]) — referred to

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re (2001), 2001 CarswellAlta 888, 2001 CarswellAlta 889, 275 N.R. 386 (note), 293 A.R. 351 (note), 257 W.A.C. 351 (note) (S.C.C.) — referred to

Canadian Red Cross Society / Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge, Re (1998), 1998 CarswellOnt 3346, 5 C.B.R. (4th) 299, 72 O.T.C. 99 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) — referred to

Cineplex Odeon Corp., Re (2001), 2001 CarswellOnt 1258, 24 C.B.R. (4th) 201 (Ont. C.A.) — followed

Country Style Food Services Inc., Re (2002), 158 O.A.C. 30, 2002 CarswellOnt 1038 (Ont. C.A. [In Chambers]) — followed

Dylex Ltd., Re (1995), 31 C.B.R. (3d) 106, 1995 CarswellOnt 54 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) — considered

Employers' Liability Assurance Corp. v. Ideal Petroleum (1959) Ltd. (1976), 1976 CarswellQue 32, [1978] 1 S.C.R. 230, 26 C.B.R. (N.S.) 84, 75 D.L.R. (3d) 63, (sub nom. *Employers' Liability Assurance Corp. v. Ideal Petroleum (1969) Ltd.*) 14 N.R. 503, 1976 CarswellQue 25 (S.C.C.) — referred to

Fotinis Restaurant Corp. v. White Spot Ltd. (1998), 1998 CarswellBC 543, 38 B.L.R. (2d) 251 (B.C. S.C. [In Chambers]) — referred to

Guardian Assurance Co., Re (1917), [1917] 1 Ch. 431 (Eng. C.A.) — referred to

Hongkong Bank of Canada v. Chef Ready Foods Ltd. (1990), 51 B.C.L.R. (2d) 84, 1990 CarswellBC 394, 4 C.B.R. (3d) 311, (sub nom. *Chef Ready Foods Ltd. v. Hongkong Bank of Canada*) [1991] 2 W.W.R. 136 (B.C. C.A.) — considered

Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re (2006), 25 C.B.R. (5th) 231, 2006 CarswellOnt 6230 (Ont. S.C.J.) — considered

NBD Bank, Canada v. Dofasco Inc. (1999), 1999 CarswellOnt 4077, 1 B.L.R. (3d) 1, 181 D.L.R. (4th) 37, 46 O.R. (3d) 514, 47 C.C.L.T. (2d) 213, 127 O.A.C. 338, 15 C.B.R. (4th) 67 (Ont. C.A.) — distinguished

Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of) (1990), 1990 CarswellOnt 139, 1 C.B.R. (3d) 101, (sub nom. *Elan Corp. v. Comiskey*) 1 O.R. (3d) 289, (sub nom. *Elan Corp. v. Comiskey*) 41 O.A.C. 282 (Ont. C.A.) — considered

Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co. (1993), 17 C.B.R. (3d) 1, (sub nom. *Olympia & York Developments Ltd., Re*) 12 O.R. (3d) 500, 1993 CarswellOnt 182 (Ont. Gen. Div.) — referred to

Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. v. Air Canada (2001), 2001 BCSC 1721, 2001 CarswellBC 2943, 19 B.L.R. (3d) 286 (B.C. S.C.) — distinguished

Quebec (Attorney General) v. Bélanger (Trustee of) (1928), 1928 CarswellNat 47, [1928] A.C. 187, [1928] 1 W.W.R. 534, [1928] 1 D.L.R. 945, (sub nom. *Quebec (Attorney General) v. Larue*) 8 C.B.R. 579 (Canada P.C.) — referred to

Ravelston Corp., Re (2007), 2007 CarswellOnt 2114, 2007 ONCA 268, 31 C.B.R. (5th) 233 (Ont. C.A. [In Chambers]) — referred to

Reference re Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (Canada) (1934), [1934] 4 D.L.R. 75, 1934 CarswellNat 1, 16 C.B.R. 1, [1934] S.C.R. 659 (S.C.C.) — considered

Reference re Refund of Dues Paid under s.47 (f) of Timber Regulations in the Western Provinces (1933), [1934] 1 D.L.R. 43, 1933 CarswellNat 47, [1933] S.C.R. 616 (S.C.C.) — referred to

Reference re Refund of Dues Paid under s.47 (f) of Timber Regulations in the Western Provinces (1935), [1935] 1 W.W.R. 607, [1935] 2 D.L.R. 1, 1935 CarswellNat 2, [1935] A.C. 184 (Canada P.C.) — considered

Rizzo & Rizzo Shoes Ltd., Re (1998), 1998 CarswellOnt 1, 1998 CarswellOnt 2, 50 C.B.R. (3d) 163, [1998] 1 S.C.R. 27, 33 C.C.E.L. (2d) 173, 154 D.L.R. (4th) 193, 36 O.R. (3d) 418 (headnote only), (sub nom. *Rizzo & Rizzo Shoes Ltd. (Bankrupt), Re*) 221 N.R. 241, (sub nom. *Rizzo & Rizzo Shoes Ltd. (Bankrupt), Re*) 106 O.A.C. 1, (sub nom. *Adrien v. Ontario Ministry of Labour*) 98 C.L.L.C. 210-006 (S.C.C.) — considered

Royal Penfield Inc., Re (2003), 44 C.B.R. (4th) 302, [2003] R.J.Q. 2157, 2003 CarswellQue 1711, [2003] G.S.T.C. 195 (C.S. Que.) — referred to

Skydome Corp., Re (1998), 1998 CarswellOnt 5914, 16 C.B.R. (4th) 125 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) — referred to

Society of Composers, Authors & Music Publishers of Canada v. Armitage (2000), 2000 CarswellOnt 4120, 20 C.B.R. (4th) 160, 50 O.R. (3d) 688, 137 O.A.C. 74 (Ont. C.A.) — referred to

Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud (1993), [1993] R.J.Q. 1684, 55 Q.A.C. 298, 1993 CarswellQue 229, 1993 CarswellQue 2055, 42 C.B.R. (5th) 1 (C.A. Que.) — referred to

Stelco Inc., Re (2005), 2005 CarswellOnt 6483, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 297 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) — referred to

Stelco Inc., Re (2005), 2005 CarswellOnt 6818, 204 O.A.C. 205, 78 O.R. (3d) 241, 261 D.L.R. (4th) 368, 11 B.L.R. (4th) 185, 15 C.B.R. (5th) 307 (Ont. C.A.) — considered

Stelco Inc., Re (2006), 210 O.A.C. 129, 2006 CarswellOnt 3050, 21 C.B.R. (5th) 157 (Ont. C.A.) — referred to

T&N Ltd., Re (2006), [2007] Bus. L.R. 1411, [2007] 1 All E.R. 851, [2006] Lloyd's Rep. I.R. 817, [2007] 1 B.C.L.C. 563, [2006] B.P.I.R. 1283 (Eng. Ch. Div.) — considered

Statutes considered:

Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3
Generally — referred to

Business Corporations Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. B.16
s. 182 — referred to

Canada Business Corporations Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44
s. 192 — referred to

Code civil du Québec, L.Q. 1991, c. 64
en général — referred to

Companies Act, 1985, c. 6
s. 425 — referred to

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36
Generally — referred to

s. 4 — considered

s. 5.1 [en. 1997, c. 12, s. 122] — considered

s. 6 — considered

Constitution Act, 1867, (U.K.), 30 & 31 Vict., c. 3, reprinted R.S.C. 1985, App. II, No. 5

s. 91 ¶ 21 — referred to

s. 92 — referred to

s. 92 ¶ 13 — referred to

Words and phrases considered:

arrangement

"Arrangement" is broader than "compromise" and would appear to include any scheme for reorganizing the affairs of the debtor.

APPEAL by opponents of creditor-initiated plan from judgment reported at *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.* (2008), 2008 CarswellOnt 3523, 43 C.B.R. (5th) 269, 47 B.L.R. (4th) 74 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]), granting application for approval of plan.

R.A. Blair J.A.:

A. Introduction

1 In August 2007 a liquidity crisis suddenly threatened the Canadian market in Asset Backed Commercial Paper ("ABCP"). The crisis was triggered by a loss of confidence amongst investors stemming from the news of widespread defaults on U.S. sub-prime mortgages. The loss of confidence placed the Canadian financial market at risk generally and was reflective of an economic volatility worldwide.

2 By agreement amongst the major Canadian participants, the \$32 billion Canadian market in third-party ABCP was frozen on August 13, 2007 pending an attempt to resolve the crisis through a restructuring of that market. The Pan-Canadian Investors Committee, chaired by Purdy Crawford, C.C., Q.C., was formed and ultimately put forward the creditor-initiated Plan of Compromise and Arrangement that forms the subject-matter of these proceedings. The Plan was sanctioned by Colin L. Campbell J. on June 5, 2008.

3 Certain creditors who opposed the Plan seek leave to appeal and, if leave is granted, appeal from that decision. They raise an important point regarding the permissible scope of a restructuring under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 as amended ("CCAA"): can the court sanction a Plan that calls for creditors to provide releases to third parties who are themselves solvent and not creditors of the debtor company? They also argue that, if the answer to this question is yes, the application judge erred in holding that this Plan, with its particular releases (which bar some claims even in fraud), was fair and reasonable and therefore in sanctioning it under the CCAA.

Leave to Appeal

4 Because of the particular circumstances and urgency of these proceedings, the court agreed to collapse an oral hearing for leave to appeal with the hearing of the appeal itself. At the outset of argument we encouraged counsel to combine their submissions on both matters.

5 The proposed appeal raises issues of considerable importance to restructuring proceedings under the CCAA Canada-wide. There are serious and arguable grounds of appeal and — given the expedited time-table — the appeal will not unduly delay the progress of the proceedings. I am satisfied that the criteria for granting leave to appeal in CCAA proceedings, set out in such cases as *Cineplex Odeon Corp., Re* (2001), 24 C.B.R. (4th) 201 (Ont. C.A.), and *Country Style Food Services Inc., Re* (2002), 158 O.A.C. 30 (Ont. C.A. [In Chambers]), are met. I would grant leave to appeal.

