

**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 PAYLESS SHOESOURCE CANADA INC. AND PAYLESS
SHOESOURCE CANADA GP INC.**

(the "Applicants")

**BOOK OF AUTHORITIES OF THE APPLICANTS
(Plan Sanction Order)
VOLUME 1 OF 2**

October 25, 2019

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TAB 1

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Alberta Court of Queen's Bench

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re

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

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.

Heard: June 5-19, 2000

Judgment: June 27, 2000 *

Docket: Calgary 0001-05071

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G.B. Morawetz, R.J. Chadwick and A. McConnell, for Senior Secured Noteholders and the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Co.

C.J. Shaw, Q.C., for Unionized Employees.

T. Mallett and C. Feasby, for Amex Bank of Canada.

E.W. Halt, for J. Stephens Allan, Claims Officer.

M. Hollins, for Pacific Coastal Airlines.

P. Pastewka, for JHHD Aircraft Leasing No. 1 and No. 2.

J. Thom, for Royal Bank of Canada.

J. Medhurst-Tivadar, for Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

R. Wilkins, Q.C., for Calgary and Edmonton Airport Authority.

Paperny J.:

I. Introduction

1 After a decade of searching for a permanent solution to its ongoing, significant financial problems, Canadian Airlines Corporation ("CAC") and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. ("CAIL") seek the court's sanction to a plan of arrangement filed under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA") and sponsored by its historic rival, Air Canada Corporation ("Air Canada"). To Canadian, this represents its last choice and its only chance for survival. To Air Canada, it is an opportunity to lead the restructuring of the Canadian airline industry, an exercise many suggest is long overdue. To over 16,000 employees of Canadian, it means continued employment. Canadian Airlines will operate as a separate entity and continue to provide domestic and international air service to Canadians. Tickets of the flying public will be honoured and their frequent flyer points maintained. Long term business relationships with trade creditors and suppliers will continue.

2 The proposed restructuring comes at a cost. Secured and unsecured creditors are being asked to accept significant compromises and shareholders of CAC are being asked to accept that their shares have no value. Certain unsecured creditors oppose the plan, alleging it is oppressive and unfair. They assert that Air Canada has appropriated the key assets of Canadian to itself. Minority shareholders of CAC, on the other hand, argue that Air Canada's financial support to Canadian, before and during this restructuring process, has increased the value of Canadian and in turn their shares. These two positions are irreconcilable, but do reflect the perception by some that this plan asks them to sacrifice too much.

3 Canadian has asked this court to sanction its plan under s. 6 of the CCAA. The court's role on a sanction hearing is to consider whether the plan fairly balances the interests of all the stakeholders. Faced with an insolvent organization, its role is to look forward and ask: does this plan represent a fair and reasonable compromise that will permit a viable commercial entity to emerge? It is also an exercise in assessing current reality by comparing available commercial alternatives to what is offered in the proposed plan.

II. Background

Canadian Airlines and its Subsidiaries

4 CAC and CAIL are corporations incorporated or continued under the *Business Corporations Act* of Alberta, S.A. 1981, c. B-15 ("ABCA"). 82% of CAC's shares are held by 853350 Alberta Ltd. ("853350") and the remaining 18% are held publicly. CAC, directly or indirectly, owns the majority of voting shares in and controls the other Petitioner, CAIL and these shares represent CAC's principal asset. CAIL owns or has an interest in a number of other corporations directly engaged in the airline industry or other businesses related to the airline industry, including Canadian Regional Airlines Limited ("CRAL"). Where the context requires, I will refer to CAC and CAIL jointly as "Canadian" in these reasons.

5 In the past fifteen years, CAIL has grown from a regional carrier operating under the name Pacific Western Airlines ("PWA") to one of Canada's two major airlines. By mid-1986, Canadian Pacific Air Lines Limited ("CP Air"), had acquired the regional carriers Nordair Inc. ("Nordair") and Eastern Provincial Airways ("Eastern"). In February, 1987, PWA completed its purchase of CP Air from Canadian Pacific Limited. PWA then merged the four predecessor carriers (CP Air, Eastern, Nordair, and PWA) to form one airline, "Canadian Airlines International Ltd.", which was launched in April, 1987.

6 By April, 1989, CAIL had acquired substantially all of the common shares of Wardair Inc. and completed the integration of CAIL and Wardair Inc. in 1990.

7 CAIL and its subsidiaries provide international and domestic scheduled and charter air transportation for passengers and cargo. CAIL provides scheduled services to approximately 30 destinations in 11 countries. Its subsidiary, Canadian Regional Airlines (1998) Ltd. ("CRAL 98") provides scheduled services to approximately 35 destinations in Canada and the United States. Through code share agreements and marketing alliances with leading carriers, CAIL and its subsidiaries provide service to approximately 225 destinations worldwide. CAIL is also engaged in charter and cargo services and the provision of services to third parties, including aircraft overhaul and maintenance, passenger and cargo handling, flight simulator and equipment rentals, employee training programs and the sale of Canadian Plus frequent flyer points. As at December 31, 1999, CAIL operated approximately 79 aircraft.

8 CAIL directly and indirectly employs over 16,000 persons, substantially all of whom are located in Canada. The balance of the employees are located in the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and Mexico. Approximately 88% of the active employees of CAIL are subject to collective bargaining agreements.

Events Leading up to the CCAA Proceedings

9 Canadian's financial difficulties significantly predate these proceedings.

10 In the early 1990s, Canadian experienced significant losses from operations and deteriorating liquidity. It completed a financial restructuring in 1994 (the "1994 Restructuring") which involved employees contributing \$200,000,000 in new equity

in return for receipt of entitlements to common shares. In addition, Aurora Airline Investments, Inc. ("Aurora"), a subsidiary of AMR Corporation ("AMR"), subscribed for \$246,000,000 in preferred shares of CAIL. Other AMR subsidiaries entered into comprehensive services and marketing arrangements with CAIL. The governments of Canada, British Columbia and Alberta provided an aggregate of \$120,000,000 in loan guarantees. Senior creditors, junior creditors and shareholders of CAC and CAIL and its subsidiaries converted approximately \$712,000,000 of obligations into common shares of CAC or convertible notes issued jointly by CAC and CAIL and/or received warrants entitling the holder to purchase common shares.

11 In the latter half of 1994, Canadian built on the improved balance sheet provided by the 1994 Restructuring, focussing on strict cost controls, capacity management and aircraft utilization. The initial results were encouraging. However, a number of factors including higher than expected fuel costs, rising interest rates, decline of the Canadian dollar, a strike by pilots of Time Air and the temporary grounding of Inter-Canadien's ATR-42 fleet undermined this improved operational performance. In 1995, in response to additional capacity added by emerging charter carriers and Air Canada on key transcontinental routes, CAIL added additional aircraft to its fleet in an effort to regain market share. However, the addition of capacity coincided with the slow-down in the Canadian economy leading to traffic levels that were significantly below expectations. Additionally, key international routes of CAIL failed to produce anticipated results. The cumulative losses of CAIL from 1994 to 1999 totalled \$771 million and from January 31, 1995 to August 12, 1999, the day prior to the issuance by the Government of Canada of an Order under Section 47 of the *Canada Transportation Act* (relaxing certain rules under the *Competition Act* to facilitate a restructuring of the airline industry and described further below), the trading price of Canadian's common shares declined from \$7.90 to \$1.55.

12 Canadian's losses incurred since the 1994 Restructuring severely eroded its liquidity position. In 1996, Canadian faced an environment where the domestic air travel market saw increased capacity and aggressive price competition by two new discount carriers based in western Canada. While Canadian's traffic and load factor increased indicating a positive response to Canadian's post-restructuring business plan, yields declined. Attempts by Canadian to reduce domestic capacity were offset by additional capacity being introduced by the new discount carriers and Air Canada.

13 The continued lack of sufficient funds from operations made it evident by late fall of 1996 that Canadian needed to take action to avoid a cash shortfall in the spring of 1997. In November 1996, Canadian announced an operational restructuring plan (the "1996 Restructuring") aimed at returning Canadian to profitability and subsequently implemented a payment deferral plan which involved a temporary moratorium on payments to certain lenders and aircraft operating lessors to provide a cash bridge until the benefits of the operational restructuring were fully implemented. Canadian was able successfully to obtain the support of its lenders and operating lessors such that the moratorium and payment deferral plan was able to proceed on a consensual basis without the requirement for any court proceedings.

14 The objective of the 1996 Restructuring was to transform Canadian into a sustainable entity by focussing on controllable factors which targeted earnings improvements over four years. Three major initiatives were adopted: network enhancements, wage concessions as supplemented by fuel tax reductions/rebates, and overhead cost reductions.

15 The benefits of the 1996 Restructuring were reflected in Canadian's 1997 financial results when Canadian and its subsidiaries reported a consolidated net income of \$5.4 million, the best results in 9 years.

16 In early 1998, building on its 1997 results, Canadian took advantage of a strong market for U.S. public debt financing in the first half of 1998 by issuing U.S. \$175,000,000 of senior secured notes in April, 1998 ("Senior Secured Notes") and U.S. \$100,000,000 of unsecured notes in August, 1998 ("Unsecured Notes").

17 The benefits of the 1996 Restructuring continued in 1998 but were not sufficient to offset a number of new factors which had a significant negative impact on financial performance, particularly in the fourth quarter. Canadian's eroded capital base gave it limited capacity to withstand negative effects on traffic and revenue. These factors included lower than expected operating revenues resulting from a continued weakness of the Asian economies, vigorous competition in Canadian's key western Canada and the western U.S. transborder markets, significant price discounting in most domestic markets following a labour disruption at Air Canada and CAIL's temporary loss of the ability to code-share with American Airlines on certain transborder flights due

to a pilot dispute at American Airlines. Canadian also had increased operating expenses primarily due to the deterioration of the value of the Canadian dollar and additional airport and navigational fees imposed by NAV Canada which were not recoverable by Canadian through fare increases because of competitive pressures. This resulted in Canadian and its subsidiaries reporting a consolidated loss of \$137.6 million for 1998.

18 As a result of these continuing weak financial results, Canadian undertook a number of additional strategic initiatives including entering the *oneworld*TM Alliance, the introduction of its new "Proud Wings" corporate image, a restructuring of CAIL's Vancouver hub, the sale and leaseback of certain aircraft, expanded code sharing arrangements and the implementation of a service charge in an effort to recover a portion of the costs relating to NAV Canada fees.

19 Beginning in late 1998 and continuing into 1999, Canadian tried to access equity markets to strengthen its balance sheet. In January, 1999, the Board of Directors of CAC determined that while Canadian needed to obtain additional equity capital, an equity infusion alone would not address the fundamental structural problems in the domestic air transportation market.

20 Canadian believes that its financial performance was and is reflective of structural problems in the Canadian airline industry, most significantly, over capacity in the domestic air transportation market. It is the view of Canadian and Air Canada that Canada's relatively small population and the geographic distribution of that population is unable to support the overlapping networks of two full service national carriers. As described further below, the Government of Canada has recognized this fundamental problem and has been instrumental in attempts to develop a solution.

Initial Discussions with Air Canada

21 Accordingly, in January, 1999, CAC's Board of Directors directed management to explore all strategic alternatives available to Canadian, including discussions regarding a possible merger or other transaction involving Air Canada.

22 Canadian had discussions with Air Canada in early 1999. AMR also participated in those discussions. While several alternative merger transactions were considered in the course of these discussions, Canadian, AMR and Air Canada were unable to reach agreement.

23 Following the termination of merger discussions between Canadian and Air Canada, senior management of Canadian, at the direction of the Board and with the support of AMR, renewed its efforts to secure financial partners with the objective of obtaining either an equity investment and support for an eventual merger with Air Canada or immediate financial support for a merger with Air Canada.

Offer by Onex

24 In early May, the discussions with Air Canada having failed, Canadian focussed its efforts on discussions with Onex Corporation ("Onex") and AMR concerning the basis upon which a merger of Canadian and Air Canada could be accomplished.

25 On August 23, 1999, Canadian entered into an Arrangement Agreement with Onex, AMR and Airline Industry Revitalization Co. Inc. ("AirCo") (a company owned jointly by Onex and AMR and controlled by Onex). The Arrangement Agreement set out the terms of a Plan of Arrangement providing for the purchase by AirCo of all of the outstanding common and non-voting shares of CAC. The Arrangement Agreement was conditional upon, among other things, the successful completion of a simultaneous offer by AirCo for all of the voting and non-voting shares of Air Canada. On August 24, 1999, AirCo announced its offers to purchase the shares of both CAC and Air Canada and to subsequently merge the operations of the two airlines to create one international carrier in Canada.

26 On or about September 20, 1999 the Board of Directors of Air Canada recommended against the AirCo offer. On or about October 19, 1999, Air Canada announced its own proposal to its shareholders to repurchase shares of Air Canada. Air Canada's announcement also indicated Air Canada's intention to make a bid for CAC and to proceed to complete a merger with Canadian subject to a restructuring of Canadian's debt.

27 There were several rounds of offers and counter-offers between AirCo and Air Canada. On November 5, 1999, the Quebec Superior Court ruled that the AirCo offer for Air Canada violated the provisions of the *Air Canada Public Participation Act*. AirCo immediately withdrew its offers. At that time, Air Canada indicated its intention to proceed with its offer for CAC.

28 Following the withdrawal of the AirCo offer to purchase CAC, and notwithstanding Air Canada's stated intention to proceed with its offer, there was a renewed uncertainty about Canadian's future which adversely affected operations. As described further below, Canadian lost significant forward bookings which further reduced the company's remaining liquidity.

Offer by 853350

29 On November 11, 1999, 853350 (a corporation financed by Air Canada and owned as to 10% by Air Canada) made a formal offer for all of the common and non-voting shares of CAC. Air Canada indicated that the involvement of 853350 in the take-over bid was necessary in order to protect Air Canada from the potential adverse effects of a restructuring of Canadian's debt and that Air Canada would only complete a merger with Canadian after the completion of a debt restructuring transaction. The offer by 853350 was conditional upon, among other things, a satisfactory resolution of AMR's claims in respect of Canadian and a satisfactory resolution of certain regulatory issues arising from the announcement made on October 26, 1999 by the Government of Canada regarding its intentions to alter the regime governing the airline industry.

30 As noted above, AMR and its subsidiaries and affiliates had certain agreements with Canadian arising from AMR's investment (through its wholly owned subsidiary, Aurora Airline Investments, Inc.) in CAIL during the 1994 Restructuring. In particular, the Services Agreement by which AMR and its subsidiaries and affiliates provided certain reservations, scheduling and other airline related services to Canadian provided for a termination fee of approximately \$500 million (as at December 31, 1999) while the terms governing the preferred shares issued to Aurora provided for exchange rights which were only retractable by Canadian upon payment of a redemption fee in excess of \$500 million (as at December 31, 1999). Unless such provisions were amended or waived, it was practically impossible for Canadian to complete a merger with Air Canada since the cost of proceeding without AMR's consent was simply too high.

31 Canadian had continued its efforts to seek out all possible solutions to its structural problems following the withdrawal of the AirCo offer on November 5, 1999. While AMR indicated its willingness to provide a measure of support by allowing a deferral of some of the fees payable to AMR under the Services Agreement, Canadian was unable to find any investor willing to provide the liquidity necessary to keep Canadian operating while alternative solutions were sought.

32 After 853350 made its offer, 853350 and Air Canada entered into discussions with AMR regarding the purchase by 853350 of AMR's shareholding in CAIL as well as other matters regarding code sharing agreements and various services provided to Canadian by AMR and its subsidiaries and affiliates. The parties reached an agreement on November 22, 1999 pursuant to which AMR agreed to reduce its potential damages claim for termination of the Services Agreement by approximately 88%.

33 On December 4, 1999, CAC's Board recommended acceptance of 853350's offer to its shareholders and on December 21, 1999, two days before the offer closed, 853350 received approval for the offer from the Competition Bureau as well as clarification from the Government of Canada on the proposed regulatory framework for the Canadian airline industry.

34 As noted above, Canadian's financial condition deteriorated further after the collapse of the AirCo Arrangement transaction. In particular:

- a) the doubts which were publicly raised as to Canadian's ability to survive made Canadian's efforts to secure additional financing through various sale-leaseback transactions more difficult;
- b) sales for future air travel were down by approximately 10% compared to 1998;
- c) CAIL's liquidity position, which stood at approximately \$84 million (consolidated cash and available credit) as at September 30, 1999, reached a critical point in late December, 1999 when it was about to go negative.

35 In late December, 1999, Air Canada agreed to enter into certain transactions designed to ensure that Canadian would have enough liquidity to continue operating until the scheduled completion of the 853350 take-over bid on January 4, 2000. Air Canada agreed to purchase rights to the Toronto-Tokyo route for \$25 million and to a sale-leaseback arrangement involving certain unencumbered aircraft and a flight simulator for total proceeds of approximately \$20 million. These transactions gave Canadian sufficient liquidity to continue operations through the holiday period.

36 If Air Canada had not provided the approximate \$45 million injection in December 1999, Canadian would likely have had to file for bankruptcy and cease all operations before the end of the holiday travel season.