Appeal

6 For the reasons that follow, however, I would dismiss the appeal.

B. Facts

The Parties

7 The appellants are holders of ABCP Notes who oppose the Plan. They do so principally on the basis that it requires them to grant releases to third party financial institutions against whom they say they have claims for relief arising out of their purchase of ABCP Notes. Amongst them are an airline, a tour operator, a mining company, a wireless provider, a pharmaceuticals retailer, and several holding companies and energy companies.

8 Each of the appellants has large sums invested in ABCP — in some cases, hundreds of millions of dollars. Nonetheless, the collective holdings of the appellants — slightly over \$1 billion — represent only a small fraction of the more than \$32 billion of ABCP involved in the restructuring.

9 The lead respondent is the Pan-Canadian Investors Committee which was responsible for the creation and negotiation of the Plan on behalf of the creditors. Other respondents include various major international financial institutions, the five largest Canadian banks, several trust companies, and some smaller holders of ABCP product. They participated in the market in a number of different ways.

The ABCP Market

10 Asset Backed Commercial Paper is a sophisticated and hitherto well-accepted financial instrument. It is primarily a form of short-term investment — usually 30 to 90 days — typically with a low interest yield only slightly better than that available through other short-term paper from a government or bank. It is said to be "asset backed" because the cash that is used to purchase an ABCP Note is converted into a portfolio of financial assets or other asset interests that in turn provide security for the repayment of the notes.

11 ABCP was often presented by those selling it as a safe investment, somewhat like a guaranteed investment certificate.

12 The Canadian market for ABCP is significant and administratively complex. As of August 2007, investors had placed over \$116 billion in Canadian ABCP. Investors range from individual pensioners to large institutional bodies. On the selling and distribution end, numerous players are involved, including chartered banks, investment houses and other financial institutions. Some of these players participated in multiple ways. The Plan in this proceeding relates to approximately \$32 billion of non-bank sponsored ABCP the restructuring of which is considered essential to the preservation of the Canadian ABCP market.

13 As I understand it, prior to August 2007 when it was frozen, the ABCP market worked as follows.

14 Various corporations (the "Sponsors") would arrange for entities they control ("Conduits") to make ABCP Notes available to be sold to investors through "Dealers" (banks and other investment dealers). Typically, ABCP was issued by series and sometimes by classes within a series.

15 The cash from the purchase of the ABCP Notes was used to purchase assets which were held by trustees of the Conduits ("Issuer Trustees") and which stood as security for repayment of the notes. Financial institutions that sold or provided the Conduits with the assets that secured the ABCP are known as "Asset Providers". To help ensure that investors would be able to redeem their notes, "Liquidity Providers" agreed to provide funds that could be drawn upon to meet the demands of maturing ABCP Notes in certain circumstances. Most Asset Providers were also Liquidity Providers. Many of these banks and financial institutions were also holders of ABCP Notes ("Noteholders"). The Asset and Liquidity Providers held first charges on the assets.

16 When the market was working well, cash from the purchase of new ABCP Notes was also used to pay off maturing ABCP Notes; alternatively, Noteholders simply rolled their maturing notes over into new ones. As I will explain, however, there was a potential underlying predicament with this scheme.

The Liquidity Crisis

17 The types of assets and asset interests acquired to "back" the ABCP Notes are varied and complex. They were generally long-term assets such as residential mortgages, credit card receivables, auto loans, cash collateralized debt obligations and derivative investments such as credit default swaps. Their particular characteristics do not matter for the purpose of this appeal, but they shared a common feature that proved to be the Achilles heel of the ABCP market: because of their long-term nature there was an inherent timing mismatch between the cash they generated and the cash needed to repay maturing ABCP Notes.

18 When uncertainty began to spread through the ABCP marketplace in the summer of 2007, investors stopped buying the ABCP product and existing Noteholders ceased to roll over their maturing notes. There was no cash to redeem those notes. Although calls were made on the Liquidity Providers for payment, most of the Liquidity Providers declined to fund the redemption of the notes, arguing that the conditions for liquidity funding had not been met in the circumstances. Hence the "liquidity crisis" in the ABCP market.

19 The crisis was fuelled largely by a lack of transparency in the ABCP scheme. Investors could not tell what assets were backing their notes — partly because the ABCP Notes were often sold before or at the same time as the assets backing them were acquired; partly because of the sheer complexity of certain of the underlying assets; and partly because of assertions of confidentiality by those involved with the assets. As fears arising from the spreading U.S. sub-prime mortgage crisis mushroomed, investors became increasingly concerned that their ABCP Notes may be supported by those crumbling assets. For the reasons outlined above, however, they were unable to redeem their maturing ABCP Notes.

The Montreal Protocol

20 The liquidity crisis could have triggered a wholesale liquidation of the assets, at depressed prices. But it did not. During the week of August 13, 2007, the ABCP market in Canada froze — the result of a standstill arrangement orchestrated on the heels of the crisis by numerous market participants, including Asset Providers, Liquidity Providers, Noteholders and other financial industry representatives. Under the standstill agreement — known as the Montréal Protocol — the parties committed to restructuring the ABCP market with a view, as much as possible, to preserving the value of the assets and of the notes.

21 The work of implementing the restructuring fell to the Pan-Canadian Investors Committee, an applicant in the proceeding and respondent in the appeal. The Committee is composed of 17 financial and investment institutions, including chartered banks, credit unions, a pension board, a Crown corporation, and a university board of governors. All 17 members are themselves Noteholders; three of them also participated in the ABCP market in other capacities as well. Between them, they hold about two thirds of the \$32 billion of ABCP sought to be restructured in these proceedings.

22 Mr. Crawford was named the Committee's chair. He thus had a unique vantage point on the work of the Committee and the restructuring process as a whole. His lengthy affidavit strongly informed the application judge's understanding of the factual context, and our own. He was not cross-examined and his evidence is unchallenged.

23 Beginning in September 2007, the Committee worked to craft a plan that would preserve the value of the notes and assets, satisfy the various stakeholders to the extent possible, and restore confidence in an important segment of the Canadian financial marketplace. In March 2008, it and the other applicants sought CCAA protection for the ABCP debtors and the approval of a Plan that had been pre-negotiated with some, but not all, of those affected by the misfortunes in the Canadian ABCP market.

The Plan

a) Plan Overview

24 Although the ABCP market involves many different players and kinds of assets, each with their own challenges, the committee opted for a single plan. In Mr. Crawford's words, "all of the ABCP suffers from common problems that are best addressed by a common solution." The Plan the Committee developed is highly complex and involves many parties. In its essence, the Plan would convert the Noteholders' paper — which has been frozen and therefore effectively worthless for many months — into new, long-term notes that would trade freely, but with a discounted face value. The hope is that a strong secondary market for the notes will emerge in the long run.

25 The Plan aims to improve transparency by providing investors with detailed information about the assets supporting their ABCP Notes. It also addresses the timing mismatch between the notes and the assets by adjusting the maturity provisions and interest rates on the new notes. Further, the Plan adjusts some of the underlying credit default swap contracts by increasing the thresholds for default triggering events; in this way, the likelihood of a forced liquidation flowing from the credit default swap holder's prior security is reduced and, in turn, the risk for ABCP investors is decreased.

26 Under the Plan, the vast majority of the assets underlying ABCP would be pooled into two master asset vehicles (MAV1 and MAV2). The pooling is designed to increase the collateral available and thus make the notes more secure.

27 The Plan does not apply to investors holding less than \$1 million of notes. However, certain Dealers have agreed to buy the ABCP of those of their customers holding less than the \$1-million threshold, and to extend financial assistance to these customers. Principal among these Dealers are National Bank and Canaccord, two of the respondent financial institutions the appellants most object to releasing. The application judge found that these developments appeared to be designed to secure votes in favour of the Plan by various Noteholders, and were apparently successful in doing so. If the Plan is approved, they also provide considerable relief to the many small investors who find themselves unwittingly caught in the ABDP collapse.

b) The Releases

28 This appeal focuses on one specific aspect of the Plan: the comprehensive series of releases of third parties provided for in Article 10.

29 The Plan calls for the release of Canadian banks, Dealers, Noteholders, Asset Providers, Issuer Trustees, Liquidity Providers, and other market participants — in Mr. Crawford's words, "virtually all participants in the Canadian ABCP market" — from any liability associated with ABCP, with the exception of certain narrow claims relating to fraud. For instance, under the Plan as approved, creditors will have to give up their claims against the Dealers who sold them their ABCP Notes, including challenges to the way the Dealers characterized the ABCP and provided (or did not provide) information about the ABCP. The claims against the proposed defendants are mainly in tort: negligence, misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, failure to act prudently as a dealer/advisor, acting in conflict of interest, and in a few cases fraud or potential fraud. There are also allegations of breach of fiduciary duty and claims for other equitable relief.

30 The application judge found that, in general, the claims for damages include the face value of the Notes, plus interest and additional penalties and damages.

31 The releases, in effect, are part of a *quid pro quo*. Generally speaking, they are designed to compensate various participants in the market for the contributions they would make to the restructuring. Those contributions under the Plan include the requirements that:

- a) Asset Providers assume an increased risk in their credit default swap contracts, disclose certain proprietary information in relation to the assets, and provide below-cost financing for margin funding facilities that are designed to make the notes more secure;
- b) Sponsors — who in addition have cooperated with the Investors' Committee throughout the process, including by sharing certain proprietary information — give up their existing contracts;
- c) The Canadian banks provide below-cost financing for the margin funding facility and,

d) Other parties make other contributions under the Plan.

32 According to Mr. Crawford's affidavit, the releases are part of the Plan "because certain key participants, whose participation is vital to the restructuring, have made comprehensive releases a condition for their participation."