37 On January 4, 2000, with all conditions of its offer having been satisfied or waived, 853350 purchased approximately 82% of the outstanding shares of CAC. On January 5, 1999, 853350 completed the purchase of the preferred shares of CAIL owned by Aurora. In connection with that acquisition, Canadian agreed to certain amendments to the Services Agreement reducing the amounts payable to AMR in the event of a termination of such agreement and, in addition, the unanimous shareholders agreement which gave AMR the right to require Canadian to purchase the CAIL preferred shares under certain circumstances was terminated. These arrangements had the effect of substantially reducing the obstacles to a restructuring of Canadian's debt and lease obligations and also significantly reduced the claims that AMR would be entitled to advance in such a restructuring.

38 Despite the \$45 million provided by Air Canada, Canadian's liquidity position remained poor. With January being a traditionally slow month in the airline industry, further bridge financing was required in order to ensure that Canadian would be able to operate while a debt restructuring transaction was being negotiated with creditors. Air Canada negotiated an arrangement with the Royal Bank of Canada ("Royal Bank") to purchase a participation interest in the operating credit facility made available to Canadian. As a result of this agreement, Royal Bank agreed to extend Canadian's operating credit facility from \$70 million to \$120 million in January, 2000 and then to \$145 million in March, 2000. Canadian agreed to supplement the assignment of accounts receivable security originally securing Royal's \$70 million facility with a further Security Agreement securing certain unencumbered assets of Canadian in consideration for this increased credit availability. Without the support of Air Canada or another financially sound entity, this increase in credit would not have been possible.

39 Air Canada has stated publicly that it ultimately wishes to merge the operations of Canadian and Air Canada, subject to Canadian completing a financial restructuring so as to permit Air Canada to complete the acquisition on a financially sound basis. This pre-condition has been emphasized by Air Canada since the fall of 1999.

40 Prior to the acquisition of majority control of CAC by 853350, Canadian's management, Board of Directors and financial advisors had considered every possible alternative for restoring Canadian to a sound financial footing. Based upon Canadian's extensive efforts over the past year in particular, but also the efforts since 1992 described above, Canadian came to the conclusion that it must complete a debt restructuring to permit the completion of a full merger between Canadian and Air Canada.

41 On February 1, 2000, Canadian announced a moratorium on payments to lessors and lenders. As a result of this moratorium Canadian defaulted on the payments due under its various credit facilities and aircraft leases. Absent the assistance provided by this moratorium, in addition to Air Canada's support, Canadian would not have had sufficient liquidity to continue operating until the completion of a debt restructuring.

42 Following implementation of the moratorium, Canadian with Air Canada embarked on efforts to restructure significant obligations by consent. The further damage to public confidence which a CCAA filing could produce required Canadian to secure a substantial measure of creditor support in advance of any public filing for court protection.

43 Before the Petitioners started these CCAA proceedings, Air Canada, CAIL and lessors of 59 aircraft in its fleet had reached agreement in principle on the restructuring plan.

44 Canadian and Air Canada have also been able to reach agreement with the remaining affected secured creditors, being the holders of the U.S. \$175 million Senior Secured Notes, due 2005, (the "Senior Secured Noteholders") and with several major unsecured creditors in addition to AMR, such as Loyalty Management Group Canada Inc.

45 On March 24, 2000, faced with threatened proceedings by secured creditors, Canadian petitioned under the CCAA and obtained a stay of proceedings and related interim relief by Order of the Honourable Chief Justice Moore on that same date. Pursuant to that Order, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Inc. was appointed as the Monitor, and companion proceedings in the United States were authorized to be commenced.

46 Since that time, due to the assistance of Air Canada, Canadian has been able to complete the restructuring of the remaining financial obligations governing all aircraft to be retained by Canadian for future operations. These arrangements were approved by this Honourable Court in its Orders dated April 14, 2000 and May 10, 2000, as described in further detail below under the heading "The Restructuring Plan".

47 On April 7, 2000, this court granted an Order giving directions with respect to the filing of the plan, the calling and holding of meetings of affected creditors and related matters.

48 On April 25, 2000 in accordance with the said Order, Canadian filed and served the plan (in its original form) and the related notices and materials.

49 The plan was amended, in accordance with its terms, on several occasions, the form of Plan voted upon at the Creditors' Meetings on May 26, 2000 having been filed and served on May 25, 2000 (the "Plan").

The Restructuring Plan

50 The Plan has three principal aims described by Canadian:

- (a) provide near term liquidity so that Canadian can sustain operations;
- (b) allow for the return of aircraft not required by Canadian; and
- (c) permanently adjust Canadian's debt structure and lease facilities to reflect the current market for asset values and carrying costs in return for Air Canada providing a guarantee of the restructured obligations.

51 The proposed treatment of stakeholders is as follows:

1. Unaffected Secured Creditors- Royal Bank, CAIL's operating lender, is an unaffected creditor with respect to its operating credit facility. Royal Bank holds security over CAIL's accounts receivable and most of CAIL's operating assets not specifically secured by aircraft financiers or the Senior Secured Noteholders. As noted above, arrangements entered into between Air Canada and Royal Bank have provided CAIL with liquidity necessary for it to continue operations since January 2000.

Also unaffected by the Plan are those aircraft lessors, conditional vendors and secured creditors holding security over CAIL's aircraft who have entered into agreements with CAIL and/or Air Canada with respect to the restructuring of CAIL's obligations. A number of such agreements, which were initially contained in the form of letters of intent ("LOIs"), were entered into prior to the commencement of the CCAA proceedings, while a total of 17 LOIs were completed after that date. In its Second and Fourth Reports the Monitor reported to the court on these agreements. The LOIs entered into after the proceedings commenced were reviewed and approved by the court on April 14, 2000 and May 10, 2000.

The basis of the LOIs with aircraft lessors was that the operating lease rates were reduced to fair market lease rates or less, and the obligations of CAIL under the leases were either assumed or guaranteed by Air Canada. Where the aircraft was subject to conditional sale agreements or other secured indebtedness, the value of the secured debt was reduced to the fair market value of the aircraft, and the interest rate payable was reduced to current market rates reflecting Air Canada's credit. CAIL's obligations under those agreements have also been assumed or guaranteed by Air Canada. The claims of these creditors for reduced principal and interest amounts, or reduced lease payments, are

Affected Unsecured Claims under the Plan. In a number of cases these claims have been assigned to Air Canada and Air Canada disclosed that it would vote those claims in favour of the Plan.

2. Affected Secured Creditors- The Affected Secured Creditors under the Plan are the Senior Secured Noteholders with a claim in the amount of US\$175,000,000. The Senior Secured Noteholders are secured by a diverse package of Canadian's assets, including its inventory of aircraft spare parts, ground equipment, spare engines, flight simulators, leasehold interests at Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary airports, the shares in CRAL 98 and a \$53 million note payable by CRAL to CAIL.

The Plan offers the Senior Secured Noteholders payment of 97 cents on the dollar. The deficiency is included in the Affected Unsecured Creditor class and the Senior Secured Noteholders advised the court they would be voting the deficiency in favour of the Plan.

3. Unaffected Unsecured Creditors-In the circular accompanying the November 11, 1999 853350 offer it was stated that:

The Offeror intends to conduct the Debt Restructuring in such a manner as to seek to ensure that the unionized employees of Canadian, the suppliers of new credit (including trade credit) and the members of the flying public are left unaffected.

The Offeror is of the view that the pursuit of these three principles is essential in order to ensure that the long term value of Canadian is preserved.

Canadian's employees, customers and suppliers of goods and services are unaffected by the CCAA Order and Plan.

Also unaffected are parties to those contracts or agreements with Canadian which are not being terminated by Canadian pursuant to the terms of the March 24, 2000 Order.

4. Affected Unsecured Creditors- CAIL has identified unsecured creditors who do not fall into the above three groups and listed these as Affected Unsecured Creditors under the Plan. They are offered 14 cents on the dollar on their claims. Air Canada would fund this payment.

The Affected Unsecured Creditors fall into the following categories:

- a. Claims of holders of or related to the Unsecured Notes (the "Unsecured Noteholders");
- b. Claims in respect of certain outstanding or threatened litigation involving Canadian;
- c. Claims arising from the termination, breach or repudiation of certain contracts, leases or agreements to which Canadian is a party other than aircraft financing or lease arrangements;
- d. Claims in respect of deficiencies arising from the termination or re-negotiation of aircraft financing or lease arrangements;
- e. Claims of tax authorities against Canadian; and
- f. Claims in respect of the under-secured or unsecured portion of amounts due to the Senior Secured Noteholders.

52 There are over \$700 million of proven unsecured claims. Some unsecured creditors have disputed the amounts of their claims for distribution purposes. These are in the process of determination by the court-appointed Claims Officer and subject to further appeal to the court. If the Claims Officer were to allow all of the disputed claims in full and this were confirmed by the court, the aggregate of unsecured claims would be approximately \$1.059 million.

53 The Monitor has concluded that if the Plan is not approved and implemented, Canadian will not be able to continue as a going concern and in that event, the only foreseeable alternative would be a liquidation of Canadian's assets by a receiver and/or a trustee in bankruptcy. Under the Plan, Canadian's obligations to parties essential to ongoing operations, including employees, customers, travel agents, fuel, maintenance and equipment suppliers, and airport authorities are in most cases to be treated as unaffected and paid in full. In the event of a liquidation, those parties would not, in most cases, be paid in full and, except for specific lien rights and statutory priorities, would rank as ordinary unsecured creditors. The Monitor estimates that the additional unsecured claims which would arise if Canadian were to cease operations as a going concern and be forced into liquidation would be in excess of \$1.1 billion.

54 In connection with its assessment of the Plan, the Monitor performed a liquidation analysis of CAIL as at March 31, 2000 in order to estimate the amounts that might be recovered by CAIL's creditors and shareholders in the event of disposition of CAIL's assets by a receiver or trustee. The Monitor concluded that a liquidation would result in a shortfall to certain secured creditors, including the Senior Secured Noteholders, a recovery by ordinary unsecured creditors of between one cent and three cents on the dollar, and no recovery by shareholders.

55 There are two vociferous opponents of the Plan, Resurgence Asset Management LLC ("Resurgence") who acts on behalf of its and/or its affiliate client accounts and four shareholders of CAC. Resurgence is incorporated pursuant to the laws of New York, U.S.A. and has its head office in White Plains, New York. It conducts an investment business specializing in high yield distressed debt. Through a series of purchases of the Unsecured Notes commencing in April 1999, Resurgence clients hold \$58,200,000 of the face value of or 58.2% of the notes issued. Resurgence purchased 7.9 million units in April 1999. From November 3, 1999 to December 9, 1999 it purchased an additional 20,850,000 units. From January 4, 2000 to February 3, 2000 Resurgence purchased an additional 29,450,000 units.

56 Resurgence seeks declarations that: the actions of Canadian, Air Canada and 853350 constitute an amalgamation, consolidation or merger with or into Air Canada or a conveyance or transfer of all or substantially all of Canadian's assets to Air Canada; that any plan of arrangement involving Canadian will not affect Resurgence and directing the repurchase of their notes pursuant to the provisions of their trust indenture and that the actions of Canadian, Air Canada and 853350 are oppressive and unfairly prejudicial to it pursuant to section 234 of the Business Corporations Act.

57 Four shareholders of CAC also oppose the plan. Neil Baker, a Toronto resident, acquired 132,500 common shares at a cost of \$83,475.00 on or about May 5, 2000. Mr. Baker sought to commence proceedings to "remedy an injustice to the minority holders of the common shares". Roger Midity, Michael Salter and Hal Metheral are individual shareholders who were added as parties at their request during the proceedings. Mr. Midity resides in Calgary, Alberta and holds 827 CAC shares which he has held since 1994. Mr. Metheral is also a Calgary resident and holds approximately 14,900 CAC shares in his RRSP and has held them since approximately 1994 or 1995. Mr. Salter is a resident of Scottsdale, Arizona and is the beneficial owner of 250 shares of CAC and is a joint beneficial owner of 250 shares with his wife. These shareholders will be referred in the Decision throughout as the "Minority Shareholders".

58 The Minority Shareholders oppose the portion of the Plan that relates to the reorganization of CAIL, pursuant to section 185 of the *Alberta Business Corporations Act* ("ABCA"). They characterize the transaction as a cancellation of issued shares unauthorized by section 167 of the ABCA or alternatively is a violation of section 183 of the ABCA. They submit the application for the order of reorganization should be denied as being unlawful, unfair and not supported by the evidence.

III. Analysis

59 Section 6 of the CCAA provides that:

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 receiving 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.

60 Prior to sanctioning a plan under the CCAA, the court must be satisfied in regard to each of the following criteria:

(1) there must be compliance with all statutory requirements;

(2) all material filed and procedures carried out must be examined to determine if anything has been done or purported to be done which is not authorized by the CCAA; and

(3) the plan must be fair and reasonable.

61 A leading articulation of this three-part test appears in *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 (B.C. S.C.) at 182-3, aff'd (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C. C.A.) and has been regularly followed, see for example *Re Sammi Atlas Inc.* (1998), 3 C.B.R. (4th) 171 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) at 172 and *Re T. Eaton Co.* (1999), 15 C.B.R. (4th) 311 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) at paragraph 7. Each of these criteria are reviewed in turn below.

1. Statutory Requirements

62 Some of the matters that may be considered by the court on an application for approval of a plan of compromise and arrangement include:

(a) the applicant comes within the definition of "debtor company" in section 2 of the CCAA;

(b) the applicant or affiliated debtor companies have total claims within the meaning of section 12 of the CCAA in excess of \$5,000,000;

(c) the notice calling the meeting was sent in accordance with the order of the court;

(d) the creditors were properly classified;

(e) the meetings of creditors were properly constituted;

(f) the voting was properly carried out; and

(g) the plan was approved by the requisite double majority or majorities.

63 I find that the Petitioners have complied with all applicable statutory requirements. Specifically:

(a) CAC and CAIL are insolvent and thus each is a "debtor company" within the meaning of section 2 of the CCAA. This was established in the affidavit evidence of Douglas Carty, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Canadian, and so declared in the March 24, 2000 Order in these proceedings and confirmed in the testimony given by Mr. Carty at this hearing.

(b) CAC and CAIL have total claims that would be claims provable in bankruptcy within the meaning of section 12 of the CCAA in excess of \$5,000,000.

(c) In accordance with the April 7, 2000 Order of this court, a Notice of Meeting and a disclosure statement (which included copies of the Plan and the March 24th and April 7th Orders of this court) were sent to the Affected Creditors,

the directors and officers of the Petitioners, the Monitor and persons who had served a Notice of Appearance, on April 25, 2000.

(d) As confirmed by the May 12, 2000 ruling of this court (leave to appeal denied May 29, 2000), the creditors have been properly classified.

(e) Further, as detailed in the Monitor's Fifth Report to the Court and confirmed by the June 14, 2000 decision of this court in respect of a challenge by Resurgence Asset Management LLC ("Resurgence"), the meetings of creditors were properly constituted, the voting was properly carried out and the Plan was approved by the requisite double majorities in each class. The composition of the majority of the unsecured creditor class is addressed below under the heading "Fair and Reasonable".

2. Matters Unauthorized

64 This criterion has not been widely discussed in the reported cases. As recognized by Blair J. in *Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.* (1993), 17 C.B.R. (3d) 1 (Ont. Gen. Div.) and Farley J. in *Re Cadillac Fairview Inc.* (February 6, 1995), Doc. B348/94 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]), within the CCAA process the court must rely on the reports of the Monitor as well as the parties in ensuring nothing contrary to the CCAA has occurred or is contemplated by the plan.

65 In this proceeding, the dissenting groups have raised two matters which in their view are unauthorized by the CCAA: firstly, the Minority Shareholders of CAC suggested the proposed share capital reorganization of CAIL is illegal under the ABCA and Ontario Securities Commission Policy 9.1, and as such cannot be authorized under the CCAA and secondly, certain unsecured creditors suggested that the form of release contained in the Plan goes beyond the scope of release permitted under the CCAA.

a. Legality of proposed share capital reorganization

66 Subsection 185(2) of the ABCA provides:

(2) If a corporation is subject to an order for reorganization, its articles may be amended by the order to effect any change that might lawfully be made by an amendment under section 167.

67 Sections 6.1(2)(d) and (e) and Schedule "D" of the Plan contemplate that:

a. All CAIL common shares held by CAC will be converted into a single retractable share, which will then be retracted by CAIL for \$1.00; and

b. All CAIL preferred shares held by 853350 will be converted into CAIL common shares.