The CCAA Proceedings to Date

33 On March 17, 2008 the applicants sought and obtained an Initial Order under the CCAA staying any proceedings relating to the ABCP crisis and providing for a meeting of the Noteholders to vote on the proposed Plan. The meeting was held on April 25th. The vote was overwhelmingly in support of the Plan — 96% of the Noteholders voted in favour. At the instance of certain Noteholders, and as requested by the application judge (who has supervised the proceedings from the outset), the Monitor broke down the voting results according to those Noteholders who had worked on or with the Investors' Committee to develop the Plan and those Noteholders who had not. Re-calculated on this basis the results remained firmly in favour of the proposed Plan — 99% of those connected with the development of the Plan voted positively, as did 80% of those Noteholders who had not been involved in its formulation.

34 The vote thus provided the Plan with the "double majority" approval — a majority of creditors representing two-thirds in value of the claims — required under s. 6 of the CCAA.

35 Following the successful vote, the applicants sought court approval of the Plan under s. 6. Hearings were held on May 12 and 13. On May 16, the application judge issued a brief endorsement in which he concluded that he did not have sufficient facts to decide whether all the releases proposed in the Plan were authorized by the CCAA. While the application judge was prepared to approve the releases of negligence claims, he was not prepared at that point to sanction the release of fraud claims. Noting the urgency of the situation and the serious consequences that would result from the Plan's failure, the application judge nevertheless directed the parties back to the bargaining table to try to work out a claims process for addressing legitimate claims of fraud.

36 The result of this renegotiation was a "fraud carve-out" — an amendment to the Plan excluding certain fraud claims from the Plan's releases. The carve-out did not encompass all possible claims of fraud, however. It was limited in three key respects. First, it applied only to claims against ABCP Dealers. Secondly, it applied only to cases involving an express fraudulent misrepresentation made with the intention to induce purchase and in circumstances where the person making the representation knew it to be false. Thirdly, the carve-out limited available damages to the value of the notes, minus any funds distributed as part of the Plan. The appellants argue vigorously that such a limited release respecting fraud claims is unacceptable and should not have been sanctioned by the application judge.

37 A second sanction hearing — this time involving the amended Plan (with the fraud carve-out) — was held on June 3, 2008. Two days later, Campbell J. released his reasons for decision, approving and sanctioning the Plan on the basis both that he had jurisdiction to sanction a Plan calling for third-party releases and that the Plan including the third-party releases in question here was fair and reasonable.

38 The appellants attack both of these determinations.

C. Law and Analysis

39 There are two principal questions for determination on this appeal:

- 1) As a matter of law, may a CCAA plan contain a release of claims against anyone other than the debtor company or its directors?
- 2) If the answer to that question is yes, did the application judge err in the exercise of his discretion to sanction the Plan as fair and reasonable given the nature of the releases called for under it?

(1) Legal Authority for the Releases

40 The standard of review on this first issue — whether, as a matter of law, a CCAA plan may contain third-party releases — is correctness.

41 The appellants submit that a court has no jurisdiction or legal authority under the CCAA to sanction a plan that imposes an obligation on creditors to give releases to third parties other than the directors of the debtor company.¹ The requirement that objecting creditors release claims against third parties is illegal, they contend, because:

- a) on a proper interpretation, the CCAA does not permit such releases;
- b) the court is not entitled to "fill in the gaps" in the CCAA or rely upon its inherent jurisdiction to create such authority because to do so would be contrary to the principle that Parliament did not intend to interfere with private property rights or rights of action in the absence of clear statutory language to that effect;
- c) the releases constitute an unconstitutional confiscation of private property that is within the exclusive domain of the provinces under s. 92 of the *Constitution Act*, 1867;
- d) the releases are invalid under Quebec rules of public order; and because
- e) the prevailing jurisprudence supports these conclusions.

42 I would not give effect to any of these submissions.

Interpretation, "Gap Filling" and Inherent Jurisdiction

43 On a proper interpretation, in my view, the CCAA permits the inclusion of third party releases in a plan of compromise or arrangement to be sanctioned by the court where those releases are reasonably connected to the proposed restructuring. I am led to this conclusion by a combination of (a) the open-ended, flexible character of the CCAA itself, (b) the broad nature of the term "compromise or arrangement" as used in the Act, and (c) the express statutory effect of the "double-majority" vote and court sanction which render the plan binding on *all* creditors, including those unwilling to accept certain portions of it. The first of these signals a flexible approach to the application of the Act in new and evolving situations, an active judicial role in its application and interpretation, and a liberal approach to that interpretation. The second provides the entrée to negotiations between the parties affected in the restructuring and furnishes them with the ability to apply the broad scope of their ingenuity in fashioning the proposal. The latter afford necessary protection to unwilling creditors who may be deprived of certain of their civil and property rights as a result of the process.

44 The CCAA is skeletal in nature. It does not contain a comprehensive code that lays out all that is permitted or barred. Judges must therefore play a role in fleshing out the details of the statutory scheme. The scope of the Act and the powers of the court under it are not limitless. It is beyond controversy, however, that the CCAA is remedial legislation to be liberally construed in accordance with the modern purposive approach to statutory interpretation. It is designed to be a flexible instrument and it is that very flexibility which gives the Act its efficacy: *Canadian Red Cross Society / Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge, Re* (1998), 5 C.B.R. (4th) 299 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]). As Farley J. noted in *Dylex Ltd., Re* (1995), 31 C.B.R. (3d) 106 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]), at 111, "[t]he history of CCAA law has been an evolution of judicial interpretation."

45 Much has been said, however, about the "evolution of judicial interpretation" and there is some controversy over both the source and scope of that authority. Is the source of the court's authority statutory, discerned solely through application of the principles of statutory interpretation, for example? Or does it rest in the court's ability to "fill in the gaps" in legislation? Or in the court's inherent jurisdiction?

46 These issues have recently been canvassed by the Honourable Georgina R. Jackson and Dr. Janis Sarra in their publication "Selecting the Judicial Tool to get the Job Done: An Examination of Statutory Interpretation, Discretionary Power and Inherent Jurisdiction in Insolvency Matters,"² and there was considerable argument on these issues before the application judge and

before us. While I generally agree with the authors' suggestion that the courts should adopt a hierarchical approach in their resort to these interpretive tools — statutory interpretation, gap-filling, discretion and inherent jurisdiction — it is not necessary in my view to go beyond the general principles of statutory interpretation to resolve the issues on this appeal. Because I am satisfied that it is implicit in the language of the CCAA itself that the court has authority to sanction plans incorporating third-party releases that are reasonably related to the proposed restructuring, there is no "gap-filling" to be done and no need to fall back on inherent jurisdiction. In this respect, I take a somewhat different approach than the application judge did.

47 The Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed generally — and in the insolvency context particularly — that remedial statutes are to be interpreted liberally and in accordance with Professor Driedger's modern principle of statutory interpretation. Driedger advocated that "the words of an Act are to be read in their entire context and in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act, and the intention of Parliament": *Rizzo & Rizzo Shoes Ltd., Re*, [1998] 1 S.C.R. 27 (S.C.C.) at para. 21, quoting E.A. Driedger, *Construction of Statutes*, 2nd ed. (Toronto: Butterworths, 1983); *Bell ExpressVu Ltd. Partnership v. Rex*, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 559 (S.C.C.) at para. 26.

48 More broadly, I believe that the proper approach to the judicial interpretation and application of statutes — particularly those like the CCAA that are skeletal in nature — is succinctly and accurately summarized by Jackson and Sarra in their recent article, *supra*, at p. 56:

The exercise of a statutory authority requires the statute to be construed. The plain meaning or textualist approach has given way to a search for the object and goals of the statute and the intentionalist approach. This latter approach makes use of the purposive approach and the mischief rule, including its codification under interpretation statutes that every enactment is deemed remedial, and is to be given such fair, large and liberal construction and interpretation as best ensures the attainment of its objects. This latter approach advocates reading the statute as a whole and being mindful of Driedger's "one principle", that the words of the Act are to be read in their entire context, in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act, and the intention of Parliament. It is important that courts first interpret the statute before them and exercise their authority pursuant to the statute, before reaching for other tools in the judicial toolbox. Statutory interpretation using the principles articulated above leaves room for gap-filling in the common law provinces and a consideration of purpose in *Québec* as a manifestation of the judge's overall task of statutory interpretation. Finally, the jurisprudence in relation to statutory interpretation demonstrates the fluidity inherent in the judge's task in seeking the objects of the statute and the intention of the legislature.

49 I adopt these principles.

50 The remedial purpose of the CCAA — as its title affirms — is to facilitate compromises or arrangements between an insolvent debtor company and its creditors. In *Hongkong Bank of Canada v. Chef Ready Foods Ltd.* (1990), 4 C.B.R. (3d) 311 (B.C. C.A.) at 318, Gibbs J.A. summarized very concisely the purpose, object and scheme of the Act:

Almost inevitably, liquidation destroyed the shareholders' investment, yielded little by way of recovery to the creditors, and exacerbated the social evil of devastating levels of unemployment. The government of the day sought, through the C.C.A.A., to create a regime whereby the principals of the company and the creditors could be brought together under the supervision of the court to attempt a reorganization or compromise or arrangement under which the company could continue in business.

51 The CCAA was enacted in 1933 and was necessary — as the then Secretary of State noted in introducing the Bill on First Reading — "because of the prevailing commercial and industrial depression" and the need to alleviate the effects of business bankruptcies in that context: see the statement of the Hon. C.H. Cahan, Secretary of State, *House of Commons Debates (Hansard)* (April 20, 1933) at 4091. One of the greatest effects of that Depression was what Gibbs J.A. described as "the social evil of devastating levels of unemployment". Since then, courts have recognized that the Act has a broader dimension than simply the direct relations between the debtor company and its creditors and that this broader public dimension must be weighed in the balance together with the interests of those most directly affected: see, for example, *Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of)* (1990), 1 O.R. (3d) 289 (Ont. C.A.), *per* Doherty J.A. in dissent; *Skydome Corp., Re* (1998), 16

C.B.R. (4th) 125 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]); *Anvil Range Mining Corp., Re* (1998), 7 C.B.R. (4th) 51 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]).