68 The Articles of Reorganization in Schedule "D" to the Plan provide for the following amendments to CAIL's Articles of Incorporation to effect the proposed reorganization:

(a) consolidating all of the issued and outstanding common shares into one common share;

(b) redesignating the existing common shares as "Retractable Shares" and changing the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to the Retractable Shares so that the Retractable Shares shall have attached thereto the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions as set out in the Schedule of Share Capital;

(c) cancelling the Non-Voting Shares in the capital of the corporation, none of which are currently issued and outstanding, so that the corporation is no longer authorized to issue Non-Voting Shares;

(d) changing all of the issued and outstanding Class B Preferred Shares of the corporation into Class A Preferred Shares, on the basis of one (1) Class A Preferred Share for each one (1) Class B Preferred Share presently issued and outstanding;

- (e) redesignating the existing Class A Preferred Shares as "Common Shares" and changing the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to the Common Shares so that the Common Shares shall have attached thereto the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions as set out in the Schedule of Share Capital; and
- (f) cancelling the Class B Preferred Shares in the capital of the corporation, none of which are issued and outstanding after the change in paragraph (d) above, so that the corporation is no longer authorized to issue Class B Preferred Shares;

Section 167 of the ABCA

69 Reorganizations under section 185 of the ABCA are subject to two preconditions:

- a. The corporation must be "subject to an order for re-organization"; and
- b. The proposed amendments must otherwise be permitted under section 167 of the ABCA.

70 The parties agreed that an order of this court sanctioning the Plan would satisfy the first condition.

71 The relevant portions of section 167 provide as follows:

167(1) Subject to sections 170 and 171, the articles of a corporation may by special resolution be amended to

- (e) change the designation of all or any of its shares, and add, change or remove any rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions, including rights to accrued dividends, in respect of all or any of its shares, whether issued or unissued,
- (f) change the shares of any class or series, whether issued or unissued, into a different number of shares of the same class or series into the same or a different number of shares of other classes or series,
- (g.1) cancel a class or series of shares where there are no issued or outstanding shares of that class or series,

72 Each change in the proposed CAIL Articles of Reorganization corresponds to changes permitted under s. 167(1) of the ABCA, as follows:

Proposed Amendment in Schedule "D"	Subsection 167(1), ABCA
(a) — consolidation of Common Shares	167(1)(f)
(b) — change of designation and rights	167(1)(e)
(c) — cancellation	167(1)(g.1)
(d) — change in shares	167(1)(f)
(e) — change of designation and rights	167(1)(e)
(f) — cancellation	167(1)(g.1)

73 The Minority Shareholders suggested that the proposed reorganization effectively cancels their shares in CAC. As the above review of the proposed reorganization demonstrates, that is not the case. Rather, the shares of CAIL are being consolidated, altered and then retracted, as permitted under section 167 of the ABCA. I find the proposed reorganization of CAIL's share capital under the Plan does not violate section 167.

74 In R. Dickerson et al, *Proposals for a New Business Corporation Law for Canada*, Vol.1: Commentary (the "Dickerson Report") regarding the then proposed Canada Business Corporations Act, the identical section to section 185 is described as having been inserted with the object of enabling the "court to effect any necessary amendment of the articles of the corporation in order to achieve the objective of the reorganization without having to comply with the formalities of the Draft Act, particularly shareholder approval of the proposed amendment".

75 The architects of the business corporation act model which the ABCA follows, expressly contemplated reorganizations in which the insolvent corporation would eliminate the interest of common shareholders. The example given in the Dickerson Report of a reorganization is very similar to that proposed in the Plan:

For example, the reorganization of an insolvent corporation may require the following steps: first, reduction or even elimination of the interest of the common shareholders; second, relegation of the preferred shareholders to the status of common shareholders; and third, relegation of the secured debenture holders to the status of either unsecured Noteholders or preferred shareholders.

76 The rationale for allowing such a reorganization appears plain; the corporation is insolvent, which means that on liquidation the shareholders would get nothing. In those circumstances, as described further below under the heading "Fair and Reasonable", there is nothing unfair or unreasonable in the court effecting changes in such situations without shareholder approval. Indeed, it would be unfair to the creditors and other stakeholders to permit the shareholders (whose interest has the lowest priority) to have any ability to block a reorganization.

77 The Petitioners were unable to provide any case law addressing the use of section 185 as proposed under the Plan. They relied upon the decisions of *Re Royal Oak Mines Inc.* (1999), 14 C.B.R. (4th) 279 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) and *T. Eaton Co.*, *supra* in which Farley J. of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice emphasized that shareholders are at the bottom of the hierarchy of interests in liquidation or liquidation related scenarios.

78 Section 185 provides for amendment to articles by court order. I see no requirement in that section for a meeting or vote of shareholders of CAIL, quite apart from shareholders of CAC. Further, dissent and appraisal rights are expressly removed in subsection (7). To require a meeting and vote of shareholders and to grant dissent and appraisal rights in circumstances of insolvency would frustrate the object of section 185 as described in the Dickerson Report.

79 In the circumstances of this case, where the majority shareholder holds 82% of the shares, the requirement of a special resolution is meaningless. To require a vote suggests the shares have value. They do not. The formalities of the ABCA serve no useful purpose other than to frustrate the reorganization to the detriment of all stakeholders, contrary to the CCAA.

Section 183 of the ABCA

80 The Minority Shareholders argued in the alternative that if the proposed share reorganization of CAIL were not a cancellation of their shares in CAC and therefore allowed under section 167 of the ABCA, it constituted a "sale, lease, or exchange of substantially all the property" of CAC and thus required the approval of CAC shareholders pursuant to section 183 of the ABCA. The Minority Shareholders suggested that the common shares in CAIL were substantially all of the assets of CAC and that all of those shares were being "exchanged" for \$1.00.

81 I disagree with this creative characterization. The proposed transaction is a reorganization as contemplated by section 185 of the ABCA. As recognized in *Savage v. Amoco Acquisition Co.* (1988), 68 C.B.R. (N.S.) 154 (Alta. C.A.) *aff'd* (1988), 70 C.B.R. (N.S.) xxxiii (S.C.C.), the fact that the same end might be achieved under another section does not exclude the section to be relied on. A statute may well offer several alternatives to achieve a similar end.

Ontario Securities Commission Policy 9.1

82 The Minority Shareholders also submitted the proposed reorganization constitutes a "related party transaction" under Policy 9.1 of the Ontario Securities Commission. Under the Policy, transactions are subject to disclosure, minority approval and formal valuation requirements which have not been followed here. The Minority Shareholders suggested that the Petitioners were therefore in breach of the Policy unless and until such time as the court is advised of the relevant requirements of the Policy and grants its approval as provided by the Policy.

83 These shareholders asserted that in the absence of evidence of the going concern value of CAIL so as to determine whether that value exceeds the rights of the Preferred Shares of CAIL, the Court should not waive compliance with the Policy.

84 To the extent that this reorganization can be considered a "related party transaction", I have found, for the reasons discussed below under the heading "Fair and Reasonable", that the Plan, including the proposed reorganization, is fair and reasonable and accordingly I would waive the requirements of Policy 9.1.

b. Release

85 Resurgence argued that the release of directors and other third parties contained in the Plan does not comply with the provisions of the CCAA.

86 The release is contained in section 6.2(2)(ii) of the Plan and states as follows:

As of the Effective Date, each of the Affected Creditors will be deemed to forever release, waive and discharge all claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action and liabilities...that are based in whole or in part on any act, omission, transaction, event or other occurrence taking place on or prior to the Effective Date in any way relating to the Applicants and Subsidiaries, the CCAA Proceedings, or the Plan against:(i) The Applicants and Subsidiaries; (ii) The Directors, Officers and employees of the Applicants or Subsidiaries in each case as of the date of filing (and in addition, those who became Officers and/or Directors thereafter but prior to the Effective Date); (iii) The former Directors, Officers and employees of the Applicants or Subsidiaries, or (iv) the respective current and former professionals of the entities in subclauses (1) to (3) of this s.6.2(2) (including, for greater certainty, the Monitor, its counsel and its current Officers and Directors, and current and former Officers, Directors, employees, shareholders and professionals of the released parties) acting in such capacity.

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.

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. Resurgence relied on *Crabtree (Succession de) c. Barrette*, [1993] 1 S.C.R. 1027 (S.C.C.) at 1044 and *Bruce Agra Foods Inc. v. Everfresh Beverages Inc. (Receiver of)* (1996), 45 C.B.R. (3d) 169 (Ont. Gen. Div.) at para. 5 in this regard.

89 With respect to Resurgence's complaint regarding the breadth of the claims covered by the release, the Petitioners asserted that the release is not intended to override section 5.1(2). Canadian suggested this can be expressly incorporated into the form of release by adding the words "*excluding the claims excepted by s. 5.1(2) of the CCAA*" immediately prior to subsection (iii) and clarifying the language in Section 5.1 of the Plan. Canadian also acknowledged, in response to a concern raised by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, that in accordance with s. 5.1(1) of the CCAA, directors of CAC and CAIL could only be

released from liability arising before March 24, 2000, the date these proceedings commenced. Canadian suggested this was also addressed in the proposed amendment. Canadian did not address the propriety of including individuals in addition to directors in the form of release.

90 In my view it is appropriate to amend the proposed release to expressly comply with section 5.1(2) of the CCAA and to clarify Section 5.1 of the Plan as Canadian suggested in its brief. The additional language suggested by Canadian to achieve this result shall be included in the form of order. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency is apparently satisfied with the Petitioners' acknowledgement that claims against directors can only be released to the date of commencement of proceedings under the CCAA, having appeared at this hearing to strongly support the sanctioning of the Plan, so I will not address this concern further.

91 Resurgence argued that its claims fell within the categories of excepted claims in section 5.1(2) of the CCAA and accordingly, its concern in this regard is removed by this amendment. Unsecured creditors JHHD Aircraft Leasing No. 1 and No. 2 suggested there may be possible wrongdoing in the acts of the directors during the restructuring process which should not be immune from scrutiny and in my view this complaint would also be caught by the exception captured in the amendment.

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.

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.

3. Fair and Reasonable

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 & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.*, *supra*, 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.* (1988), [1989] 2 W.W.R. 566 (Alta. Q.B.) at 574; *Northland Properties Ltd. v. Excelsior Life Insurance Co. of Canada*, [1989] 3 W.W.R. 363 (B.C. C.A.) at 368.

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.

a. *Composition of the unsecured vote*

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.

98 However, given the manner of voting under the CCAA, the court must be cognizant of the treatment of minorities within a class: see for example *Re Quintette Coal Ltd.* (1992), 13 C.B.R. (3d) 146 (B.C. S.C.) and *Re Alabama, New Orleans, Texas & Pacific Junction Railway* (1890), 60 L.J. Ch. 221 (Eng. C.A.). The court can address this by ensuring creditors' claims are properly classified. As well, it is sometimes appropriate to tabulate the vote of a particular class so the results can be assessed from a fairness perspective. In this case, the classification was challenged by Resurgence and I dismissed that application. The vote was also tabulated in this case and the results demonstrate that the votes of Air Canada and the Senior Secured Noteholders, who voted their deficiency in the unsecured class, were decisive.

99 The results of the unsecured vote, as reported by the Monitor, are:

1. For the resolution to approve the Plan: 73 votes (65% in number) representing \$494,762,304 in claims (76% in value);
2. Against the resolution: 39 votes (35% in number) representing \$156,360,363 in claims (24% in value); and
3. Abstentions: 15 representing \$968,036 in value.

100 The voting results as reported by the Monitor were challenged by Resurgence. That application was dismissed.

101 The members of each class that vote in favour of a plan must do so in good faith and the majority within a class must act without coercion in their conduct toward the minority. When asked to assess fairness of an approved plan, the court will not countenance secret agreements to vote in favour of a plan secured by advantages to the creditor: see for example, *Hochberger v. Rittenberg* (1916), 36 D.L.R. 450 (S.C.C.)

102 In *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 (B.C. S.C.) at 192-3 aff'd (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C. C.A.), dissenting priority mortgagees argued the plan violated the principle of equality due to an agreement between the debtor company and another priority mortgagee which essentially amounted to a preference in exchange for voting in favour of the plan. Trainor J. found that the agreement was freely disclosed and commercially reasonable and went on to approve the plan, using the three part test. The British Columbia Court of Appeal upheld this result and in commenting on the minority complaint McEachern J.A. stated at page 206:

In my view, the obvious benefits of settling rights and keeping the enterprise together as a going concern far outweigh the deprivation of the appellants' wholly illusory rights. In this connection, the learned chambers judge said at p.29:

I turn to the question of the right to hold the property after an order absolute and whether or not this is a denial of something of that significance that it should affect these proceedings. There is in the material before me some evidence of values. There are the principles to which I have referred, as well as to the rights of majorities and the rights of minorities.

Certainly, those minority rights are there, but it would seem to me that in view of the overall plan, in view of the speculative nature of holding property in the light of appraisals which have been given as to value, that this right is something which should be subsumed to the benefit of the majority.

103 Resurgence submitted that Air Canada manipulated the indebtedness of CAIL to assure itself of an affirmative vote. I disagree. I previously ruled on the validity of the deficiency when approving the LOIs and found the deficiency to be valid. I found there was consideration for the assignment of the deficiency claims of the various aircraft financiers to Air Canada, namely the provision of an Air Canada guarantee which would otherwise not have been available until plan sanction. The Monitor reviewed the calculations of the deficiencies and determined they were calculated in a reasonable manner. As such, the court approved those transactions. If the deficiency had instead remained with the aircraft financiers, it is reasonable to assume those claims would have been voted in favour of the plan. Further, it would have been entirely appropriate under the circumstances for the aircraft financiers to have retained the deficiency and agreed to vote in favour of the Plan, with the same result to Resurgence. That the financiers did not choose this method was explained by the testimony of Mr. Carty and Robert Peterson, Chief Financial Officer for Air Canada; quite simply it amounted to a desire on behalf of these creditors to shift the "deal risk" associated with the Plan to Air Canada. The agreement reached with the Senior Secured Noteholders was also disclosed and the challenge by Resurgence regarding their vote in the unsecured class was dismissed. There is nothing inappropriate in the voting of the deficiency claims of Air Canada or the Senior Secured Noteholders in the unsecured class. There is no evidence of secret vote buying such as discussed in *Re Northland Properties Ltd.*

104 If the Plan is approved, Air Canada stands to profit in its operation. I do not accept that the deficiency claims were devised to dominate the vote of the unsecured creditor class, however, Air Canada, as funder of the Plan is more motivated than Resurgence to support it. This divergence of views on its own does not amount to bad faith on the part of Air Canada. Resurgence submitted that only the Unsecured Noteholders received 14 cents on the dollar. That is not accurate, as demonstrated by the list of affected unsecured creditors included earlier in these Reasons. The Senior Secured Noteholders did receive other consideration under the Plan, but to suggest they were differently motivated suggests that those creditors did not ascribe any value to their unsecured claims. There is no evidence to support this submission.

105 The good faith of Resurgence in its vote must also be considered. Resurgence acquired a substantial amount of its claim after the failure of the Onex bid, when it was aware that Canadian's financial condition was rapidly deteriorating. Thereafter, Resurgence continued to purchase a substantial amount of this highly distressed debt. While Mr. Symington maintained that he bought because he thought the bonds were a good investment, he also acknowledged that one basis for purchasing was the hope of obtaining a blocking position sufficient to veto a plan in the proposed debt restructuring. This was an obvious ploy for leverage with the Plan proponents

106 The authorities which address minority creditors' complaints speak of "substantial injustice" (*Re Keddy Motor Inns Ltd.* (1992), 13 C.B.R. (3d) 245 (N.S. C.A.), "confiscation" of rights (*Re Campeau Corp.* (1992), 10 C.B.R. (3d) 104 (Ont. Gen. Div.); *Re SkyDome Corp.* (March 21, 1999), Doc. 98-CL-3179 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List])) and majorities "feasting upon" the rights of the minority (*Re Quintette Coal Ltd.* (1992), 13 C.B.R. (3d) 146 (B.C. S.C.)). Although it cannot be disputed that the group of Unsecured Noteholders represented by Resurgence are being asked to accept a significant reduction of their claims, as are all of the affected unsecured creditors, I do not see a "substantial injustice", nor view their rights as having been "confiscated" or "feasted upon" by being required to succumb to the wishes of the majority in their class. No bad faith has been demonstrated in this case. Rather, the treatment of Resurgence, along with all other affected unsecured creditors, represents

a reasonable balancing of interests. While the court is directed to consider whether there is an injustice being worked within a class, it must also determine whether there is an injustice with respect to the stakeholders as a whole. Even if a plan might at first blush appear to have that effect, when viewed in relation to all other parties, it may nonetheless be considered appropriate and be approved: *Algoma Steel Corp. v. Royal Bank* (1992), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 1 (Ont. Gen. Div.) and *Re Northland Properties Ltd.*, *supra* at 9.

107 Further, to the extent that greater or discrete motivation to support a Plan may be seen as a conflict, the Court should take this same approach and look at the creditors as a whole and to the objecting creditors specifically and determine if their rights are compromised in an attempt to balance interests and have the pain of compromise borne equally.

108 Resurgence represents 58.2% of the Unsecured Noteholders or \$96 million in claims. The total claim of the Unsecured Noteholders ranges from \$146 million to \$161 million. The affected unsecured class, excluding aircraft financing, tax claims, the noteholders and claims under \$50,000, ranges from \$116.3 million to \$449.7 million depending on the resolutions of certain claims by the Claims Officer. Resurgence represents between 15.7% - 35% of that portion of the class.