52 In this respect, I agree with the following statement of Doherty J.A. in *Elan, supra*, at pp. 306-307:

... [T]he Act was designed to serve a "broad constituency of investors, creditors and employees".³ Because of that "broad constituency" the court must, when considering applications brought under the Act, *have regard not only to the individuals and organizations directly affected by the application, but also to the wider public interest.* [Emphasis added.]

Application of the Principles of Interpretation

53 An interpretation of the CCAA that recognizes its broader socio-economic purposes and objects is apt in this case. As the application judge pointed out, the restructuring underpins the financial viability of the Canadian ABCP market itself.

54 The appellants argue that the application judge erred in taking this approach and in treating the Plan and the proceedings as an attempt to restructure a financial market (the ABCP market) rather than simply the affairs between the debtor corporations who caused the ABCP Notes to be issued and their creditors. The Act is designed, they say, only to effect reorganizations between a corporate debtor and its creditors and not to attempt to restructure entire marketplaces.

55 This perspective is flawed in at least two respects, however, in my opinion. First, it reflects a view of the purpose and objects of the CCAA that is too narrow. Secondly, it overlooks the reality of the ABCP marketplace and the context of the restructuring in question here. It may be true that, in their capacity as ABCP *Dealers*, the releasee financial institutions are "third-parties" to the restructuring in the sense that they are not creditors of the debtor corporations. However, in their capacities as *Asset Providers* and *Liquidity Providers*, they are not only creditors but they are prior secured creditors to the Noteholders. Furthermore — as the application judge found — in these latter capacities they are making significant contributions to the restructuring by "foregoing immediate rights to assets and ... providing real and tangible input for the preservation and enhancement of the Notes" (para. 76). In this context, therefore, the application judge's remark at para. 50 that the restructuring "involves the commitment and participation of all parties" in the ABCP market makes sense, as do his earlier comments at paras. 48-49:

Given the nature of the ABCP market and all of its participants, it is more appropriate to consider all Noteholders as claimants and the object of the Plan to restore liquidity to the assets being the Notes themselves. The restoration of the liquidity of the market necessitates the participation (including more tangible contribution by many) of all Noteholders.

In these circumstances, *it is unduly technical to classify the Issuer Trustees as debtors and the claims of the Noteholders as between themselves and others as being those of third party creditors*, although I recognize that the restructuring structure of the CCAA requires the corporations as the vehicles for restructuring. [Emphasis added.]

56 The application judge did observe that "[t]he insolvency is of the ABCP market itself, the restructuring is that of the market for such paper ..." (para. 50). He did so, however, to point out the uniqueness of the Plan before him and its industry-wide significance and not to suggest that he need have no regard to the provisions of the CCAA permitting a restructuring as between debtor and creditors. His focus was on *the effect* of the restructuring, a perfectly permissible perspective, given the broad purpose and objects of the Act. This is apparent from his later references. For example, in balancing the arguments against approving releases that might include aspects of fraud, he responded that "what is at issue is a liquidity crisis that affects the ABCP market in Canada" (para. 125). In addition, in his reasoning on the fair-and-reasonable issue, he stated at para. 142: "Apart from the Plan itself, there is a need to restore confidence in the financial system in Canada and this Plan is a legitimate use of the CCAA to accomplish that goal."

57 I agree. I see no error on the part of the application judge in approaching the fairness assessment or the interpretation issue with these considerations in mind. They provide the context in which the purpose, objects and scheme of the CCAA are to be considered.

The Statutory Wording

58 Keeping in mind the interpretive principles outlined above, I turn now to a consideration of the provisions of the CCAA. Where in the words of the statute is the court clothed with authority to approve a plan incorporating a requirement for third-party releases? As summarized earlier, the answer to that question, in my view, is to be found in:

- a) the skeletal nature of the CCAA;
- b) Parliament's reliance upon the broad notions of "compromise" and "arrangement" to establish the framework within which the parties may work to put forward a restructuring plan; and in
- c) the creation of the statutory mechanism binding all creditors in classes to the compromise or arrangement once it has surpassed the high "double majority" voting threshold and obtained court sanction as "fair and reasonable".

Therein lies the expression of Parliament's intention to permit the parties to negotiate and vote on, and the court to sanction, third-party releases relating to a restructuring.

59 Sections 4 and 6 of the CCAA state:

4. Where a compromise or an arrangement is proposed between a debtor company and its unsecured creditors or any class of them, the court may, on the application in a summary way of the company, of any such creditor or of the trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator of the company, order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors, and, if the court so determines, of the shareholders of the company, to be summoned in such manner as the court directs.

6. Where a majority in number representing two-thirds in value of the creditors, or class of creditors, as the case may be, present and voting either in person or by proxy at the meeting or meetings thereof respectively held pursuant to sections 4 and 5, or either of those sections, agree to any compromise or arrangement either as proposed or as altered or modified at the meeting or meetings, the compromise or arrangement may be sanctioned by the court, and if so sanctioned is binding

- (a) on all the creditors or the class of creditors, as the case may be, and on any trustee for any such class of creditors, whether secured or unsecured, as the case may be, and on the company; and
- (b) in the case of a company that has made an authorized assignment or against which a bankruptcy order has been made under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* or is in the course of being wound up under the *Winding-up and Restructuring Act*, on the trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator and contributories of the company.

Compromise or Arrangement

60 While there may be little practical distinction between "compromise" and "arrangement" in many respects, the two are not necessarily the same. "Arrangement" is broader than "compromise" and would appear to include any scheme for reorganizing the affairs of the debtor: Houlden & Morawetz, *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law of Canada*, loose-leaf, 3rd ed., vol. 4 (Toronto: Thomson Carswell) at 10A-12.2, N§10. It has been said to be "a very wide and indefinite [word]": *Reference re Refund of Dues Paid under s.47 (f) of Timber Regulations in the Western Provinces*, [1935] A.C. 184 (Canada P.C.) at 197, affirming S.C.C. [1933] S.C.R. 616 (S.C.C.). See also, *Guardian Assurance Co., Re*, [1917] 1 Ch. 431 (Eng. C.A.) at 448, 450; *T&N Ltd., Re* (2006), [2007] 1 All E.R. 851 (Eng. Ch. Div.).

61 The CCAA is a sketch, an outline, a supporting framework for the resolution of corporate insolvencies in the public interest. Parliament wisely avoided attempting to anticipate the myriad of business deals that could evolve from the fertile and creative minds of negotiators restructuring their financial affairs. It left the shape and details of those deals to be worked out within the framework of the comprehensive and flexible concepts of a "compromise" and "arrangement." I see no reason why a release in favour of a third party, negotiated as part of a package between a debtor and creditor and reasonably relating to the proposed restructuring cannot fall within that framework.

62 A proposal under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, R.S., 1985, c. B-3 (the "BIA") is a contract: *Employers' Liability Assurance Corp. v. Ideal Petroleum (1959) Ltd.*, [1978] 1 S.C.R. 230 (S.C.C.) at 239; *Society of Composers, Authors & Music Publishers of Canada v. Armitage* (2000), 50 O.R. (3d) 688 (Ont. C.A.) at para. 11. In my view, a compromise or arrangement under the CCAA is directly analogous to a proposal for these purposes, and therefore is to be treated as a contract between the debtor and its creditors. Consequently, parties are entitled to put anything into such a plan that could lawfully be incorporated into any contract. See *Air Canada, Re* (2004), 2 C.B.R. (5th) 4 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) at para. 6; *Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.* (1993), 12 O.R. (3d) 500 (Ont. Gen. Div.) at 518.

63 There is nothing to prevent a debtor and a creditor from including in a contract between them a term providing that the creditor release a third party. The term is binding as between the debtor and creditor. In the CCAA context, therefore, a plan of compromise or arrangement may propose that creditors agree to compromise claims against the debtor and to release third parties, just as any debtor and creditor might agree to such a term in a contract between them. Once the statutory mechanism regarding voter approval and court sanctioning has been complied with, the plan — including the provision for releases — becomes binding on all creditors (including the dissenting minority).

64 *T&N Ltd., Re, supra*, is instructive in this regard. It is a rare example of a court focussing on and examining the meaning and breadth of the term "arrangement". T&N and its associated companies were engaged in the manufacture, distribution and sale of asbestos-containing products. They became the subject of many claims by former employees, who had been exposed to asbestos dust in the course of their employment, and their dependents. The T&N companies applied for protection under s. 425 of the U.K. *Companies Act 1985*, a provision virtually identical to the scheme of the CCAA — including the concepts of compromise or arrangement.⁴

65 T&N carried employers' liability insurance. However, the employers' liability insurers (the "EL insurers") denied coverage. This issue was litigated and ultimately resolved through the establishment of a multi-million pound fund against which the employees and their dependants (the "EL claimants") would assert their claims. In return, T&N's former employees and dependants (the "EL claimants") agreed to forego any further claims against the EL insurers. This settlement was incorporated into the plan of compromise and arrangement between the T&N companies and the EL claimants that was voted on and put forward for court sanction.

66 Certain creditors argued that the court could not sanction the plan because it did not constitute a "compromise or arrangement" between T&N and the EL claimants since it did not purport to affect rights as between them but only the EL claimants' rights against the EL insurers. The Court rejected this argument. Richards J. adopted previous jurisprudence — cited earlier in these reasons — to the effect that the word "arrangement" has a very broad meaning and that, while both a compromise and an arrangement involve some "give and take", an arrangement need not involve a compromise or be confined to a case of dispute or difficulty (paras. 46-51). He referred to what would be the equivalent of a solvent arrangement under Canadian corporate legislation as an example.⁵ Finally, he pointed out that the compromised rights of the EL claimants against the EL insurers were not unconnected with the EL claimants' rights against the T&N companies; the scheme of arrangement involving the EL insurers was "an integral part of a single proposal affecting all the parties" (para. 52). He concluded his reasoning with these observations (para. 53):

In my judgment it is not a necessary element of an arrangement for the purposes of s 425 of the 1985 Act that it should alter the rights existing between the company and the creditors or members with whom it is made. No doubt in most cases it will alter those rights. But, provided that the context and content of the scheme are such as properly to constitute an arrangement between the company and the members or creditors concerned, it will fall within s 425. It is ... neither necessary nor desirable to attempt a definition of arrangement. The legislature has not done so. To insist on an alteration of rights, or a termination of rights as in the case of schemes to effect takeovers or mergers, is to impose a restriction which is neither warranted by the statutory language nor justified by the courts' approach over many years to give the term its widest meaning. *Nor is an arrangement necessarily outside the section, because its effect is to alter the rights of creditors against another party or because such alteration could be achieved by a scheme of arrangement with that party.* [Emphasis added.]

67 I find Richard J.'s analysis helpful and persuasive. In effect, the claimants in *T&N* were being asked to release their claims against the EL insurers in exchange for a call on the fund. Here, the appellants are being required to release their claims against certain financial third parties in exchange for what is anticipated to be an improved position for all ABCP Noteholders, stemming from the contributions the financial third parties are making to the ABCP restructuring. The situations are quite comparable.

The Binding Mechanism

68 Parliament's reliance on the expansive terms "compromise" or "arrangement" does not stand alone, however. Effective insolvency restructurings would not be possible without a statutory mechanism to bind an unwilling minority of creditors. Unanimity is frequently impossible in such situations. But the minority must be protected too. Parliament's solution to this quandary was to permit a wide range of proposals to be negotiated and put forward (the compromise or arrangement) and to bind *all* creditors by class to the terms of the plan, but to do so only where the proposal can gain the support of the requisite "double majority" of votes⁶ and obtain the sanction of the court on the basis that it is fair and reasonable. In this way, the scheme of the CCAA supports the intention of Parliament to encourage a wide variety of solutions to corporate insolvencies without unjustifiably overriding the rights of dissenting creditors.

The Required Nexus

69 In keeping with this scheme and purpose, I do not suggest that any and all releases between creditors of the debtor company seeking to restructure and third parties may be made the subject of a compromise or arrangement between the debtor and its creditors. Nor do I think the fact that the releases may be "necessary" in the sense that the third parties or the debtor may refuse to proceed without them, of itself, advances the argument in favour of finding jurisdiction (although it may well be relevant in terms of the fairness and reasonableness analysis).

70 The release of the claim in question must be justified as part of the compromise or arrangement between the debtor and its creditors. In short, there must be a reasonable connection between the third party claim being compromised in the plan and the restructuring achieved by the plan to warrant inclusion of the third party release in the plan. This nexus exists here, in my view.

71 In the course of his reasons, the application judge made the following findings, all of which are amply supported on the record:

- a) The parties to be released are necessary and essential to the restructuring of the debtor;
- b) *The claims to be released are rationally related to the purpose of the Plan and necessary for it;*
- c) The Plan cannot succeed without the releases;
- d) *The parties who are to have claims against them released are contributing in a tangible and realistic way to the Plan;* and
- e) The Plan will benefit not only the debtor companies but creditor Noteholders generally.

72 Here, then — as was the case in *T&N* — there is a close connection between the claims being released and the restructuring proposal. The tort claims arise out of the sale and distribution of the ABCP Notes and their collapse in value, just as do the contractual claims of the creditors against the debtor companies. The purpose of the restructuring is to stabilize and shore up the value of those notes in the long run. The third parties being released are making separate contributions to enable those results to materialize. Those contributions are identified earlier, at para. 31 of these reasons. The application judge found that the claims being released are not independent of or unrelated to the claims that the Noteholders have against the debtor companies; they are closely connected to the value of the ABCP Notes and are required for the Plan to succeed. At paras. 76-77 he said:

[76] I do not consider that the Plan in this case involves a change in relationship among creditors "that does not directly involve the Company." Those who support the Plan and are to be released are "directly involved in the Company" in the

sense that many are foregoing immediate rights to assets and are providing real and tangible input for the preservation and enhancement of the Notes. It would be unduly restrictive to suggest that the moving parties' claims against released parties do not involve the Company, since the claims are directly related to the value of the Notes. The value of the Notes is in this case the value of the Company.

[77] This Plan, as it deals with releases, doesn't change the relationship of the creditors apart from involving the Company and its Notes.

73 I am satisfied that the wording of the CCAA — construed in light of the purpose, objects and scheme of the Act and in accordance with the modern principles of statutory interpretation — supports the court's jurisdiction and authority to sanction the Plan proposed here, including the contested third-party releases contained in it.

The Jurisprudence

74 Third party releases have become a frequent feature in Canadian restructurings since the decision of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* (2000), 265 A.R. 201 (Alta. Q.B.), leave to appeal refused by (2000), 266 A.R. 131 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]), and (2001), 293 A.R. 351 (note) (S.C.C.). In *Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re* (2006), 25 C.B.R. (5th) 231 (Ont. S.C.J.) Justice Ground remarked (para. 8):

[It] is not uncommon in CCAA proceedings, in the context of a plan of compromise and arrangement, to compromise claims against the Applicants and other parties against whom such claims or related claims are made.

75 We were referred to at least a dozen court-approved CCAA plans from across the country that included broad third-party releases. With the exception of *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*, however, the releases in those restructurings — including *Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re* — were not opposed. The appellants argue that those cases are wrongly decided, because the court simply does not have the authority to approve such releases.

76 In *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re* the releases in question were opposed, however. Paperny J. (as she then was) concluded the court had jurisdiction to approve them and her decision is said to be the well-spring of the trend towards third-party releases referred to above. Based on the foregoing analysis, I agree with her conclusion although for reasons that differ from those cited by her.

77 Justice Paperny began her analysis of the release issue with the observation at para. 87 that "[p]rior to 1997, the CCAA did not provide for compromises of claims against anyone other than the petitioning company." It will be apparent from the analysis in these reasons that I do not accept that premise, notwithstanding the decision of the Quebec Court of Appeal in *Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud*,⁷ of which her comment may have been reflective. Paperny J.'s reference to 1997 was a reference to the amendments of that year adding s. 5.1 to the CCAA, which provides for limited releases in favour of directors. Given the limited scope of s. 5.1, Justice Paperny was thus faced with the argument — dealt with later in these reasons — that Parliament must not have intended to extend the authority to approve third-party releases beyond the scope of this section. She chose to address this contention by concluding that, although the amendments "[did] not authorize a release of claims against third parties other than directors, [they did] not prohibit such releases either" (para. 92).

78 Respectfully, I would not adopt the interpretive principle that the CCAA permits releases because it does not expressly prohibit them. Rather, as I explain in these reasons, I believe the open-ended CCAA permits third-party releases that are reasonably related to the restructuring at issue because they are encompassed in the comprehensive terms "compromise" and "arrangement" and because of the double-voting majority and court sanctioning statutory mechanism that makes them binding on unwilling creditors.

79 The appellants rely on a number of authorities, which they submit support the proposition that the CCAA may not be used to compromise claims as between anyone other than the debtor company and its creditors. Principal amongst these are *Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud*, *supra*; *NBD Bank, Canada v. Dofasco Inc.* (1999), 46 O.R. (3d) 514 (Ont. C.A.); *Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. v. Air Canada* (2001), 19 B.L.R. (3d) 286 (B.C. S.C.); and *Stelco Inc., Re* (2005), 78 O.R. (3d) 241 (Ont. C.A.)

("Stelco I"). I do not think these cases assist the appellants, however. With the exception of *Steinberg Inc.*, they do not involve third party claims that were reasonably connected to the restructuring. As I shall explain, it is my opinion that *Steinberg Inc.* does not express a correct view of the law, and I decline to follow it.

80 In *Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd.*, Tysoe J. made the following comment at para. 24:

[The purpose of the CCAA proceeding] is not to deal with disputes between a creditor of a company and a third party, even if the company was also involved in the subject matter of the dispute. While issues between the debtor company and non-creditors are sometimes dealt with in CCAA proceedings, it is not a proper use of a CCAA proceeding to determine disputes between parties other than the debtor company.

81 This statement must be understood in its context, however. Pacific Coastal Airlines had been a regional carrier for Canadian Airlines prior to the CCAA reorganization of the latter in 2000. In the action in question it was seeking to assert separate tort claims against Air Canada for contractual interference and inducing breach of contract in relation to certain rights it had to the use of Canadian's flight designator code prior to the CCAA proceeding. Air Canada sought to have the action dismissed on grounds of *res judicata* or issue estoppel because of the CCAA proceeding. Tysoe J. rejected the argument.

82 The facts in *Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd.* are not analogous to the circumstances of this case, however. There is no suggestion that a resolution of Pacific Coastal's separate tort claim against Air Canada was in any way connected to the Canadian Airlines restructuring, even though Canadian — at a contractual level — may have had some involvement with the particular dispute. Here, however, the disputes that are the subject-matter of the impugned releases are not simply "disputes between parties other than the debtor company". They are closely connected to the disputes being resolved between the debtor companies and their creditors and to the restructuring itself.

83 Nor is the decision of this Court in the *NBD Bank, Canada* case dispositive. It arose out of the financial collapse of Algoma Steel, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dofasco. The Bank had advanced funds to Algoma allegedly on the strength of misrepresentations by Algoma's Vice-President, James Melville. The plan of compromise and arrangement that was sanctioned by Farley J. in the Algoma CCAA restructuring contained a clause releasing Algoma from all claims creditors "may have had against Algoma or its directors, officers, employees and advisors." Mr. Melville was found liable for negligent misrepresentation in a subsequent action by the Bank. On appeal, he argued that since the Bank was barred from suing Algoma for misrepresentation by its officers, permitting it to pursue the same cause of action against him personally would subvert the CCAA process — in short, he was personally protected by the CCAA release.