109 The total affected unsecured claims, excluding tax claims, but including aircraft financing and noteholder claims including the unsecured portion of the Senior Secured Notes, ranges from \$673 million to \$1,007 million. Resurgence represents between 9.5% - 14.3% of the total affected unsecured creditor pool. These percentages indicate that at its very highest in a class excluding Air Canada's assigned claims and Senior Secured's deficiency, Resurgence would only represent a maximum of 35% of the class. In the larger class of affected unsecured it is significantly less. Viewed in relation to the class as a whole, there is no injustice being worked against Resurgence.

110 The thrust of the Resurgence submissions suggests a mistaken belief that they will get more than 14 cents on liquidation. This is not borne out by the evidence and is not reasonable in the context of the overall Plan.

b. Receipts on liquidation or bankruptcy

111 As noted above, the Monitor prepared and circulated a report on the Plan which contained a summary of a liquidation analysis outlining the Monitor's projected realizations upon a liquidation of CAIL ("Liquidation Analysis").

112 The Liquidation Analysis was based on: (1) the draft unaudited financial statements of Canadian at March 31, 2000; (2) the distress values reported in independent appraisals of aircraft and aircraft related assets obtained by CAIL in January, 2000; (3) a review of CAIL's aircraft leasing and financing documents; and (4) discussions with CAIL Management.

113 Prior to and during the application for sanction, the Monitor responded to various requests for information by parties involved. In particular, the Monitor provided a copy of the Liquidation Analysis to those who requested it. Certain of the parties involved requested the opportunity to question the Monitor further, particularly in respect to the Liquidation Analysis and this court directed a process for the posing of those questions.

114 While there were numerous questions to which the Monitor was asked to respond, there were several areas in which Resurgence and the Minority Shareholders took particular issue: pension plan surplus, CRAL, international routes and tax pools. The dissenting groups asserted that these assets represented overlooked value to the company on a liquidation basis or on a going concern basis.

Pension Plan Surplus

115 The Monitor did not attribute any value to pension plan surplus when it prepared the Liquidation Analysis, for the following reasons:

- 1) The summaries of the solvency surplus/deficit positions indicated a cumulative net deficit position for the seven registered plans, after consideration of contingent liabilities;

- 2) The possibility, based on the previous splitting out of the seven plans from a single plan in 1988, that the plans could be held to be consolidated for financial purposes, which would remove any potential solvency surplus since the total estimated contingent liabilities exceeded the total estimated solvency surplus;
- 3) The actual calculations were prepared by CAIL's actuaries and actuaries representing the unions could conclude liabilities were greater; and
- 4) CAIL did not have a legal opinion confirming that surpluses belonged to CAIL.

116 The Monitor concluded that the entitlement question would most probably have to be settled by negotiation and/or litigation by the parties. For those reasons, the Monitor took a conservative view and did not attribute an asset value to pension plans in the Liquidation Analysis. The Monitor also did not include in the Liquidation Analysis any amount in respect of the claim that could be made by members of the plan where there is an apparent deficit after deducting contingent liabilities.

117 The issues in connection with possible pension surplus are: (1) the true amount of any of the available surplus; and (2) the entitlement of Canadian to any such amount.

118 It is acknowledged that surplus prior to termination can be accessed through employer contribution holidays, which Canadian has taken to the full extent permitted. However, there is no basis that has been established for any surplus being available to be withdrawn from an ongoing pension plan. On a pension plan termination, the amount available as a solvency surplus would first have to be further reduced by various amounts to determine whether there was in fact any true surplus available for distribution. Such reductions include contingent benefits payable in accordance with the provisions of each respective pension plan, any extraordinary plan wind up cost, the amounts of any contribution holidays taken which have not been reflected, and any litigation costs.

119 Counsel for all of Canadian's unionized employees confirmed on the record that the respective union representatives can be expected to dispute all of these calculations as well as to dispute entitlement.

120 There is a suggestion that there might be a total of \$40 million of surplus remaining from all pension plans after such reductions are taken into account. Apart from the issue of entitlement, this assumes that the plans can be treated separately, that a surplus could in fact be realized on liquidation and that the Towers Perrin calculations are not challenged. With total pension plan assets of over \$2 billion, a surplus of \$40 million could quickly disappear with relatively minor changes in the market value of the securities held or calculation of liabilities. In the circumstances, given all the variables, I find that the existence of any surplus is doubtful at best and I am satisfied that the Monitor's Liquidation Analysis ascribing it zero value is reasonable in this circumstances.

CRAL

121 The Monitor's liquidation analysis as at March 31, 2000 of CRAL determined that in a distress situation, after payments were made to its creditors, there would be a deficiency of approximately \$30 million to pay Canadian Regional's unsecured creditors, which include a claim of approximately \$56.5 million due to Canadian. In arriving at this conclusion, the Monitor reviewed internally prepared unaudited financial statements of CRAL as of March 31, 2000, the Houlihan Lokey Howard and Zukin, distress valuation dated January 21, 2000 and the Simat Helliesen and Eichner valuation of selected CAIL assets dated January 31, 2000 for certain aircraft related materials and engines, rotables and spares. The Avitas Inc., and Avmark Inc. reports were used for the distress values on CRAL's aircraft and the CRAL aircraft lease documentation. The Monitor also performed its own analysis of CRAL's liquidation value, which involved analysis of the reports provided and details of its analysis were outlined in the Liquidation Analysis.

122 For the purpose of the Liquidation Analysis, the Monitor did not consider other airlines as comparable for evaluation purposes, as the Monitor's valuation was performed on a distressed sale basis. The Monitor further assumed that without CAIL's

national and international network to feed traffic into and a source of standby financing, and considering the inevitable negative publicity which a failure of CAIL would produce, CRAL would immediately stop operations as well.

123 Mr. Peterson testified that CRAL was worth \$260 million to Air Canada, based on Air Canada being a special buyer who could integrate CRAL, on a going concern basis, into its network. The Liquidation Analysis assumed the windup of each of CRAL and CAIL, a completely different scenario.

124 There is no evidence that there was a potential purchaser for CRAL who would be prepared to acquire CRAL or the operations of CRAL 98 for any significant sum or at all. CRAL has value to CAIL, and in turn, could provide value to Air Canada, but this value is attributable to its ability to feed traffic to and take traffic from the national and international service operated by CAIL. In my view, the Monitor was aware of these features and properly considered these factors in assessing the value of CRAL on a liquidation of CAIL.

125 If CAIL were to cease operations, the evidence is clear that CRAL would be obliged to do so as well immediately. The travelling public, shippers, trade suppliers, and others would make no distinction between CAIL and CRAL and there would be no going concern for Air Canada to acquire.

International Routes

126 The Monitor ascribed no value to Canadian's international routes in the Liquidation Analysis. In discussions with CAIL management and experts available in its aviation group, the Monitor was advised that international routes are unassignable licenses and not property rights. They do not appear as assets in CAIL's financials. Mr. Carty and Mr. Peterson explained that routes and slots are *not* treated as assets by airlines, but rather as rights in the control of the Government of Canada. In the event of bankruptcy/receivership of CAIL, CAIL's trustee/receiver could not sell them and accordingly they are of no value to CAIL.

127 Evidence was led that on June 23, 1999 Air Canada made an offer to purchase CAIL's international routes for \$400 million cash plus \$125 million for aircraft spares and inventory, along with the assumption of certain debt and lease obligations for the aircraft required for the international routes. CAIL evaluated the Air Canada offer and concluded that the proposed purchase price was insufficient to permit it to continue carrying on business in the absence of its international routes. Mr. Carty testified that something in the range of \$2 billion would be required.

128 CAIL was in desperate need of cash in mid December, 1999. CAIL agreed to sell its Toronto — Tokyo route for \$25 million. The evidence, however, indicated that the price for the Toronto — Tokyo route was not derived from a valuation, but rather was what CAIL asked for, based on its then-current cash flow requirements. Air Canada and CAIL obtained Government approval for the transfer on December 21, 2000.

129 Resurgence complained that despite this evidence of offers for purchase and actual sales of international routes and other evidence of sales of slots, the Monitor did not include Canadian's international routes in the Liquidation Analysis and only attributed a total of \$66 million for all intangibles of Canadian. There is some evidence that slots at some foreign airports may be bought or sold in some fashion. However, there is insufficient evidence to attribute any value to other slots which CAIL has at foreign airports. It would appear given the regulation of the airline industry, in particular, the *Aeronautics Act* and the *Canada Transportation Act*, that international routes for a Canadian air carrier only have full value to the extent of federal government support for the transfer or sale, and its preparedness to allow the then-current license holder to sell rather than act unilaterally to change the designation. The federal government was prepared to allow CAIL to sell its Toronto — Tokyo route to Air Canada in light of CAIL's severe financial difficulty and the certainty of cessation of operations during the Christmas holiday season in the absence of such a sale.

130 Further, statements made by CAIL in mid-1999 as to the value of its international routes and operations in response to an offer by Air Canada, reflected the amount CAIL needed to sustain liquidity without its international routes and was not a representation of market value of what could realistically be obtained from an arms length purchaser. The Monitor concluded on its investigation that CAIL's Narita and Heathrow slots had a realizable value of \$66 million, which it included in the

Liquidation Analysis. I find that this conclusion is supportable and that the Monitor properly concluded that there were no other rights which ought to have been assigned value.

Tax Pools

131 There are four tax pools identified by Resurgence and the Minority Shareholders that are material: capital losses at the CAC level, undepreciated capital cost pools, operating losses incurred by Canadian and potential for losses to be reinstated upon repayment of fuel tax rebates by CAIL.

Capital Loss Pools

132 The capital loss pools at CAC will not be available to Air Canada since CAC is to be left out of the corporate reorganization and will be severed from CAIL. Those capital losses can essentially only be used to absorb a portion of the debt forgiveness liability associated with the restructuring. CAC, who has virtually all of its senior debt compromised in the plan, receives compensation for this small advantage, which cost them nothing.

Undepreciated capital cost ("UCC")

133 There is no benefit to Air Canada in the pools of UCC unless it were established that the UCC pools are in excess of the fair market value of the relevant assets, since Air Canada could create the same pools by simply buying the assets on a liquidation at fair market value. Mr. Peterson understood this pool of UCC to be approximately \$700 million. There is no evidence that the UCC pool, however, could be considered to be a source of benefit. There is no evidence that this amount is any greater than fair market value.

Operating Losses

134 The third tax pool complained of is the operating losses. The debt forgiven as a result of the Plan will erase any operating losses from prior years to the extent of such forgiven debt.

Fuel tax rebates

135 The fourth tax pool relates to the fuel tax rebates system taken advantage of by CAIL in past years. The evidence is that on a consolidated basis the total potential amount of this pool is \$297 million. According to Mr. Carty's testimony, CAIL has not been taxable in his ten years as Chief Financial Officer. The losses which it has generated for tax purposes have been sold on a 10 - 1 basis to the government in order to receive rebates of excise tax paid for fuel. The losses can be restored retroactively if the rebates are repaid, but the losses can only be carried forward for a maximum of seven years. The evidence of Mr. Peterson indicates that Air Canada has no plan to use those alleged losses and in order for them to be useful to Air Canada, Air Canada would have to complete a legal merger with CAIL, which is not provided for in the plan and is not contemplated by Air Canada until some uncertain future date. In my view, the Monitor's conclusion that there was no value to any tax pools in the Liquidation Analysis is sound.

136 Those opposed to the Plan have raised the spectre that there may be value unaccounted for in this liquidation analysis or otherwise. Given the findings above, this is merely speculation and is unsupported by any concrete evidence.

c. Alternatives to the Plan

137 When presented with a plan, affected stakeholders must weigh their options in the light of commercial reality. Those options are typically liquidation measured against the plan proposed. If not put forward, a hope for a different or more favourable plan is not an option and no basis upon which to assess fairness. On a purposive approach to the CCAA, what is fair and reasonable must be assessed against the effect of the Plan on the creditors and their various claims, in the context of their response to the plan. Stakeholders are expected to decide their fate based on realistic, commercially viable alternatives (generally seen as the prime motivating factor in any business decision) and not on speculative desires or hope for the future. As Farley J. stated in *T. Eaton Co.* (1999), 15 C.B.R. (4th) 311 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) at paragraph 6:

One has to be cognizant of the function of a balancing of their prejudices. Positions must be realistically assessed and weighed, all in the light of what an alternative to a successful plan would be. Wishes are not a firm foundation on which to build a plan; nor are ransom demands.

138 The evidence is overwhelming that all other options have been exhausted and have resulted in failure. The concern of those opposed suggests that there is a better plan that Air Canada can put forward. I note that significant enhancements were made to the plan during the process. In any case, this is the Plan that has been voted on. The evidence makes it clear that there is not another plan forthcoming. As noted by Farley J. in *T. Eaton Co.*, *supra*, "no one presented an alternative plan for the interested parties to vote on" (para. 8).

d. Oppression

Oppression and the CCAA

139 Resurgence and the Minority Shareholders originally claimed that the Plan proponents, CAC and CAIL and the Plan supporters 853350 and Air Canada had oppressed, unfairly disregarded or unfairly prejudiced their interests, under Section 234 of the ABCA. The Minority Shareholders (for reasons that will appear obvious) have abandoned that position.

140 Section 234 gives the court wide discretion to remedy corporate conduct that is unfair. As remedial legislation, it attempts to balance the interests of shareholders, creditors and management to ensure adequate investor protection and maximum management flexibility. The Act requires the court to judge the conduct of the company and the majority in the context of equity and fairness: *First Edmonton Place Ltd. v. 315888 Alberta Ltd.* (1988), 40 B.L.R. 28 (Alta. Q.B.). Equity and fairness are measured against or considered in the context of the rights, interests or reasonable expectations of the complainants: *Diligenti v. RWMD Operations Kelowna Ltd.* (1976), 1 B.C.L.R. 36 (B.C. S.C.).

141 The starting point in any determination of oppression requires an understanding as to what the rights, interests, and reasonable expectations are and what the damaging or detrimental effect is on them. MacDonald J. stated in *First Edmonton Place*, *supra* at 57:

In deciding what is unfair, the history and nature of the corporation, the essential nature of the relationship between the corporation and the creditor, the type of rights affected in general commercial practice should all be material. More concretely, the test of unfair prejudice or unfair disregard should encompass the following considerations: The protection of the underlying expectation of a creditor in the arrangement with the corporation, the extent to which the acts complained of were unforeseeable where the creditor could not reasonably have protected itself from such acts and the detriment to the interests of the creditor.

142 While expectations vary considerably with the size, structure, and value of the corporation, all expectations must be reasonably and objectively assessed: *Pente Investment Management Ltd. v. Schneider Corp.* (1998), 42 O.R. (3d) 177 (Ont. C.A.).

143 Where a company is insolvent, only the creditors maintain a meaningful stake in its assets. Through the mechanism of liquidation or insolvency legislation, the interests of shareholders are pushed to the bottom rung of the priority ladder. The expectations of creditors and shareholders must be viewed and measured against an altered financial and legal landscape. Shareholders cannot reasonably expect to maintain a financial interest in an insolvent company where creditors' claims are not being paid in full. It is through the lens of insolvency that the court must consider whether the acts of the company are in fact oppressive, unfairly prejudicial or unfairly disregarded. CCAA proceedings have recognized that shareholders may not have "a true interest to be protected" because there is no reasonable prospect of economic value to be realized by the shareholders given the existing financial misfortunes of the company: *Royal Oak Mines Ltd.*, *supra*, para. 4., *Re Cadillac Fairview Inc.* (March 7, 1995), Doc. B28/95 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]), and *T. Eaton Company*, *supra*.

144 To avail itself of the protection of the CCAA, a company must be insolvent. The CCAA considers the hierarchy of interests and assesses fairness and reasonableness in that context. The court's mandate not to sanction a plan in the absence of fairness necessitates the determination as to whether the complaints of dissenting creditors and shareholders are legitimate, bearing in mind the company's financial state. The articulated purpose of the Act and the jurisprudence interpreting it, "widens the lens" to balance a broader range of interests that includes creditors and shareholders and beyond to the company, the employees and the public, and tests the fairness of the plan with reference to its impact on all of the constituents.

145 It is through the lens of insolvency legislation that the rights and interests of both shareholders and creditors must be considered. The reduction or elimination of rights of both groups is a function of the insolvency and not of oppressive conduct in the operation of the CCAA. The antithesis of oppression is fairness, the guiding test for judicial sanction. If a plan unfairly disregards or is unfairly prejudicial it will not be approved. However, the court retains the power to compromise or prejudice rights to effect a broader purpose, the restructuring of an insolvent company, provided that the plan does so in a fair manner.

Oppression allegations by Resurgence

146 Resurgence alleges that it has been oppressed or had its rights disregarded because the Petitioners and Air Canada disregarded the specific provisions of their trust indenture, that Air Canada and 853350 dealt with other creditors outside of the CCAA, refusing to negotiate with Resurgence and that they are generally being treated inequitably under the Plan.

147 The trust indenture under which the Unsecured Notes were issued required that upon a "change of control", 101% of the principal owing thereunder, plus interest would be immediately due and payable. Resurgence alleges that Air Canada, through 853350, caused CAC and CAIL to purposely fail to honour this term. Canadian acknowledges that the trust indenture was breached. On February 1, 2000, Canadian announced a moratorium on payments to lessors and lenders, including the Unsecured Noteholders. As a result of this moratorium, Canadian defaulted on the payments due under its various credit facilities and aircraft leases.