84 Rosenberg J.A., writing for this Court, rejected this argument. The appellants here rely particularly upon his following observations at paras. 53-54:

53 In my view, the appellant has not demonstrated that allowing the respondent to pursue its claim against him would undermine or subvert the purposes of the Act. As this court noted in *Elan Corp. v. Comiskey (1990)*, 1 O.R. (3d) 289 at 297, the CCAA is remedial legislation "intended to provide a structured environment for the negotiation of compromises between a debtor company and its creditors for the benefit of both". It is a means of avoiding a liquidation that may yield little for the creditors, especially unsecured creditors like the respondent, and the debtor company shareholders. However, the appellant has not shown that allowing a creditor to continue an action against an officer for negligent misrepresentation would erode the effectiveness of the Act.

54 In fact, to refuse on policy grounds to impose liability on an officer of the corporation for negligent misrepresentation would contradict the policy of Parliament as demonstrated in recent amendments to the CCAA and the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3. Those Acts now contemplate that an arrangement or proposal may include a term for compromise of certain types of claims against directors of the company except claims that "are based on allegations of misrepresentations made by directors". L.W. Houlden and C.H. Morawetz, the editors of *The 2000 Annotated Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Toronto: Carswell, 1999) at p. 192 are of the view that the policy behind the provision is to encourage directors of an insolvent corporation to remain in office so that the affairs of the corporation can be reorganized. I can

see no similar policy interest in barring an action against an officer of the company who, prior to the insolvency, has misrepresented the financial affairs of the corporation to its creditors. It may be necessary to permit the compromise of claims against the debtor corporation, otherwise it may not be possible to successfully reorganize the corporation. The same considerations do not apply to individual officers. Rather, it would seem to me that it would be contrary to good policy to immunize officers from the consequences of their negligent statements which might otherwise be made in anticipation of being forgiven under a subsequent corporate proposal or arrangement. [Footnote omitted.]

85 Once again, this statement must be assessed in context. Whether Justice Farley had the authority in the earlier Algoma CCAA proceedings to sanction a plan that included third party releases was not under consideration at all. What the Court was determining in *NBD Bank, Canada* was whether the release extended by its terms to protect a third party. In fact, on its face, it does not appear to do so. Justice Rosenberg concluded only that not allowing Mr. Melville to rely upon the release did not subvert the purpose of the CCAA. As the application judge here observed, "there is little factual similarity in *NBD Bank, Canada* to the facts now before the Court" (para. 71). Contrary to the facts of this case, in *NBD Bank, Canada* the creditors had not agreed to grant a release to officers; they had not voted on such a release and the court had not assessed the fairness and reasonableness of such a release as a term of a complex arrangement involving significant contributions by the beneficiaries of the release — as is the situation here. Thus, *NBD Bank, Canada* is of little assistance in determining whether the court has authority to sanction a plan that calls for third party releases.

86 The appellants also rely upon the decision of this Court in *Stelco I*. There, the Court was dealing with the scope of the CCAA in connection with a dispute over what were called the "Turnover Payments". Under an inter-creditor agreement one group of creditors had subordinated their rights to another group and agreed to hold in trust and "turn over" any proceeds received from Stelco until the senior group was paid in full. On a disputed classification motion, the Subordinated Debt Holders argued that they should be in a separate class from the Senior Debt Holders. Farley J. refused to make such an order in the court below, stating:

[Sections] 4, 5 and 6 [of the CCAA] talk of compromises or arrangements between a company and its creditors. There is no mention of this extending by statute to encompass a change of relationship among the creditors vis-à-vis the creditors themselves *and not directly involving the company*. [Citations omitted; emphasis added.]

See *Re Stelco Inc.* (2005), 15 C.B.R. (5th) 297 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) at para. 7.

87 This Court upheld that decision. The legal relationship between each group of creditors and Stelco was the same, albeit there were inter-creditor differences, and creditors were to be classified in accordance with their legal rights. In addition, the need for timely classification and voting decisions in the CCAA process militated against enmeshing the classification process in the vagaries of inter-corporate disputes. In short, the issues before the Court were quite different from those raised on this appeal.

88 Indeed, the Stelco plan, as sanctioned, included third party releases (albeit uncontested ones). This Court subsequently dealt with the same inter-creditor agreement on an appeal where the Subordinated Debt Holders argued that the inter-creditor subordination provisions were beyond the reach of the CCAA and therefore that they were entitled to a separate civil action to determine their rights under the agreement: *Stelco Inc., Re* (2006), 21 C.B.R. (5th) 157 (Ont. C.A.) ("*Stelco II*"). The Court rejected that argument and held that where the creditors' rights amongst themselves were sufficiently related to the debtor and its plan, they were properly brought within the scope of the CCAA plan. The Court said (para. 11):

In [*Stelco I*] — the classification case — the court observed that it is not a proper use of a CCAA proceeding to determine disputes between parties other than the debtor company ... [H]owever, the present case is not simply an inter-creditor dispute that does not involve the debtor company; it is a dispute that is inextricably connected to the restructuring process. [Emphasis added.]

89 The approach I would take to the disposition of this appeal is consistent with that view. As I have noted, the third party releases here are very closely connected to the ABCP restructuring process.

90 Some of the appellants — particularly those represented by Mr. Woods — rely heavily upon the decision of the Quebec Court of Appeal in *Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud*, *supra*. They say that it is determinative of the release issue. In *Steinberg*, the Court held that the CCAA, as worded at the time, did not permit the release of directors of the debtor corporation and that third-party releases were not within the purview of the Act. Deschamps J.A. (as she then was) said (paras. 42, 54 and 58 — English translation):

[42] Even if one can understand the extreme pressure weighing on the creditors and the respondent at the time of the sanctioning, a plan of arrangement is not the appropriate forum to settle disputes other than the claims that are the subject of the arrangement. In other words, one cannot, under the pretext of an absence of formal directives in the Act, transform an arrangement into a potpourri.

.....

[54] The Act offers the respondent a way to arrive at a compromise with its creditors. It does not go so far as to offer an umbrella to all the persons within its orbit by permitting them to shelter themselves from any recourse.

.....

[58] The [CCAA] and the case law clearly do not permit extending the application of an arrangement to persons other than the respondent and its creditors and, consequently, the plan should not have been sanctioned as is [that is, including the releases of the directors].

91 Justices Vallerand and Delisle, in separate judgments, agreed. Justice Vallerand summarized his view of the consequences of extending the scope of the CCAA to third party releases in this fashion (para. 7):

In short, the Act will have become the Companies' *and Their Officers and Employees* Creditors Arrangement Act — an awful mess — and likely not attain its purpose, which is to enable the company to survive in the face of *its* creditors and through their will, and not in the face of the creditors of its officers. This is why I feel, just like my colleague, that such a clause is contrary to the Act's mode of operation, contrary to its purposes and, for this reason, is to be banned.

92 Justice Delisle, on the other hand, appears to have rejected the releases because of their broad nature — they released directors from all claims, including those that were altogether unrelated to their corporate duties with the debtor company — rather than because of a lack of authority to sanction under the Act. Indeed, he seems to have recognized the wide range of circumstances that could be included within the term "compromise or arrangement". He is the only one who addressed that term. At para. 90 he said:

The CCAA is drafted in general terms. It does not specify, among other things, what must be understood by "compromise or arrangement". However, it may be inferred from the purpose of this [A]ct that these terms *encompass all that should enable the person who has recourse to it to fully dispose of his debts*, both those that exist on the date when he has recourse to the statute and *those contingent on the insolvency in which he finds himself ...* [Emphasis added.]

93 The decision of the Court did not reflect a view that the terms of a compromise or arrangement should "encompass all that should enable the person who has recourse to [the Act] to dispose of his debts ... and those contingent on the insolvency in which he finds himself," however. On occasion such an outlook might embrace third parties other than the debtor and its creditors in order to make the arrangement work. Nor would it be surprising that, in such circumstances, the third parties might seek the protection of releases, or that the debtor might do so on their behalf. Thus, the perspective adopted by the majority in *Steinberg Inc.*, in my view, is too narrow, having regard to the language, purpose and objects of the CCAA and the intention of Parliament. They made no attempt to consider and explain why a compromise or arrangement could not include third-party releases. In addition, the decision appears to have been based, at least partly, on a rejection of the use of contract-law concepts in analysing the Act — an approach inconsistent with the jurisprudence referred to above.

94 Finally, the majority in *Steinberg Inc.* seems to have proceeded on the basis that the CCAA cannot interfere with civil or property rights under Quebec law. Mr. Woods advanced this argument before this Court in his factum, but did not press it in oral

argument. Indeed, he conceded that if the Act encompasses the authority to sanction a plan containing third-party releases — as I have concluded it does — the provisions of the CCAA, as valid federal insolvency legislation, are paramount over provincial legislation. I shall return to the constitutional issues raised by the appellants later in these reasons.

95 Accordingly, to the extent *Steinberg Inc.* stands for the proposition that the court does not have authority under the CCAA to sanction a plan that incorporates third-party releases, I do not believe it to be a correct statement of the law and I respectfully decline to follow it. The modern approach to interpretation of the Act in accordance with its nature and purpose militates against a narrow interpretation and towards one that facilitates and encourages compromises and arrangements. Had the majority in *Steinberg Inc.* considered the broad nature of the terms "compromise" and "arrangement" and the jurisprudence I have referred to above, they might well have come to a different conclusion.

The 1997 Amendments

96 *Steinberg Inc.* led to amendments to the CCAA, however. In 1997, s. 5.1 was added, dealing specifically with releases pertaining to directors of the debtor company. It states:

5.1(1) A compromise or arrangement made in respect of a debtor company may include in its terms provision for the compromise of claims against directors of the company that arose before the commencement of proceedings under this Act and that relate to the obligations of the company where the directors are by law liable in their capacity as directors for the payment of such obligations.

Exception

(2) A provision for the compromise of claims against directors may not include claims that

(a) relate to contractual rights of one or more creditors; or

(b) are based on allegations of misrepresentations made by directors to creditors or of wrongful or oppressive conduct by directors.

Powers of court

(3) The court may declare that a claim against directors shall not be compromised if it is satisfied that the compromise would not be fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

Resignation or removal of directors

(4) Where all of the directors have resigned or have been removed by the shareholders without replacement, any person who manages or supervises the management of the business and affairs of the debtor company shall be deemed to be a director for the purposes of this section.

1997, c. 12, s. 122.

97 Perhaps the appellants' strongest argument is that these amendments confirm a prior lack of authority in the court to sanction a plan including third party releases. If the power existed, why would Parliament feel it necessary to add an amendment specifically permitting such releases (subject to the exceptions indicated) in favour of directors? *Expressio unius est exclusio alterius*, is the Latin maxim sometimes relied on to articulate the principle of interpretation implied in that question: to express or include one thing implies the exclusion of the other.

98 The maxim is not helpful in these circumstances, however. The reality is that there *may* be another explanation why Parliament acted as it did. As one commentator has noted:⁸

Far from being a rule, [the maxim *expressio unius*] is not even lexicographically accurate, because it is simply not true, generally, that the mere express conferral of a right or privilege in one kind of situation implies the denial of the equivalent right or privilege in other kinds. Sometimes it does and sometimes it does not, and whether it does or does not depends on the particular circumstances of context. Without contextual support, therefore there is not even a mild presumption here. Accordingly, the maxim is at best a description, after the fact, of what the court has discovered from context.

99 As I have said, the 1997 amendments to the CCAA providing for releases in favour of directors of debtor companies in limited circumstances were a response to the decision of the Quebec Court of Appeal in *Steinberg Inc.*. A similar amendment was made with respect to proposals in the BIA at the same time. The rationale behind these amendments was to encourage directors of an insolvent company to remain in office during a restructuring, rather than resign. The assumption was that by remaining in office the directors would provide some stability while the affairs of the company were being reorganized: see Houlden & Morawetz, vol.1, *supra*, at 2-144, E§11A; *Royal Penfield Inc., Re*, [2003] R.J.Q. 2157 (C.S. Que.) at paras. 44-46.

100 Parliament thus had a particular focus and a particular purpose in enacting the 1997 amendments to the CCAA and the BIA. While there is some merit in the appellants' argument on this point, at the end of the day I do not accept that Parliament intended to signal by its enactment of s. 5.1 that it was depriving the court of authority to sanction plans of compromise or arrangement in all circumstances where they incorporate third party releases in favour of anyone other than the debtor's directors. For the reasons articulated above, I am satisfied that the court does have the authority to do so. Whether it sanctions the plan is a matter for the fairness hearing.

The Deprivation of Proprietary Rights

101 Mr. Shapray very effectively led the appellants' argument that legislation must not be construed so as to interfere with or prejudice established contractual or proprietary rights — including the right to bring an action — in the absence of a clear indication of legislative intention to that effect: *Halsbury's Laws of England*, 4th ed. reissue, vol. 44 (1) (London: Butterworths, 1995) at paras. 1438, 1464 and 1467; Driedger, 2nd ed., *supra*, at 183; Ruth Sullivan, *Sullivan and Driedger on the Construction of Statutes*, 4th ed., (Markham: Butterworths, 2002) at 399. I accept the importance of this principle. For the reasons I have explained, however, I am satisfied that Parliament's intention to clothe the court with authority to consider and sanction a plan that contains third party releases is expressed with sufficient clarity in the "compromise or arrangement" language of the CCAA coupled with the statutory voting and sanctioning mechanism making the provisions of the plan binding on all creditors. This is not a situation of impermissible "gap-filling" in the case of legislation severely affecting property rights; it is a question of finding meaning in the language of the Act itself. I would therefore not give effect to the appellants' submissions in this regard.

The Division of Powers and Paramountcy

102 Mr. Woods and Mr. Sternberg submit that extending the reach of the CCAA process to the compromise of claims as between solvent creditors of the debtor company and solvent third parties to the proceeding is constitutionally impermissible. They say that under the guise of the federal insolvency power pursuant to s. 91(21) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, this approach would improperly affect the rights of civil claimants to assert their causes of action, a provincial matter falling within s. 92(13), and contravene the rules of public order pursuant to the *Civil Code of Quebec*.

103 I do not accept these submissions. It has long been established that the CCAA is valid federal legislation under the federal insolvency power: *Reference re Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (Canada)*, [1934] S.C.R. 659 (S.C.C.). As the Supreme Court confirmed in that case (p. 661), citing Viscount Cave L.C. in *Quebec (Attorney General) v. Bélanger (Trustee of)*, [1928] A.C. 187 (Canada P.C.), "the exclusive legislative authority to deal with all matters within the domain of bankruptcy and insolvency is vested in Parliament." Chief Justice Duff elaborated:

Matters normally constituting part of a bankruptcy scheme but not in their essence matters of bankruptcy and insolvency may, of course, from another point of view and in another aspect be dealt with by a provincial legislature; but, when treated as matters pertaining to bankruptcy and insolvency, they clearly fall within the legislative authority of the Dominion.

104 That is exactly the case here. The power to sanction a plan of compromise or arrangement that contains third-party releases of the type opposed by the appellants is embedded in the wording of the CCAA. The fact that this may interfere with a claimant's right to pursue a civil action — normally a matter of provincial concern — or trump Quebec rules of public order is constitutionally immaterial. The CCAA is a valid exercise of federal power. Provided the matter in question falls within the legislation directly or as necessarily incidental to the exercise of that power, the CCAA governs. To the extent that its provisions are inconsistent with provincial legislation, the federal legislation is paramount. Mr. Woods properly conceded this during argument.

Conclusion With Respect to Legal Authority

105 For all of the foregoing reasons, then, I conclude that the application judge had the jurisdiction and legal authority to sanction the Plan as put forward.

(2) The Plan is "Fair and Reasonable"

106 The second major attack on the application judge's decision is that he erred in finding that the Plan is "fair and reasonable" and in sanctioning it on that basis. This attack is centred on the nature of the third-party releases contemplated and, in particular, on the fact that they will permit the release of some claims based in fraud.

107 Whether a plan of compromise or arrangement is fair and reasonable is a matter of mixed fact and law, and one on which the application judge exercises a large measure of discretion. The standard of review on this issue is therefore one of deference. In the absence of a demonstrable error an appellate court will not interfere: see *Ravelston Corp., Re (2007)*, 31 C.B.R. (5th) 233 (Ont. C.A. [In Chambers]).

108 I would not interfere with the application judge's decision in this regard. While the notion of releases in favour of third parties — including leading Canadian financial institutions — that extend to claims of fraud is distasteful, there is no legal impediment to the inclusion of a release for claims based in fraud in a plan of compromise or arrangement. The application judge had been living with and supervising the ABCP restructuring from its outset. He was intimately attuned to its dynamics. In the end he concluded that the benefits of the Plan to the creditors as a whole, and to the debtor companies, outweighed the negative aspects of compelling the unwilling appellants to execute the releases as finally put forward.

109 The application judge was concerned about the inclusion of fraud in the contemplated releases and at the May hearing adjourned the final disposition of the sanctioning hearing in an effort to encourage the parties to negotiate a resolution. The result was the "fraud carve-out" referred to earlier in these reasons.

110 The appellants argue that the fraud carve-out is inadequate because of its narrow scope. It (i) applies only to ABCP Dealers, (ii) limits the type of damages that may be claimed (no punitive damages, for example), (iii) defines "fraud" narrowly, excluding many rights that would be protected by common law, equity and the Quebec concept of public order, and (iv) limits claims to representations made directly to Noteholders. The appellants submit it is contrary to public policy to sanction a plan containing such a limited restriction on the type of fraud claims that may be pursued against the third parties.

111 The law does not condone fraud. It is the most serious kind of civil claim. There is therefore some force to the appellants' submission. On the other hand, as noted, there is no legal impediment to granting the release of an antecedent claim in fraud, provided the claim is in the contemplation of the parties to the release at the time it is given: *Fotinis Restaurant Corp. v. White Spot Ltd (1998)*, 38 B.L.R. (2d) 251 (B.C. S.C. [In Chambers]) at paras. 9 and 18. There may be disputes about the scope or extent of what is released, but parties are entitled to settle allegations of fraud in civil proceedings — the claims here all being untested allegations of fraud — and to include releases of such claims as part of that settlement.

112 The application judge was alive to the merits of the appellants' submissions. He was satisfied in the end, however, that the need "to avoid the potential cascade of litigation that ... would result if a broader 'carve out' were to be allowed" (para. 113) outweighed the negative aspects of approving releases with the narrower carve-out provision. Implementation of the Plan, in

his view, would work to the overall greater benefit of the Noteholders as a whole. I can find no error in principle in the exercise of his discretion in arriving at this decision. It was his call to make.

113 At para. 71 above I recited a number of factual findings the application judge made in concluding that approval of the Plan was within his jurisdiction under the CCAA and that it was fair and reasonable. For convenience, I reiterate them here — with two additional findings — because they provide an important foundation for his analysis concerning the fairness and reasonableness of the Plan. The application judge found that:

- a) The parties to be released are necessary and essential to the restructuring of the debtor;
- b) The claims to be released are rationally related to the purpose of the Plan and necessary for it;
- c) The Plan cannot succeed without the releases;
- d) The parties who are to have claims against them released are contributing in a tangible and realistic way to the Plan;
- e) The Plan will benefit not only the debtor companies but creditor Noteholders generally;
- f) The voting creditors who have approved the Plan did so with knowledge of the nature and effect of the releases; and that,
- g) The releases are fair and reasonable and not overly broad or offensive to public policy.