148 The moratorium was not directed solely at the Unsecured Noteholders. It had the same impact on other creditors, secured and unsecured. Canadian, as a result of the moratorium, breached other contractual relationships with various creditors. The breach of contract is not sufficient to found a claim for oppression in this case. Given Canadian's insolvency, which Resurgence recognized, it cannot be said that there was a reasonable expectation that it would be paid in full under the terms of the trust indenture, particularly when Canadian had ceased making payments to other creditors as well.

149 It is asserted that because the Plan proponents engaged in a restructuring of Canadian's debt before the filing under the CCAA, that its use of the Act for only a small group of creditors, which includes Resurgence is somehow oppressive.

150 At the outset, it cannot be overlooked that the CCAA does not require that a compromise be proposed to *all* creditors of an insolvent company. The CCAA is a flexible, remedial statute which recognizes the unique circumstances that lead to and away from insolvency.

151 Next, Air Canada made it clear beginning in the fall of 1999 that Canadian would have to complete a financial restructuring so as to permit Air Canada to acquire CAIL on a financially sound basis and as a wholly owned subsidiary. Following the implementation of the moratorium, absent which Canadian could not have continued to operate, Canadian and Air Canada commenced efforts to restructure significant obligations by consent. They perceived that further damage to public confidence that a CCAA filing could produce, required Canadian to secure a substantial measure of creditor support in advance of any public filing for court protection. Before the Petitioners started the CCAA proceedings on March 24, 2000, Air Canada, CAIL and lessors of 59 aircraft in its fleet had reached agreement in principle on the restructuring plan.

152 The purpose of the CCAA is to create an environment for negotiations and compromise. Often it is the stay of proceedings that creates the necessary stability for that process to unfold. Negotiations with certain key creditors in advance of the CCAA filing, rather than being oppressive or conspiratorial, are to be encouraged as a matter of principle if their impact is to provide a firm foundation for a restructuring. Certainly in this case, they were of critical importance, staving off liquidation, preserving

cash flow and allowing the Plan to proceed. Rather than being detrimental or prejudicial to the interests of the other stakeholders, including Resurgence, it was beneficial to Canadian and all of its stakeholders.

153 Resurgence complained that certain transfers of assets to Air Canada and its actions in consolidating the operations of the two entities prior to the initiation of the CCAA proceedings were unfairly prejudicial to it.

154 The evidence demonstrates that the sales of the Toronto — Tokyo route, the Dash 8s and the simulators were at the suggestion of Canadian, who was in desperate need of operating cash. Air Canada paid what Canadian asked, based on its cash flow requirements. The evidence established that absent the injection of cash at that critical juncture, Canadian would have ceased operations. It is for that reason that the Government of Canada willingly provided the approval for the transfer on December 21, 2000.

155 Similarly, the renegotiation of CAIL's aircraft leases to reflect market rates supported by Air Canada covenant or guarantee has been previously dealt with by this court and found to have been in the best interest of Canadian, not to its detriment. The evidence establishes that the financial support and corporate integration that has been provided by Air Canada was not only in Canadian's best interest, but its only option for survival. The suggestion that the renegotiations of these leases, various sales and the operational realignment represents an assumption of a benefit by Air Canada to the detriment of Canadian is not supported by the evidence.

156 I find the transactions predating the CCAA proceedings, were in fact Canadian's life blood in ensuring some degree of liquidity and stability within which to conduct an orderly restructuring of its debt. There was no detriment to Canadian or to its creditors, including its unsecured creditors. That Air Canada and Canadian were so successful in negotiating agreements with their major creditors, including aircraft financiers, without resorting to a stay under the CCAA underscores the serious distress Canadian was in and its lenders recognition of the viability of the proposed Plan.

157 Resurgence complained that other significant groups held negotiations with Canadian. The evidence indicates that a meeting was held with Mr. Symington, Managing Director of Resurgence, in Toronto in March 2000. It was made clear to Resurgence that the pool of unsecured creditors would be somewhere between \$500 and \$700 million and that Resurgence would be included within that class. To the extent that the versions of this meeting differ, I prefer and accept the evidence of Mr. Carty. Resurgence wished to play a significant role in the debt restructuring and indicated it was prepared to utilize the litigation process to achieve a satisfactory result for itself. It is therefore understandable that no further negotiations took place. Nevertheless, the original offer to affected unsecured creditors has been enhanced since the filing of the plan on April 25, 2000. The enhancements to unsecured claims involved the removal of the cap on the unsecured pool and an increase from 12 to 14 cents on the dollar.

158 The findings of the Commissioner of Competition establishes beyond doubt that absent the financial support provided by Air Canada, Canadian would have failed in December 1999. I am unable to find on the evidence that Resurgence has been oppressed. The complaint that Air Canada has plundered Canadian and robbed it of its assets is not supported but contradicted by the evidence. As described above, the alternative is liquidation and in that event the Unsecured Noteholders would receive between one and three cents on the dollar. The Monitor's conclusions in this regard are supportable and I accept them.

e. Unfairness to Shareholders

159 The Minority Shareholders essentially complained that they were being unfairly stripped of their only asset in CAC — the shares of CAIL. They suggested they were being squeezed out by the new CAC majority shareholder 853350, without any compensation or any vote. When the reorganization is completed as contemplated by the Plan, their shares will remain in CAC but CAC will be a bare shell.

160 They further submitted that Air Canada's cash infusion, the covenants and guarantees it has offered to aircraft financiers, and the operational changes (including integration of schedules, "quick win" strategies, and code sharing) have all added significant value to CAIL to the benefit of its stakeholders, including the Minority Shareholders. They argued that they should be entitled to continue to participate into the future and that such an expectation is legitimate and consistent with the statements

and actions of Air Canada in regard to integration. By acting to realign the airlines before a corporate reorganization, the Minority Shareholders asserted that Air Canada has created the expectation that it is prepared to consolidate the airlines with the participation of a minority. The Minority Shareholders take no position with respect to the debt restructuring under the CCAA, but ask the court to sever the corporate reorganization provisions contained in the Plan.

161 Finally, they asserted that CAIL has increased in value due to Air Canada's financial contributions and operational changes and that accordingly, before authorizing the transfer of the CAIL shares to 853350, the current holders of the CAIL Preferred Shares, the court must have evidence before it to justify a transfer of 100% of the equity of CAIL to the Preferred Shares.

162 That CAC will have its shareholding in CAIL extinguished and emerge a bare shell is acknowledged. However, the evidence makes it abundantly clear that those shares, CAC's "only asset", have no value. That the Minority Shareholders are content to have the debt restructuring proceed suggests by implication that they do not dispute the insolvency of both Petitioners, CAC and CAIL.

163 The Minority Shareholders base their expectation to remain as shareholders on the actions of Air Canada in acquiring only 82% of the CAC shares before integrating certain of the airlines' operations. Mr. Baker (who purchased *after* the Plan was filed with the Court and almost six months after the take over bid by Air Canada) suggested that the contents of the bid circular misrepresented Air Canada's future intentions to its shareholders. The two dollar price offered and paid per share in the bid must be viewed somewhat skeptically and in the context in which the bid arose. It does not support the speculative view that some shareholders hold, that somehow, despite insolvency, their shares have some value on a going concern basis. In any event, any claim for misrepresentation that Minority Shareholders might have arising from the take over bid circular against Air Canada or 853350, if any, is unaffected by the Plan and may be pursued after the stay is lifted.

164 In considering Resurgence's claim of oppression I have already found that the financial support of Air Canada during this restructuring period has benefited Canadian and its stakeholders. Air Canada's financial support and the integration of the two airlines has been critical to keeping Canadian afloat. The evidence makes it abundantly clear that without this support Canadian would have ceased operations. However it has not transformed CAIL or CAC into solvent companies.

165 The Minority Shareholders raise concerns about assets that are ascribed limited or no value in the Monitor's report as does Resurgence (although to support an opposite proposition). Considerable argument was directed to the future operational savings and profitability forecasted for Air Canada, its subsidiaries and CAIL and its subsidiaries. Mr. Peterson estimated it to be in the order of \$650 to \$800 million on an annual basis, commencing in 2001. The Minority Shareholders point to the tax pools of a restructured company that they submit will be of great value once CAIL becomes profitable as anticipated. They point to a pension surplus that at the very least has value by virtue of the contribution holidays that it affords. They also look to the value of the compromised claims of the restructuring itself which they submit are in the order of \$449 million. They submit these cumulative benefits add value, currently or at least realizable in the future. In sharp contrast to the Resurgence position that these acts constitute oppressive behaviour, the Minority Shareholders view them as enhancing the value of their shares. They go so far as to suggest that there may well be a current going concern value of the CAC shares that has been conveniently ignored or unquantified and that the Petitioners must put evidence before the court as to what that value is.

166 These arguments overlook several important facts, the most significant being that CAC and CAIL are insolvent and will remain insolvent until the debt restructuring is fully implemented. These companies are not just technically or temporarily insolvent, they are massively insolvent. Air Canada will have invested upward of \$3 billion to complete the restructuring, while the Minority Shareholders have contributed nothing. Further, it was a fundamental condition of Air Canada's support of this Plan that it become the sole owner of CAIL. It has been suggested by some that Air Canada's share purchase at two dollars per share in December 1999 was unfairly prejudicial to CAC and CAIL's creditors. Objectively, any expectation by Minority Shareholders that they should be able to participate in a restructured CAIL is not reasonable.

167 The Minority Shareholders asserted the plan is unfair because the effect of the reorganization is to extinguish the common shares of CAIL held by CAC and to convert the voting and non-voting Preferred Shares of CAIL into common shares of CAIL. They submit there is no expert valuation or other evidence to justify the transfer of CAIL's equity to the Preferred Shares. There

is no equity in the CAIL shares to transfer. The year end financials show CAIL's shareholder equity at a deficit of \$790 million. The Preferred Shares have a liquidation preference of \$347 million. There is no evidence to suggest that Air Canada's interim support has rendered either of these companies solvent, it has simply permitted operations to continue. In fact, the unaudited consolidated financial statements of CAC for the quarter ended March 31, 2000 show total shareholders equity went from a deficit of \$790 million to a deficit of \$1.214 million, an erosion of \$424 million.

168 The Minority Shareholders' submission attempts to compare and contrast the rights and expectations of the CAIL preferred shares as against the CAC common shares. This is not a meaningful exercise; the Petitioners are not submitting that the Preferred Shares have value and the evidence demonstrates unequivocally that they do not. The Preferred Shares are merely being utilized as a corporate vehicle to allow CAIL to become a wholly owned subsidiary of Air Canada. For example, the same result could have been achieved by issuing new shares rather than changing the designation of 853350's Preferred Shares in CAIL.

169 The Minority Shareholders have asked the court to sever the reorganization from the debt restructuring, to permit them to participate in whatever future benefit might be derived from the restructured CAIL. However, a fundamental condition of this Plan and the expressed intention of Air Canada on numerous occasions is that CAIL become a wholly owned subsidiary. To suggest the court ought to sever this reorganization from the debt restructuring fails to account for the fact that it is not two plans but an integral part of a single plan. To accede to this request would create an injustice to creditors whose claims are being seriously compromised, and doom the entire Plan to failure. Quite simply, the Plan's funder will not support a severed plan.

170 Finally, the future profits to be derived by Air Canada are not a relevant consideration. While the object of any plan under the CCAA is to create a viable emerging entity, the germane issue is what a prospective purchaser is prepared to pay in the circumstances. Here, we have the one and only offer on the table, Canadian's last and only chance. The evidence demonstrates this offer is preferable to those who have a remaining interest to a liquidation. Where secured creditors have compromised their claims and unsecured creditors are accepting 14 cents on the dollar in a potential pool of unsecured claims totalling possibly in excess of \$1 billion, it is not unfair that shareholders receive nothing.

e. The Public Interest

171 In this case, the court cannot limit its assessment of fairness to how the Plan affects the direct participants. The business of the Petitioners as a national and international airline employing over 16,000 people must be taken into account.

172 In his often cited article, *Reorganizations Under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (1947), 25 Can.Bar R.ev. 587 at 593 Stanley Edwards stated:

Another reason which is usually operative in favour of reorganization is the interest of the public in the continuation of the enterprise, particularly if the company supplies commodities or services that are necessary or desirable to large numbers of consumers, or if it employs large numbers of workers who would be thrown out of employment by its liquidation. This public interest may be reflected in the decisions of the creditors and shareholders of the company and is undoubtedly a factor which a court would wish to consider in deciding whether to sanction an arrangement under the C.C.A.A.

173 In *Re Repap British Columbia Inc.* (1998), 1 C.B.R. (4th) 49 (B.C. S.C.) the court noted that the fairness of the plan must be measured against the overall economic and business environment and against the interests of the citizens of British Columbia who are affected as "shareholders" of the company, and creditors, of suppliers, employees and competitors of the company. The court approved the plan even though it was unable to conclude that it was necessarily fair and reasonable. In *Re Quintette Coal Ltd.*, *supra*, Thackray J. acknowledged the significance of the coal mine to the British Columbia economy, its importance to the people who lived and worked in the region and to the employees of the company and their families. Other cases in which the court considered the public interest in determining whether to sanction a plan under the CCAA include *Re Canadian Red Cross Society / Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge* (1998), 5 C.B.R. (4th) 299 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) and *Algoma Steel Corp. v. Royal Bank* (April 16, 1992), Doc. Toronto B62/91-A (Ont. Gen. Div.)

174 The economic and social impacts of a plan are important and legitimate considerations. Even in insolvency, companies are more than just assets and liabilities. The fate of a company is inextricably tied to those who depend on it in various ways. It is difficult to imagine a case where the economic and social impacts of a liquidation could be more catastrophic. It would undoubtedly be felt by Canadian air travellers across the country. The effect would not be a mere ripple, but more akin to a tidal wave from coast to coast that would result in chaos to the Canadian transportation system.

175 More than sixteen thousand unionized employees of CAIL and CRAL appeared through counsel. The unions and their membership strongly support the Plan. The unions represented included the Airline Pilots Association International, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Transportation District 104, Canadian Union of Public Employees, and the Canadian Auto Workers Union. They represent pilots, ground workers and cabin personnel. The unions submit that it is essential that the employee protections arising from the current restructuring of Canadian not be jeopardized by a bankruptcy, receivership or other liquidation. Liquidation would be devastating to the employees and also to the local and national economies. The unions emphasize that the Plan safeguards the employment and job dignity protection negotiated by the unions for their members. Further, the court was reminded that the unions and their members have played a key role over the last fifteen years or more in working with Canadian and responsible governments to ensure that Canadian survived and jobs were maintained.

176 The Calgary and Edmonton Airport authorities, which are not for profit corporations, also supported the Plan. CAIL's obligations to the airport authorities are not being compromised under the Plan. However, in a liquidation scenario, the airport authorities submitted that a liquidation would have severe financial consequences to them and have potential for severe disruption in the operation of the airports.

177 The representations of the Government of Canada are also compelling. Approximately one year ago, CAIL approached the Transport Department to inquire as to what solution could be found to salvage their ailing company. The Government saw fit to issue an order in council, pursuant to section 47 of the *Transportation Act*, which allowed an opportunity for CAIL to approach other entities to see if a permanent solution could be found. A standing committee in the House of Commons reviewed a framework for the restructuring of the airline industry, recommendations were made and undertakings were given by Air Canada. The Government was driven by a mandate to protect consumers and promote competition. It submitted that the Plan is a major component of the industry restructuring. Bill C-26, which addresses the restructuring of the industry, has passed through the House of Commons and is presently before the Senate. The Competition Bureau has accepted that Air Canada has the only offer on the table and has worked very closely with the parties to ensure that the interests of consumers, employees, small carriers, and smaller communities will be protected.

178 In summary, in assessing whether a plan is fair and reasonable, courts have emphasized that perfection is not required: see for example *Re Wandlyn Inns Ltd.* (1992), 15 C.B.R. (3d) 316 (N.B. Q.B.), *Quintette Coal*, *supra* and *Repap*, *supra*. Rather, various rights and remedies must be sacrificed to varying degrees to result in a reasonable, viable compromise for all concerned. The court is required to view the "big picture" of the plan and assess its impact as a whole. I return to *Algoma Steel v. Royal Bank*, *supra* at 9 in which Farley J. endorsed this approach:

What might appear on the surface to be unfair to one party when viewed in relation to all other parties may be considered to be quite appropriate.

179 Fairness and reasonableness are not abstract notions, but must be measured against the available commercial alternatives. The triggering of the statute, namely insolvency, recognizes a fundamental flaw within the company. In these imperfect circumstances there can never be a perfect plan, but rather only one that is supportable. As stated in *Re Sammi Atlas Inc.* (1998), 3 C.B.R. (4th) 171 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) at 173:

A plan under the CCAA is a compromise; it cannot be expected to be perfect. It should be approved if it is fair, reasonable and equitable. Equitable treatment is not necessarily equal treatment. Equal treatment may be contrary to equitable treatment.

180 I find that in all the circumstances, the Plan is fair and reasonable.

IV. Conclusion

181 The Plan has obtained the support of many affected creditors, including virtually all aircraft financiers, holders of executory contracts, AMR, Loyalty Group and the Senior Secured Noteholders.

182 Use of these proceedings has avoided triggering more than \$1.2 billion of incremental claims. These include claims of passengers with pre-paid tickets, employees, landlords and other parties with ongoing executory contracts, trade creditors and suppliers.

183 This Plan represents a solid chance for the continued existence of Canadian. It preserves CAIL as a business entity. It maintains over 16,000 jobs. Suppliers and trade creditors are kept whole. It protects consumers and preserves the integrity of our national transportation system while we move towards a new regulatory framework. The extensive efforts by Canadian and Air Canada, the compromises made by stakeholders both within and without the proceedings and the commitment of the Government of Canada inspire confidence in a positive result.

184 I agree with the opposing parties that the Plan is not perfect, but it is neither illegal nor oppressive. Beyond its fair and reasonable balancing of interests, the Plan is a result of bona fide efforts by all concerned and indeed is the only alternative to bankruptcy as ten years of struggle and creative attempts at restructuring by Canadian clearly demonstrate. This Plan is one step toward a new era of airline profitability that hopefully will protect consumers by promoting affordable and accessible air travel to all Canadians.

185 The Plan deserves the sanction of this court and it is hereby granted. The application pursuant to section 185 of the ABCA is granted. The application for declarations sought by Resurgence are dismissed. The application of the Minority Shareholders is dismissed.

Application granted; counter-applications dismissed.

Footnotes

- * Leave to appeal refused 84 Alta. L.R. (3d) 52, 9 B.L.R. (3d) 86, [2000] 10 W.W.R. 314, 2000 ABCA 238, 20 C.B.R. (4th) 46 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]).

TAB 2

1998 CarswellOnt 1145
Ontario Court of Justice, General Division [Commercial List]

Sammi Atlas Inc., Re

1998 CarswellOnt 1145, [1998] O.J. No. 1089, 3 C.B.R. (4th) 171, 59 O.T.C. 153, 78 A.C.W.S. (3d) 10

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

In The Matter of the Courts of Justice Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.C.43

In The Matter of a Plan of Compromise or Arrangement of Sammi Atlas Inc.

Farley J.

Heard: February 27, 1998
Judgment: February 27, 1998
Docket: 97-BK-000219, B230/97

Counsel: *Norman J. Emblem*, for the applicant, Sammi Atlas Inc.
James Grout, for Agro Partners, Inc.
Thomas Matz, for the Bank of Nova Scotia.
Jay Carfagnini and *Ben Zarnett*, for Investors' Committee.
Geoffrey Morawetz, for the Trade Creditors' committee.
Clifton Prophet, for Duk Lee.

Farley J.:

- 1 This endorsement deals with two of the motions before me today:
 - 1) Applicant's motion for an order approving and sanctioning the Applicant's Plan of Compromise and Arrangement, as amended and approved by the Applicant's unsecured creditors on February 25, 1998; and
 - 2) A motion by Argo Partners, Inc. ("Argo"), a creditor by way of assignment, for an order directing that the Plan be amended to provide that a person who, on the record date, held unsecured claims shall be entitled to elect treatment with respect to each unsecured claim held by it on a claim by claim basis (and not on an aggregate basis as provided for in the Plan).
- 2 As to the Applicant's sanction motion, the general principles to be applied in the exercise of the court's discretion are:
 - 1) there must be strict compliance with all statutory requirements and adherence to the previous orders of the court;
 - 2) all materials filed and procedures carried out must be examined to determine if anything has been done or purported to be done which is not authorized by the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA"); and
 - 3) the Plan must be fair and reasonable.

See *Northland Properties Ltd., Re* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 (B.C. S.C.); affirmed (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C. C.A.) at p.201; *Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.* (1993), 12 O.R. (3d) 500 (Ont. Gen. Div.) at p.506.

- 3 I am satisfied on the material before me that the Applicant was held to be a corporation as to which the CCAA applies, that the Plan was filed with the court in accordance with the previous orders, that notices were appropriately given and published

as to claims and meetings, that the meetings were held in accordance with the directions of the court and that the Plan was approved by the requisite majority (in fact it was approved 98.74% in number of the proven claims of creditors voting and by 96.79% dollar value, with Argo abstaining). Thus it would appear that items one and two are met.

4 What of item 3 - is the Plan fair and reasonable? A Plan under the CCAA is a compromise; it cannot be expected to be perfect. It should be approved if it is fair, reasonable and equitable. Equitable treatment is not necessarily equal treatment. Equal treatment may be contrary to equitable treatment. One must look at the creditors as a whole (i.e. generally) and to the objecting creditors (specifically) and see if rights are compromised in an attempt to balance interests (and have the pain of the compromise equitably shared) as opposed to a confiscation of rights: see *Campeau Corp., Re* (1992), 10 C.B.R. (3d) 104 (Ont. Gen. Div.) at p.109. It is recognized that the CCAA contemplates that a minority of creditors is bound by the Plan which a majority have approved - subject only to the court determining that the Plan is fair and reasonable: see *Northland Properties Ltd.* at p.201; *Olympia & York Developments Ltd.* at p.509. In the present case no one appeared today to oppose the Plan being sanctioned: Argo merely wished that the Plan be amended to accommodate its particular concerns. Of course, to the extent that Argo would be benefited by such an amendment, the other creditors would in effect be disadvantaged since the pot in this case is based on a zero sum game.

5 Those voting on the Plan (and I note there was a very significant "quorum" present at the meeting) do so on a business basis. As Blair J. said at p.510 of *Olympia & York Developments Ltd.*:

As the other courts have done, I observe that it is not my function to second guess the business people with respect to the "business" aspects of the Plan, descending into the negotiating arena and 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.

The court should be appropriately reluctant to interfere with the business decisions of creditors reached as a body. There was no suggestion that these creditors were unsophisticated or unable to look out for their own best interests. The vote in the present case is even higher than in *Central Guaranty Trustco Ltd., Re* (1993), 21 C.B.R. (3d) 139 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) where I observed at p.141:

... This on either basis is well beyond the specific majority requirement of CCAA. Clearly there is a very heavy burden on parties seeking to upset a plan that the required majority have found that they could vote for; given the overwhelming majority this burden is no lighter. This vote by sophisticated lenders speaks volumes as to fairness and reasonableness.

The Courts should not second guess business people who have gone along with the Plan....

6 Argo's motion is to amend the Plan - after it has been voted on. However I do not see any exceptional circumstances which would support such a motion being brought now. In *Algoma Steel Corp. v. Royal Bank* (1992), 11 C.B.R. (3d) 11 (Ont. C.A.) the Court of Appeal observed at p.15 that the court's jurisdiction to amend a plan should "be exercised sparingly and in exceptional circumstances only" even if the amendment were merely technical and did not prejudice the interests of the corporation or its creditors and then only where there is jurisdiction under the CCAA to make the amendment requested, I was advised that Argo had considered bringing the motion on earlier but had not done so in the face of "veto" opposition from the major creditors. I am puzzled by this since the creditor or any other appropriate party can always move in court before the Plan is voted on to amend the Plan; voting does not have anything to do with the court granting or dismissing the motion. The court can always determine a matter which may impinge directly and materially upon the fairness and reasonableness of a plan. I note in passing that it would be inappropriate to attempt to obtain a preview of the court's views as to sanctioning by bringing on such a motion. See my views in *Central Guaranty Trustco Ltd., Re* at p.143:

... In *Algoma Steel Corp. v. Royal Bank* (1992), 8 O.R. (3d) 449, the Court of Appeal determined that there were exceptional circumstances (unrelated to the Plan) which allowed it to adjust *where no interest was adversely affected*. The same cannot be said here. FSTQ aside from s.11(c) of the CCAA also raised s.7. I am of the view that s.7 allows an amendment after an adjournment - *but not after a vote has been taken*. (emphasis in original)

What Argo wants is a substantive change; I do not see the jurisdiction to grant same under the CCAA.

7 In the subject Plan creditors are to be dealt with on a sliding scale for distribution purposes only: with this scale being on an aggregate basis of all claims held by one claimant:

i) \$7,500 or less to receive cash of 95% of the proven claim;

ii) \$7,501 - \$100,000 to receive cash of 90% of the first \$7,500 and 55% of balance; and;

iii) in excess of \$100,000 to receive shares on a formula basis (subject to creditor agreeing to limit claims to \$100,000 so as to obtain cash as per the previous formula).

Such a sliding scale arrangement has been present in many proposals over the years. Argo has not been singled out for special treatment; others who acquired claims by assignment have also been affected. Argo has acquired 40 claims; all under \$100,000 but in the aggregate well over \$100,000. Argo submitted that it could have achieved the result that it wished if it had kept the individual claims it acquired separate by having them held by a different "person"; this is true under the Plan as worded. Conceivably if this type of separation in the face of an aggregation provision were perceived to be inappropriate by a CCAA applicant, then I suppose the language of such a plan could be "tightened" to eliminate what the applicant perceived as a loophole. I appreciate Argo's position that by buying up the small claims it was providing the original creditors with liquidity but this should not be a determinative factor. I would note that the sliding scale provided here does recognize (albeit imperfectly) that small claims may be equated with small creditors who would more likely wish cash as opposed to non-board lots of shares which would not be as liquidate as cash; the high percentage cash for those proven claims of \$7,500 or under illustrates the desire not to have the "little person" hurt - at least any more than is necessary. The question will come down to balance - the plan must be efficient and attractive enough for it to be brought forward by an applicant with the realistic chance of its succeeding (and perhaps in that regard be "sponsored" by significant creditors) and while not being too generous so that the future of the applicant on an ongoing basis would be in jeopardy: at the same time it must gain enough support amongst the creditor body for it to gain the requisite majority. New creditors by assignment may provide not only liquidity but also a benefit in providing a block of support for a plan which may not have been forthcoming as a small creditor may not think it important to do so. Argo of course has not claimed it is a "little person" in the context of this CCAA proceeding.

8 In my view Argo is being treated fairly and reasonably as a creditor as are all the unsecured creditors. An aggregation clause is not inherently unfair and the sliding scale provisions would appear to me to be aimed at "protecting (or helping out) the little guy" which would appear to be a reasonable policy.

9 The Plan is sanctioned and approved; Argo's aggregation motion is dismissed.

Addendum:

10 I reviewed with the insolvency practitioners (legal counsel and accountants) the aspect that industrial and commercial concerns in a CCAA setting should be distinguished from "bricks and mortgage" corporations. In their reorganization it is important to maintain the goodwill attributable to employee experience and customer (and supplier) loyalty; this may very quickly erode with uncertainty. Therefore it would, to my mind be desirable to get down to brass tacks as quickly as possible and perhaps a reasonable target (subject to adjustment up or down according to the circumstances including complexity) would be for a six month period from application to Plan sanction.

Motion for approval granted; motion for amendment dismissed.

TAB 3

2010 ONSC 4209
Ontario Superior Court of Justice [Commercial List]

Canwest Global Communications Corp., Re

2010 CarswellOnt 5510, 2010 ONSC 4209, 191 A.C.W.S. (3d) 378, 70 C.B.R. (5th) 1

**IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 11 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 CANWEST GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS AND THE OTHER APPLICANTS

Pepall J.

Judgment: July 28, 2010
Docket: CV-09-8396-00CL

Counsel: Lyndon Barnes, Jeremy Dacks, Shawn Irving for CMI Entities
David Byers, Marie Konyukhova for Monitor
Robin B. Schwill, Vince Mercier for Shaw Communications Inc.
Derek Bell for Canwest Shareholders Group (the "Existing Shareholders")
Mario Forte for Special Committee of the Board of Directors
Robert Chadwick, Logan Willis for Ad Hoc Committee of Noteholders
Amanda Darrach for Canwest Retirees
Peter Osborne for Management Directors
Steven Weisz for CIBC Asset-Based Lending Inc.

Pepall J.:

1 This is the culmination of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*¹ restructuring of the CMI Entities. The proceeding started in court on October 6, 2009, experienced numerous peaks and valleys, and now has resulted in a request for an order sanctioning a plan of compromise, arrangement and reorganization (the "Plan"). It has been a short road in relative terms but not without its challenges and idiosyncrasies. To complicate matters, this restructuring was hot on the heels of the amendments to the CCAA that were introduced on September 18, 2009. Nonetheless, the CMI Entities have now successfully concluded a Plan for which they seek a sanction order. They also request an order approving the Plan Emergence Agreement, and other related relief. Lastly, they seek a post-filing claims procedure order.

2 The details of this restructuring have been outlined in numerous previous decisions rendered by me and I do not propose to repeat all of them.

The Plan and its Implementation

3 The basis for the Plan is the amended Shaw transaction. It will see a wholly owned subsidiary of Shaw Communications Inc. ("Shaw") acquire all of the interests in the free-to-air television stations and subscription-based specialty television channels currently owned by Canwest Television Limited Partnership ("CTLP") and its subsidiaries and all of the interests in the specialty television stations currently owned by CW Investments and its subsidiaries, as well as certain other assets of the CMI Entities. Shaw will pay to CMI US \$440 million in cash to be used by CMI to satisfy the claims of the 8% Senior Subordinated Noteholders (the "Noteholders") against the CMI Entities. In the event that the implementation of the Plan occurs after September 30, 2010, an additional cash amount of US \$2.9 million per month will be paid to CMI by Shaw and allocated

by CMI to the Noteholders. An additional \$38 million will be paid by Shaw to the Monitor at the direction of CMI to be used to satisfy the claims of the Affected Creditors (as that term is defined in the Plan) other than the Noteholders, subject to a pro rata increase in that cash amount for certain restructuring period claims in certain circumstances.

4 In accordance with the Meeting Order, the Plan separates Affected Creditors into two classes for voting purposes:

(a) the Noteholders; and

(b) the Ordinary Creditors. Convenience Class Creditors are deemed to be in, and to vote as, members of the Ordinary Creditors' Class.

5 The Plan divides the Ordinary Creditors' pool into two sub-pools, namely the Ordinary CTLP Creditors' Sub-pool and the Ordinary CMI Creditors' Sub-pool. The former comprises two-thirds of the value and is for claims against the CTLP Plan Entities and the latter reflects one-third of the value and is used to satisfy claims against Plan Entities other than the CTLP Plan Entities. In its 16th Report, the Monitor performed an analysis of the relative value of the assets of the CMI Plan Entities and the CTLP Plan Entities and the possible recoveries on a going concern liquidation and based on that analysis, concluded that it was fair and reasonable that Affected Creditors of the CTLP Plan Entities share pro rata in two-thirds of the Ordinary Creditors' pool and Affected Creditors of the Plan Entities other than the CTLP Plan Entities share pro rata in one-third of the Ordinary Creditors' pool.

6 It is contemplated that the Plan will be implemented by no later than September 30, 2010.

7 The Existing Shareholders will not be entitled to any distributions under the Plan or other compensation from the CMI Entities on account of their equity interests in Canwest Global. All equity compensation plans of Canwest Global will be extinguished and any outstanding options, restricted share units and other equity-based awards outstanding thereunder will be terminated and cancelled and the participants therein shall not be entitled to any distributions under the Plan.

8 On a distribution date to be determined by the Monitor following the Plan implementation date, all Affected Creditors with proven distribution claims against the Plan Entities will receive distributions from cash received by CMI (or the Monitor at CMI's direction) from Shaw, the Plan Sponsor, in accordance with the Plan. The directors and officers of the remaining CMI Entities and other subsidiaries of Canwest Global will resign on or about the Plan implementation date.

9 Following the implementation of the Plan, CTLP and CW Investments will be indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries of Shaw, and the multiple voting shares, subordinate voting shares and non-voting shares of Canwest Global will be delisted from the TSX Venture Exchange. It is anticipated that the remaining CMI Entities and certain other subsidiaries of Canwest Global will be liquidated, wound-up, dissolved, placed into bankruptcy or otherwise abandoned.

10 In furtherance of the Minutes of Settlement that were entered into with the Existing Shareholders, the articles of Canwest Global will be amended under section 191 of the CBCA to facilitate the settlement. In particular, Canwest Global will reorganize the authorized capital of Canwest Global into (a) an unlimited number of new multiple voting shares, new subordinated voting shares and new non-voting shares; and (b) an unlimited number of new non-voting preferred shares. The terms of the new non-voting preferred shares will provide for the mandatory transfer of the new preferred shares held by the Existing Shareholders to a designated entity affiliated with Shaw for an aggregate amount of \$11 million to be paid upon delivery by Canwest Global of the transfer notice to the transfer agent. Following delivery of the transfer notice, the Shaw designated entity will donate and surrender the new preferred shares acquired by it to Canwest Global for cancellation.

11 Canwest Global, CMI, CTLP, New Canwest, Shaw, 7316712 and the Monitor entered into the Plan Emergence Agreement dated June 25, 2010 detailing certain steps that will be taken before, upon and after the implementation of the plan. These steps primarily relate to the funding of various costs that are payable by the CMI Entities on emergence from the CCAA proceeding. This includes payments that will be made or may be made by the Monitor to satisfy post-filing amounts owing by the CMI Entities. The schedule of costs has not yet been finalized.