114 These findings are all supported on the record. Contrary to the submission of some of the appellants, they do not constitute a new and hitherto untried "test" for the sanctioning of a plan under the CCAA. They simply represent findings of fact and inferences on the part of the application judge that underpin his conclusions on jurisdiction and fairness.

115 The appellants all contend that the obligation to release the third parties from claims in fraud, tort, breach of fiduciary duty, etc. is confiscatory and amounts to a requirement that they — as individual creditors — make the equivalent of a greater financial contribution to the Plan. In his usual lively fashion, Mr. Sternberg asked us the same rhetorical question he posed to the application judge. As he put it, how could the court countenance the compromise of what in the future might turn out to be fraud perpetrated at the highest levels of Canadian and foreign banks? Several appellants complain that the proposed Plan is unfair to them because they will make very little additional recovery if the Plan goes forward, but will be required to forfeit a cause of action against third-party financial institutions that may yield them significant recovery. Others protest that they are being treated unequally because they are ineligible for relief programs that Liquidity Providers such as Canaccord have made available to other smaller investors.

116 All of these arguments are persuasive to varying degrees when considered in isolation. The application judge did not have that luxury, however. He was required to consider the circumstances of the restructuring as a whole, including the reality that many of the financial institutions were not only acting as Dealers or brokers of the ABCP Notes (with the impugned releases relating to the financial institutions in these capacities, for the most part) but also as Asset and Liquidity Providers (with the financial institutions making significant contributions to the restructuring in these capacities).

117 In insolvency restructuring proceedings almost everyone loses something. To the extent that creditors are required to compromise their claims, it can always be proclaimed that their rights are being unfairly confiscated and that they are being called upon to make the equivalent of a further financial contribution to the compromise or arrangement. Judges have observed on a number of occasions that CCAA proceedings involve "a balancing of prejudices," inasmuch as everyone is adversely affected in some fashion.

118 Here, the debtor corporations being restructured represent the issuers of the more than \$32 billion in non-bank sponsored ABCP Notes. The proposed compromise and arrangement affects that entire segment of the ABCP market and the financial markets as a whole. In that respect, the application judge was correct in adverting to the importance of the restructuring to the resolution of the ABCP liquidity crisis and to the need to restore confidence in the financial system in Canada. He was required

to consider and balance the interests of *all* Noteholders, not just the interests of the appellants, whose notes represent only about 3% of that total. That is what he did.

119 The application judge noted at para. 126 that the Plan represented "a reasonable balance between benefit to all Noteholders and enhanced recovery for those who can make out specific claims in fraud" within the fraud carve-out provisions of the releases. He also recognized at para. 134 that:

No Plan of this size and complexity could be expected to satisfy all affected by it. The size of the majority who have approved it is testament to its overall fairness. No plan to address a crisis of this magnitude can work perfect equity among all stakeholders.

120 In my view we ought not to interfere with his decision that the Plan is fair and reasonable in all the circumstances.

D. Disposition

121 For the foregoing reasons, I would grant leave to appeal from the decision of Justice Campbell, but dismiss the appeal.

J.I. Laskin J.A.:

I agree.

E.A. Cronk J.A.:

I agree.

Schedule A — Conduits

Apollo Trust

Apsley Trust

Aria Trust

Aurora Trust

Comet Trust

Encore Trust

Gemini Trust

Ironstone Trust

MMAI-I Trust

Newshore Canadian Trust

Opus Trust

Planet Trust

Rocket Trust

Selkirk Funding Trust

Silverstone Trust

Slate Trust

Structured Asset Trust

Structured Investment Trust III

Symphony Trust

Whitehall Trust

Schedule B — Applicants

ATB Financial

Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

Canaccord Capital Corporation

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Canada Post Corporation

Credit Union Central Alberta Limited

Credit Union Central of BC

Credit Union Central of Canada

Credit Union Central of Ontario

Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan

Desjardins Group

Magna International Inc.

National Bank of Canada/National Bank Financial Inc.

NAV Canada

Northwater Capital Management Inc.

Public Sector Pension Investment Board

The Governors of the University of Alberta

Schedule A — Counsel

1) Benjamin Zarnett and Frederick L. Myers for the Pan-Canadian Investors Committee

2) Aubrey E. Kauffman and Stuart Brotman for 4446372 Canada Inc. and 6932819 Canada Inc.

3) Peter F.C. Howard and Samaneh Hosseini for Bank of America N.A.; Citibank N.A.; Citibank Canada, in its capacity as Credit Derivative Swap Counterparty and not in any other capacity; Deutsche Bank AG; HSBC Bank Canada; HSBC Bank USA, National Association; Merrill Lynch International; Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc.; Swiss Re Financial Products Corporation; and UBS AG

- 4) Kenneth T. Rosenberg, Lily Harmer and Max Starnino for Jura Energy Corporation and Redcorp Ventures Ltd.
- 5) Craig J. Hill and Sam P. Rappos for the Monitors (ABCP Appeals)
- 6) Jeffrey C. Carhart and Joseph Marin for Ad Hoc Committee and Pricewaterhouse Coopers Inc., in its capacity as Financial Advisor
- 7) Mario J. Forte for Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec
- 8) John B. Laskin for National Bank Financial Inc. and National Bank of Canada
- 9) Thomas McRae and Arthur O. Jacques for Ad Hoc Retail Creditors Committee (Brian Hunter, et al)
- 10) Howard Shapray, Q.C. and Stephen Fitterman for Ivanhoe Mines Ltd.
- 11) Kevin P. McElcheran and Heather L. Meredith for Canadian Banks, BMO, CIBC RBC, Bank of Nova Scotia and T.D. Bank
- 12) Jeffrey S. Leon for CIBC Mellon Trust Company, Computershare Trust Company of Canada and BNY Trust Company of Canada, as Indenture Trustees
- 13) Usman Sheikh for Coventree Capital Inc.
- 14) Allan Sternberg and Sam R. Sasso for Brookfield Asset Management and Partners Ltd. and Hy Bloom Inc. and Cardacian Mortgage Services Inc.
- 15) Neil C. Saxe for Dominion Bond Rating Service
- 16) James A. Woods, Sebastien Richemont and Marie-Anne Paquette for Air Transat A.T. Inc., Transat Tours Canada Inc., The Jean Coutu Group (PJC) Inc., Aéroports de Montréal, Aéroports de Montréal Capital Inc., Pomerleau Ontario Inc., Pomerleau Inc., Labopharm Inc., Agence Métropolitaine de Transport (AMT), Giro Inc., Vêtements de sports RGR Inc., 131519 Canada Inc., Tecsys Inc., New Gold Inc. and Jazz Air LP
- 17) Scott A. Turner for Webtech Wireless Inc., Wynn Capital Corporation Inc., West Energy Ltd., Sabre Energy Ltd., Petrolifera Petroleum Ltd., Vaquero Resources Ltd., and Standard Energy Ltd.
- 18) R. Graham Phoenix for Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments III Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments V Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XI Corp., Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments XII Corp., Quanto Financial Corporation and Metcalfe & Mansfield Capital Corp.

Application granted; appeal dismissed.

Footnotes

- * Leave to appeal refused at *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.* (2008), 2008 CarswellOnt 5432, 2008 CarswellOnt 5433 (S.C.C.).
- 1 Section 5.1 of the CCAA specifically authorizes the granting of releases to directors in certain circumstances.
- 2 Justice Georgina R. Jackson and Dr. Janis P. Sarra, "Selecting the Judicial Tool to get the Job Done: An Examination of Statutory Interpretation, Discretionary Power and Inherent Jurisdiction in Insolvency Matters" in Sarra, ed., *Annual Review of Insolvency Law, 2007* (Vancouver: Thomson Carswell, 2007).
- 3 Citing Gibbs J.A. in *Chef Ready Foods*, *supra*, at pp.319-320.
- 4 The Legislative Debates at the time the CCAA was introduced in Parliament in April 1933 make it clear that the CCAA is patterned after the predecessor provisions of s. 425 of the *Companies Act 1985* (U.K.): see *House of Commons Debates (Hansard)*, *supra*.

- 5 See *Canada Business Corporations Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44, s. 192; *Ontario Business Corporations Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. B.16, s. 182.
- 6 A majority in number representing two-thirds in value of the creditors (s. 6)
- 7 *Steinberg Inc.* was originally reported in French: *Steinberg Inc. c. Michaud*, [1993] R.J.Q. 1684 (C.A. Que.). All paragraph references to *Steinberg Inc.* in this judgment are from the unofficial English translation available at 1993 CarswellQue 2055 (C.A. Que.)
- 8 Reed Dickerson, *The Interpretation and Application of Statutes* (1975) at pp.234-235, cited in Bryan A. Garner, ed., *Black's Law Dictionary*, 8th ed. (West Group, St. Paul, Minn., 2004) at 621.

End of Document

Copyright © Thomson Reuters Canada Limited or its licensors (excluding individual court documents). All rights reserved.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

Court File No. CV-14-10518-00CL

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF 1511419 ONTARIO INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CASH STORE FINANCIAL SERVICES INC., 1545688 ALBERTA INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CASH STORE INC., 986301 ALBERTA INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS TCS CASH STORE INC., 1152919 ALBERTA INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS INSTALOANS INC., 7252331 CANADA INC., 5515433 MANITOBA INC., 1693926 ALBERTA LTD. DOING BUSINESS AS "THE TITLE STORE"

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
(COMMERCIAL LIST)**

Proceeding commenced at Toronto

**BOOK OF AUTHORITIES
(Meetings Order)**

OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT LLP

1 First Canadian Place
P.O. Box 50
Toronto, ON M5X 1B8

Tel: 416.362.2111
Fax: 416.862.6666

Counsel for the Chief Restructuring Officer of the
Applicants