Creditor Meetings

12 Creditor meetings were held on July 19, 2010 in Toronto, Ontario. Support for the Plan was overwhelming. 100% in number representing 100% in value of the beneficial owners of the 8% senior subordinated notes who provided instructions for voting at the Noteholder meeting approved the resolution. Beneficial Noteholders holding approximately 95% of the principal amount of the outstanding notes validly voted at the Noteholder meeting.

13 The Ordinary Creditors with proven voting claims who submitted voting instructions in person or by proxy represented approximately 83% of their number and 92% of the value of such claims. In excess of 99% in number representing in excess of 99% in value of the Ordinary Creditors holding proven voting claims that were present in person or by proxy at the meeting voted or were deemed to vote in favour of the resolution.

Sanction Test

14 Section 6(1) of the CCAA provides that the court has discretion to sanction a plan of compromise or arrangement if it has achieved the requisite double majority vote. The criteria that a debtor company must satisfy in seeking the court's approval are:

- (a) there must be strict compliance with all statutory requirements;
- (b) all material filed and procedures carried out must be examined to determine if anything has been done or purported to be done which is not authorized by the CCAA; and
- (c) the Plan must be fair and reasonable.

See *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*²

(a) Statutory Requirements

15 I am satisfied that all statutory requirements have been met. I already determined that the Applicants qualified as debtor companies under section 2 of the CCAA and that they had total claims against them exceeding \$5 million. The notice of meeting was sent in accordance with the Meeting Order. Similarly, the classification of Affected Creditors for voting purposes was addressed in the Meeting Order which was unopposed and not appealed. The meetings were both properly constituted and voting in each was properly carried out. Clearly the Plan was approved by the requisite majorities.

16 Section 6(3), 6(5) and 6(6) of the CCAA provide that the court may not sanction a plan unless the plan contains certain specified provisions concerning crown claims, employee claims and pension claims. Section 4.6 of Plan provides that the claims listed in paragraph (l) of the definition of "Unaffected Claims" shall be paid in full from a fund known as the Plan Implementation Fund within six months of the sanction order. The Fund consists of cash, certain other assets and further contributions from Shaw. Paragraph (l) of the definition of "Unaffected Claims" includes any Claims in respect of any payments referred to in section 6(3), 6(5) and 6(6) of the CCAA. I am satisfied that these provisions of section 6 of the CCAA have been satisfied.

(b) Unauthorized Steps

17 In considering whether any unauthorized steps have been taken by a debtor company, it has been held that in making such a determination, the court should rely on the parties and their stakeholders and the reports of the Monitor: *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*³.

18 The CMI Entities have regularly filed affidavits addressing key developments in this restructuring. In addition, the Monitor has provided regular reports (17 at last count) and has opined that the CMI Entities have acted and continue to act in good faith and with due diligence and have not breached any requirements under the CCAA or any order of this court. If it was not obvious from the hearing on June 23, 2010, it should be stressed that there is no payment of any equity claim pursuant to section 6(8) of the CCAA. As noted by the Monitor in its 16th Report, settlement with the Existing Shareholders did not and does not in

any way impact the anticipated recovery to the Affected Creditors of the CMI Entities. Indeed I referenced the inapplicability of section 6(8) of the CCAA in my Reasons of June 23, 2010. The second criterion relating to unauthorized steps has been met.

(c) Fair and Reasonable

19 The third criterion to consider is the requirement to demonstrate that a plan is fair and reasonable. As Paperny J. (as she then was) stated in *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*:

The court's role on a sanction hearing is to consider whether the plan fairly balances the interests of all stakeholders. Faced with an insolvent organization, its role is to look forward and ask: does this plan represent a fair and reasonable compromise that will permit a viable commercial entity to emerge? It is also an exercise in assessing current reality by comparing available commercial alternatives to what is offered in the proposed plan.⁴

20 My discretion should be informed by the objectives of the CCAA, namely 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.

21 In assessing whether a proposed plan is fair and reasonable, considerations include the following:

- (a) whether the claims were properly classified and whether the requisite majority of creditors approved the plan;
- (b) what creditors would have received on bankruptcy or liquidation as compared to the plan;
- (c) alternatives available to the plan and bankruptcy;
- (d) oppression of the rights of creditors;
- (e) unfairness to shareholders; and
- (f) the public interest.

22 I have already addressed the issue of classification and the vote. Obviously there is an unequal distribution amongst the creditors of the CMI Entities. Distribution to the Noteholders is expected to result in recovery of principal, pre-filing interest and a portion of post-filing accrued and default interest. The range of recoveries for Ordinary Creditors is much less. The recovery of the Noteholders is substantially more attractive than that of Ordinary Creditors. This is not unheard of. In *Armbro Enterprises Inc., Re*⁵ Blair J. (as he then was) approved a plan which included an uneven allocation in favour of a single major creditor, the Royal Bank, over the objection of other creditors. Blair J. wrote:

"I am not persuaded that there is a sufficient tilt in the allocation of these new common shares in favour of RBC to justify the court in interfering with the business decision made by the creditor class in approving the proposed Plan, as they have done. RBC's cooperation is a sine qua non for the Plan, or any Plan, to work and it is the only creditor continuing to advance funds to the applicants to finance the proposed re-organization."⁶

23 Similarly, in *Uniforêt inc., Re*⁷ a plan provided for payment in full to an unsecured creditor. This treatment was much more generous than that received by other creditors. There, the Québec Superior Court sanctioned the plan and noted that a plan can be more generous to some creditors and still fair to all creditors. The creditor in question had stepped into the breach on several occasions to keep the company afloat in the four years preceding the filing of the plan and the court was of the view that the conduct merited special treatment. See also Romaine J.'s orders dated October 26, 2009 in *SemCanada Crude Company et al.*

24 I am prepared to accept that the recovery for the Noteholders is fair and reasonable in the circumstances. The size of the Noteholder debt was substantial. CMI's obligations under the notes were guaranteed by several of the CMI Entities. No issue has been taken with the guarantees. As stated before and as observed by the Monitor, the Noteholders held a blocking position

in any restructuring. Furthermore, the liquidity and continued support provided by the Ad Hoc Committee both prior to and during these proceedings gave the CMI Entities the opportunity to pursue a going concern restructuring of their businesses. A description of the role of the Noteholders is found in Mr. Strike's affidavit sworn July 20, 2010, filed on this motion.

25 Turning to alternatives, the CMI Entities have been exploring strategic alternatives since February, 2009. Between November, 2009 and February, 2010, RBC Capital Markets conducted the equity investment solicitation process of which I have already commented. While there is always a theoretical possibility that a more advantageous plan could be developed than the Plan proposed, the Monitor has concluded that there is no reason to believe that restarting the equity investment solicitation process or marketing 100% of the CMI Entities assets would result in a better or equally desirable outcome. Furthermore, restarting the process could lead to operational difficulties including issues relating to the CMI Entities' large studio suppliers and advertisers. The Monitor has also confirmed that it is unlikely that the recovery for a going concern liquidation sale of the assets of the CMI Entities would result in greater recovery to the creditors of the CMI Entities. I am not satisfied that there is any other alternative transaction that would provide greater recovery than the recoveries contemplated in the Plan. Additionally, I am not persuaded that there is any oppression of creditor rights or unfairness to shareholders.

26 The last consideration I wish to address is the public interest. If the Plan is implemented, the CMI Entities will have achieved a going concern outcome for the business of the CTLP Plan Entities that fully and finally deals with the Goldman Sachs Parties, the Shareholders Agreement and the defaulted 8% senior subordinated notes. It will ensure the continuation of employment for substantially all of the employees of the Plan Entities and will provide stability for the CMI Entities, pensioners, suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. In addition, the Plan will maintain for the general public broad access to and choice of news, public and other information and entertainment programming. Broadcasting of news, public and entertainment programming is an important public service, and the bankruptcy and liquidation of the CMI Entities would have a negative impact on the Canadian public.

27 I should also mention section 36 of the CCAA which was added by the recent amendments to the Act which came into force on September 18, 2009. This section provides that a debtor company may not sell or otherwise dispose of assets outside the ordinary course of business unless authorized to do so by a court. The section goes on to address factors a court is to consider. In my view, section 36 does not apply to transfers contemplated by a Plan. These transfers are merely steps that are required to implement the Plan and to facilitate the restructuring of the Plan Entities' businesses. Furthermore, as the CMI Entities are seeking approval of the Plan itself, there is no risk of any abuse. There is a further safeguard in that the Plan including the asset transfers contemplated therein has been voted on and approved by Affected Creditors.

28 The Plan does include broad releases including some third party releases. In *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.*⁸, the Ontario Court of Appeal held that the CCAA court has jurisdiction to approve a plan of compromise or arrangement that includes third party releases. The *Metcalfe* case was extraordinary and exceptional in nature. It responded to dire circumstances and had a plan that included releases that were fundamental to the restructuring. The Court held that the releases in question had to be justified as part of the compromise or arrangement between the debtor and its creditors. 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.

29 In the *Metcalfe* decision, Blair J.A. discussed in detail the issue of releases of third parties. I do not propose to revisit this issue, save and except to stress that in my view, third party releases should be the exception and should not be requested or granted as a matter of course.

30 In this case, the releases are broad and extend to include the Noteholders, the Ad Hoc Committee and others. Fraud, wilful misconduct and gross negligence are excluded. I have already addressed, on numerous occasions, the role of the Noteholders and the Ad Hoc Committee. I am satisfied that the CMI Entities would not have been able to restructure without materially addressing the notes and developing a plan satisfactory to the Ad Hoc Committee and the Noteholders. The release of claims is rationally connected to the overall purpose of the Plan and full disclosure of the releases was made in the Plan, the information circular, the motion material served in connection with the Meeting Order and on this motion. No one has appeared to oppose

the sanction of the Plan that contains these releases and they are considered by the Monitor to be fair and reasonable. Under the circumstances, I am prepared to sanction the Plan containing these releases.

31 Lastly, the Monitor is of the view that the Plan is advantageous to Affected Creditors, is fair and reasonable and recommends its sanction. The board, the senior management of the CMI Entities, the Ad Hoc Committee, and the CMI CRA all support sanction of the Plan as do all those appearing today.

32 In my view, the Plan is fair and reasonable and I am granting the sanction order requested.⁹

33 The Applicants also seek approval of the Plan Emergence Agreement. The Plan Emergence Agreement outlines steps that will be taken prior to, upon, or following implementation of the Plan and is a necessary corollary of the Plan. It does not confiscate the rights of any creditors and is necessarily incidental to the Plan. I have the jurisdiction to approve such an agreement: *Air Canada, Re*¹⁰ and *Calpine Canada Energy Ltd., Re*¹¹ I am satisfied that the agreement is fair and reasonable and should be approved.

34 It is proposed that on the Plan implementation date the articles of Canwest Global will be amended to facilitate the settlement reached with the Existing Shareholders. Section 191 of the CBCA permits the court to order necessary amendments to the articles of a corporation without shareholder approval or a dissent right. In particular, section 191(1)(c) provides that reorganization means a court order made under any other Act of Parliament that affects the rights among the corporation, its shareholders and creditors. The CCAA is such an Act: *Beatrice Foods Inc., Re*¹² and *Laidlaw, Re*¹³. Pursuant to section 191(2), if a corporation is subject to a subsection (1) order, its articles may be amended to effect any change that might lawfully be made by an amendment under section 173. Section 173(1)(e) and (h) of the CBCA provides that:

(1) Subject to sections 176 and 177, the articles of a corporation may by special resolution be amended to

(e) create new classes of shares;

(h) change the shares of any class or series, whether issued or unissued, into a different number of shares of the same class or series or into the same or a different number of shares of other classes or series.

35 Section 6(2) of the CCAA provides that if a court sanctions a compromise or arrangement, it may order that the debtor's constating instrument be amended in accordance with the compromise or arrangement to reflect any change that may lawfully be made under federal or provincial law.

36 In exercising its discretion to approve a reorganization under section 191 of the CBCA, the court must be satisfied that: (a) there has been compliance with all statutory requirements; (b) the debtor company is acting in good faith; and (c) the capital restructuring is fair and reasonable: *A&M Cookie Co. Canada, Re*¹⁴ and *MEI Computer Technology Group Inc., Re*¹⁵

37 I am satisfied that the statutory requirements have been met as the contemplated reorganization falls within the conditions provided for in sections 191 and 173 of the CBCA. I am also satisfied that Canwest Global and the other CMI Entities were acting in good faith in attempting to resolve the Existing Shareholder dispute. Furthermore, the reorganization is a necessary step in the implementation of the Plan in that it facilitates agreement reached on June 23, 2010 with the Existing Shareholders. In my view, the reorganization is fair and reasonable and was a vital step in addressing a significant impediment to a satisfactory resolution of outstanding issues.

38 A post-filing claims procedure order is also sought. The procedure is designed to solicit, identify and quantify post-filing claims. The Monitor who participated in the negotiation of the proposed order is satisfied that its terms are fair and reasonable as am I.

39 In closing, I would like to say that generally speaking, the quality of oral argument and the materials filed in this CCAA proceeding has been very high throughout. I would like to express my appreciation to all counsel and the Monitor in that regard. The sanction order and the post-filing claims procedure order are granted.

Footnotes

- 1 R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 as amended.
- 2 [2000 ABQB 442](#) (Alta. Q.B.) at para. 60, leave to appeal denied [2000 ABCA 238](#) (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]), aff'd [2001 ABCA 9](#) (Alta. C.A.), leave to appeal to S.C.C. refused July 12, 2001 [[2001 CarswellAlta 888](#) (S.C.C.)].
- 3 Ibid, at para. 64 citing *Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.*, [[1993](#)] [O.J. No. 545](#) (Ont. Gen. Div.) and *Cadillac Fairview Inc., Re*, [[1995](#)] [O.J. No. 274](#) (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]).
- 4 Ibid, at para. 3.
- 5 ([1993](#)), [22 C.B.R. \(3d\) 80](#) (Ont. Bkcty.).
- 6 *Ibid*, at para. 6.
- 7 ([2003](#)), [43 C.B.R. \(4th\) 254](#) (C.S. Que.).
- 8 ([2008](#)), [92 O.R. \(3d\) 513](#) (Ont. C.A.).
- 9 The Sanction Order is extraordinarily long and in large measure repeats the Plan provisions. In future, counsel should attempt to simplify and shorten these sorts of orders.
- 10 ([2004](#)), [47 C.B.R. \(4th\) 169](#) (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]).
- 11 ([2007](#)), [35 C.B.R. \(5th\) 1](#) (Alta. Q.B.).
- 12 ([1996](#)), [43 C.B.R. \(4th\) 10](#) (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]).
- 13 ([2003](#)), [39 C.B.R. \(4th\) 239](#) (Ont. S.C.J.).
- 14 [[2009](#)] [O.J. No. 2427](#) (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) at para. 8/
- 15 [[2005](#)] [Q.J. No. 22993](#) (C.S. Que.) at para. 9.

TAB 4

2013 ONSC 2519
Ontario Superior Court of Justice [Commercial List]

SkyLink Aviation Inc., Re

2013 CarswellOnt 7670, 2013 ONSC 2519, [2013] O.J. No. 2664, 229 A.C.W.S. (3d) 24, 3 C.B.R. (6th) 83

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

In the Matter of a Plan of Compromise and Arrangement of Skylink Aviation Inc. Applicant

Morawetz J.

Heard: April 23, 2013
Oral reasons: April 23, 2013
Docket: CV-13-1003300CL

Counsel: Robert J. Chadwick, Logan Willis for SkyLink Aviation Inc.
Harvey Chaiton for Arbib, Babrar and Sunbeam Helicopters
Emily Stock for Certain Former and Current Directors, for Insured Claims
S.R. Orzy, Sean Zweig for Noteholders
Shayne Kukulowicz for Certain Directors and Officers
M.P. Gottlieb, A. Winton for Monitor, Duff & Phelps

Morawetz J.:

1 SkyLink Aviation Inc. ("SkyLink Aviation", the "Company" or the "Applicant"), seeks an Order (the "Sanction Order"), among other things:

(a) sanctioning SkyLink Aviation's Plan of Compromise and Arrangement dated April 18, 2013 (as it may be amended in accordance with its terms, the "Plan") pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "CCAA");

(b) declaring that the New Shareholders Agreement is effective and binding on all holders of New Common Shares and any Persons entitled to receive New Common Shares pursuant to the Plan; and

(c) extending the Stay Period, as defined in the Initial Order of this Court granted March 8, 2013 [[2013 CarswellOnt 2785](#) (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])] (the "Initial Order").

2 No party opposed the requested relief.

3 Counsel to the Company submits that the Plan has strong support from the creditors and achieves the Company's goal of a going-concern recapitalization transaction (the "Recapitalization") that minimizes any impact on operations and maximizes value for the Company's stakeholders.

4 Counsel further submits that the Plan is fair and reasonable and offers a greater benefit to the Company's stakeholders than other restructuring or sale alternatives. The Plan has been approved by the Affected Creditors with 95.3% in number representing 93.6% in value of the Affected Unsecured Creditors Class and 97.1% in number representing 99.99% in value of the Secured Noteholders Class voting in favour of the Plan (inclusive of Voting Claims and Disputed Voting Claims).

5 The request for court approval is supported by the Initial Consenting Noteholders, the First Lien Lenders and the Monitor.

The Facts

6 SkyLink Aviation, together with the SkyLink Subsidiaries (as defined in the Affidavit of Jan Ottens sworn April 21, 2013) (collectively, "SkyLink"), is a leading provider of global aviation transportation and logistics services, primarily fixed-wing and rotary-wing air transport and related activities (the "SkyLink Business").

7 SkyLink is responsible for providing non-combat life-supporting functions to both its own personnel and those of its suppliers and clients in high-risk conflict zones.

8 SkyLink Aviation experienced financial challenges that necessitated a recapitalization of the Company under the CCAA. On March 8, 2013, the Company sought protection from its creditors under the CCAA and obtained the Initial Order which appointed Duff & Phelps Canada Restructuring Inc. as the monitor of the Applicant in this CCAA Proceeding (the "Monitor").

9 The primary purpose of the CCAA Proceeding is to expeditiously implement the Recapitalization. The Recapitalization involves: (i) the refinancing of the Company's first lien debt; (ii) the cancellation of the Secured Notes in exchange for the issuance by the Company of consideration that includes new common shares and new debt; and (iii) the compromise of certain unsecured liabilities, including the portion of the Noteholders' claim that is treated as unsecured under the Plan.

10 On March 8, 2013, I granted the Claims Procedure Order approving the Claims Procedure to ascertain all of the claims against the Company and its directors and officers. SkyLink Aviation, with the assistance of the Monitor, carried out the Claims Procedure in accordance with the terms of the Claims Procedure Order.

11 Pursuant to the Claims Procedure Order, the Secured Noteholders Allowed Claim, was determined by the Applicant, with the consent of the Monitor and the Majority Initial Consenting Noteholders, to be approximately \$123.4 million.

12 The Secured Noteholders Allowed Claim was allowed for both voting and distribution purposes against the Applicant as follows:

(a) \$28.5 million, as agreed among the Applicant, the Monitor and the Majority Initial Consenting Noteholders, was allowed as secured Claims against the Applicant (collectively the "Secured Noteholders Allowed Secured Claim"); and

(b) \$94.9 million, the balance of the Secured Noteholders Allowed Claim, was allowed as an unsecured Claim against the Applicant (collectively the "Secured Noteholders Allowed Unsecured Claim").

13 The value of the Secured Noteholders Allowed Secured Claim is consistent with the enterprise value range set out in the valuation dated March 7, 2013 (the "Valuation") prepared by Duff & Phelps Canada Limited.

14 The Claims Procedure resulted in \$133.7 million in Affected Unsecured Claims, consisting of the Secured Noteholders Allowed Unsecured Claim of \$94.9 million and other unsecured Claims of \$38.8 million, being filed against the Company.

15 In addition, ten claims were filed against the Directors and Officers totalling approximately \$21 million. Approximately \$13 million of these claims were also filed against the Company.

16 Following the commencement of these proceedings, SkyLink Aviation entered into discussions with certain creditors in an effort to consensually resolve the Affected Unsecured Claims and Director/Officer Claims asserted by them. These negotiations, and the settlement agreements ultimately reached with these creditors, resulted in amendments to the original version of the Plan filed on March 8, 2013 (the "Original Plan").

Purpose and Effect of the Plan

17 In developing the Plan, counsel submits that the Company sought to, among other things: (i) ensure a going-concern result for the SkyLink Business; (ii) minimize any impact on operations; (iii) maximize value for the Company's stakeholders; and (iv) achieve a fair and reasonable balance among its Affected Creditors.

18 The Plan provides for a full and final release and discharge of the Affected Claims and Released Claims, a settlement of, and consideration for, all Allowed Affected Claims and a recapitalization of the Applicant.

19 Unaffected Creditors will not be affected by the Plan (subject to recovery in respect of Insured Claims being limited to the proceeds of applicable Insurance Policies) and will not receive any consideration or distributions under the Plan in respect of their Unaffected Claims (except to the extent their Unaffected Claims are paid in full on the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with the express terms of the Plan).

20 Equity Claims and Equity Interests will be extinguished under the Plan and any Equity Claimants will not receive any consideration or distributions under the Plan.

21 The Plan provides for the release of a number of parties (the "Released Parties"), including SkyLink Aviation, the Released Directors/Officers, the Released Shareholders, the SkyLink Subsidiaries and the directors and officers of the SkyLink Subsidiaries in respect of Claims relating to SkyLink Aviation, Director/Officer Claims and any claims arising from or connected to the Plan, the Recapitalization, the CCAA proceedings or other related matters. These releases were negotiated as part of the overall framework of compromises in the Plan, and such releases are necessary to and facilitate the successful completion of the Plan and the Recapitalization.

22 The Plan does not release: (i) the right to enforce SkyLink Aviation's obligations under the Plan; (ii) any Released Party from fraud or wilful misconduct; (iii) SkyLink Aviation from any Claim that is not permitted to be released pursuant to Section 19(2) of the CCAA; or (iv) any Director or Officer from any Director/Officer Claim that is not permitted to be released pursuant to Section 5.1(2) of the CCAA. Further, as noted above, the Plan does not release Director/Officer Wages Claims or Insured Claims, provided that any recourse in respect of such claims is limited to proceeds, if any, of the applicable Insurance Policies.

Meetings of Creditors

23 At the Meetings, the resolution to approve the Plan was passed by the required majorities in both classes of creditors. Specifically, the Affected Creditors approved the Plan by the following majorities:

(a) Affected Unsecured Creditors Class:

95.3% in number and 93.6% in value (inclusive of Voting Claims and Disputed Voting Claims);

97.4% in number and 99.9% in value (Voting Claims only); and

(b) Secured Noteholders Class:

97.1% in number and 99.99% in value.

24 Counsel to the Company submits that the results of the vote taken in the Affected Unsecured Creditors Class would not change materially based on the inclusion or exclusion of the Disputed Voting Claims as the required majorities for approval of the Plan under the CCAA would be achieved regardless of whether the Disputed Voting Claims are included in the voting results.

25 Counsel for the Company submits that the Plan provides that the shareholders agreement among the existing shareholders of SkyLink Aviation will be terminated on the Plan Implementation Date. A new shareholders agreement (the "New Shareholders' Agreement"), which is to apply in respect of the holders of the New Common Shares as of the Plan Implementation Date, has been negotiated between and among: (i) the Initial Consenting Noteholders (and each of their independent counsel), who will

collectively hold more than 90% of the New Common Shares; and (ii) counsel to the Note Indenture Trustee, who acted as a representative for the interests of the post-Recapitalization minority shareholders.

Requirements for Approval

26 The general requirements for court approval of a CCAA plan are well established:

- (a) there must be strict compliance with all statutory requirements;
- (b) all materials filed and procedures carried out must be examined to determine if anything has been done or purported to have been done which is not authorized by the CCAA; and
- (c) the plan must be fair and reasonable.

Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co. (1993), 17 C.B.R. (3d) 1 (Ont. Gen. Div.).

Canadian Airlines Corp., Re, 2000 ABQB 442 (Alta. Q.B.), at para 60, leave to appeal refused 2000 ABCA 238 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]), affirmed (2000), 2001 ABCA 9 (Alta. C.A.), leave to appeal refused [2001] S.C.C.A. No. 60 (S.C.C.).

27 Since the commencement of the CCAA Proceeding, I am satisfied that SkyLink Aviation has complied with the procedural requirements of the CCAA, the Initial Order and all other Orders granted by the Court during the CCAA Proceeding.

28 With respect to the second part of the test I am satisfied that throughout the course of the CCAA Proceeding, SkyLink Aviation has acted in good faith and with due diligence and has complied with the requirements of the CCAA and the Orders of this Honourable Court.

29 Counsel to SkyLink submits that the Plan is fair and reasonable for a number of reasons including:

- (a) the Plan represents a compromise among the Applicant and the Affected Creditors resulting from dialogue and negotiations among the Company and its creditors, with the support of the Monitor and its counsel;
- (b) the classification of the Company's creditors into two Voting Classes, the Secured Noteholders Class and the Affected Unsecured Creditors Class, was approved by this Court pursuant to the Meetings Order. This classification was not opposed at the hearing to approve the Meetings Order or thereafter at the comeback hearing;
- (c) the amount of the Secured Noteholders Allowed Secured Claim is consistent with the enterprise value range provided for in the Valuation and is supported by the Monitor;
- (d) the Affected Creditors voted to approve the Plan at the Meetings;
- (e) the Plan is economically feasible;
- (f) the Plan provides for the continued operation of the world-wide business of SkyLink with no disruption to customers and provides for an expedient recapitalization of the Company's balance sheet, thereby preserving the goingconcern value of the SkyLink Business;

I accept these submissions and conclude that the Plan is fair and reasonable.

30 In considering the appropriateness of the terms and scope of third party releases, the courts will take into account the particular circumstances of a case and the purpose of the CCAA:

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 the release of third parties where the factual circumstances are deemed appropriate for the success of a Plan.

ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp. (2008), 43 C.B.R. (5th) 269 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]); affirmed 2008 ONCA 587 (Ont. C.A.) leave to appeal refused (2008), 257 O.A.C. 400 (note) (S.C.C.).

31 Counsel to the Company submits that the third party releases provided under the Plan protect the Released Parties from potential claims relating to the Applicant based on conduct taking place on or prior to the later of the Plan Implementation Date and the date on which actions are taken to implement the Plan. The Plan does not release any Released Party for fraud or wilful misconduct.

32 Counsel to the Company submits the releases provided in the Plan were negotiated as part of the overall framework of compromises in the Plan, and these releases are necessary to and facilitate the successful completion of the Plan and the Recapitalization and that there is a reasonable connection between the releases contemplated by the Plan and the restructuring to be achieved by the Plan to warrant inclusion of such releases in the Plan.

33 I am satisfied that the releases of the Released Directors/Officers and the Released Shareholders contained in the Plan are appropriate in the circumstances for a number of reasons including:

(a) the releases of the Released Directors/Officers and the Released Shareholders were negotiated as part of the overall framework of compromises in the Plan;

(b) the Released Directors/Officers consist of parties who, in the absence of the Plan releases, would have Claims for indemnification against SkyLink Aviation;

(c) the inclusion of certain parties among the Released Directors/Officers and the Released Shareholders was an essential component of the settlement of several Claims and Director/Officer Claims;

(d) full disclosure of the releases was made to creditors in the Initial Affidavit, the Plan, the Information Statement, the Monitor's Second Report and the Ottens' Affidavit;

(e) the Monitor considers the scope of the releases contained in the Plan to be reasonable in the circumstances.

34 I am satisfied that the Plan represents a compromise that balances the rights and interests of the Company's stakeholders and the releases provided for in the Plan are integral to the framework of compromises in the Plan.

Sealing the Confidential Appendix

35 The Applicant also requests that an order to seal the confidential appendix to the Monitor's Third Report (the "Confidential Appendix"), which outlines the Monitor's analysis and conclusions with respect to the amount of the Secured Noteholders Allowed Secured Claim.

36 The Confidential Appendix contains sensitive commercial information, the disclosure of which could be harmful to stakeholders. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the test set out in *Sierra Club of Canada v. Canada (Minister of Finance)*, 2002 SCC 41, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 522 (S.C.C.) (WL Can) at para. 53 has been met and the Confidential Appendix should be sealed.

Extension of Stay Period

37 The Applicant also requests an extension of the Stay Period until May 31, 2013.

38 I am satisfied that the Company has acted and, is acting, in good faith and with due diligence such that the extension request is justified and is granted.

Application granted.

TAB 5

2019 ONSC 1215
Ontario Superior Court of Justice [Commercial List]

Payless ShoeSource Canada Inc. and Payless ShoeSource Canada GP Inc. (Re)

2019 CarswellOnt 3056, 2019 ONSC 1215, 302 A.C.W.S. (3d) 461, 68 C.B.R. (6th) 269

**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 PAYLESS
SHOESOURCE CANADA INC. AND PAYLESS SHOESOURCE CANADA GP INC. (Applicants)

G.B. Morawetz R.S.J.

Heard: February 19, 2019
Judgment: February 20, 2019
Docket: CV-19-00614629-00CL

Counsel: J. Dietrich, S. Kukulowicz, R. Jacobs, for Applicants
S. Zweig, A. Nelms, for Proposed Monitor, FTI Consulting Canada Inc.
S. Brotman, D. Chochla, for Ad Hoc Group of Term Lenders
S. Kour, for Term Loan Agent, Cortland Products Corp.
T. Reyes, for ABL Agent, Wells Fargo

G.B. Morawetz R.S.J.:

OVERVIEW

1 At the conclusion of argument, the record was endorsed as follows:

CCAA application has been brought by Applicants. Initial Order granted. Order signed. Applicants will serve parties today and return to court for further directions on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. Reasons will follow.

2 These are the Reasons.

3 This application is brought by Payless ShoeSource Canada Inc. ("Payless Canada Inc.") and Payless ShoeSource Canada GP Inc. ("Payless Canada GP") for relief under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act ("CCAA"), including an initial stay of proceedings. The Applicants also seek to have the stay of proceedings and the other benefits of the Initial Order extended to Payless ShoeSource Canada LP ("Payless Canada LP", together with the Applicants, the "Payless Canada Entities"), a limited partnership which carries on substantially all of the operations of the Payless Canada Entities. The requested relief is not opposed.

4 The evidence provided in the affidavit of Stephen Marotta, Managing Director at Ankura Consulting Group LLC, the Chief Restructuring Organization ("CRO") establishes that each of the Payless Canada Entities is insolvent and unable to meet its liabilities as they become due. The Applicants seek relief provided by the proposed Initial Order under the CCAA in order to provide a stable environment for the Payless Canada Entities to undertake the Canadian Liquidation.

5 On February 18, 2019, a number of Payless Entities in the United States (the "U.S. Debtors") (including the Payless Canada Entities) commenced cases under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri (the "U.S. Bankruptcy Court") (the "U.S. Proceedings"). The U.S. Debtors' "First Day Motions" are scheduled to be heard by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court on February 19, 2019.

6 Counsel to the Applicants advises that the orders to be sought by the U.S. Debtors from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court at the First Day Motions contain language providing that if there are inconsistencies between any order made in the U.S. Proceedings and in this court, the orders of this court will govern with respect to the Payless Canada Entities and their business.

FACTS

7 The Applicants are indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of a U.S. Debtor, Payless Holdings LLC. Both Payless Canada Inc. and Payless Canada GP are governed by the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (the "CBCA").

8 Payless Canada LP is a limited partnership organized under the laws of Ontario. The general partner and limited partner of Payless Canada LP are Payless Canada GP and Payless Canada Inc., respectively. Payless Canada LP is the primary vehicle conducting the business operations of the Payless Canada Entities.

9 The Payless Canada Entities operate 248 retail stores in 10 provinces throughout Canada. The retail locations are leased from commercial landlords.

10 The Payless Canada Entities also have a corporate office at leased premises located in Toronto, Ontario.

11 There are approximately 2,400 employees in Canada of which 12 are corporate office employees. The remainder work at the retail locations.

12 The Payless Canada Entities rely on the infrastructure of the U.S. Debtors for substantially all head office functions. These services are provided by certain U.S. Debtors pursuant to intercompany agreements.

13 The assets of the Payless Canada Entities primarily consist of inventory and an intercompany promissory note receivable which was reported on the balance sheet in the amount of approximately USD \$110 million. Given that the issuer of the note is a U.S. Debtor, the Applicants advise that it is doubtful that the full value can be realized.

14 The liabilities of the consolidated Payless Canada Entities include, among other things, outstanding gift cards, leased payments, trade and other accounts payable, taxes, accrued salary benefits, long term liabilities, and intercompany service payables.

15 The Payless Canada Entities are also guarantors under two credit facilities, the ABL Credit Facility and the Term Loan Credit Facility. There is approximately USD \$156.7 million outstanding under the ABL Credit Facility and USD \$277.2 million outstanding under the Term Loan Credit Facility.

16 The total amount of liabilities of the Payless Canada Entities inclusive of obligations under the guarantees of the ABL Credit Facility and the Term Loan Credit Facility is in excess of USD \$500 million.

17 In December 2018, Payless engaged an investment bank, PJ Solomon L.P., to review strategic alternatives. In consultation with its advisers, the Payless Canada Entities decided to take steps to monetize or preserve its Latin America business and liquidate its North American operations.

18 The Payless Canada Entities have determined that there is no practical way for the company to operate on a standalone basis. The Payless Canada Entities have decided that it was in their best interest and in the best interest of their stakeholders to complete the Canadian Liquidation.

ISSUES

19 Counsel to the Payless Canada Entities state that the issues to be determined on this application are as follows:

- (a) Whether the CCAA applies in respect of the Applicants;

- (b) Whether a stay of proceedings is appropriate;
- (c) Whether the Monitor should be appointed;
- (d) Whether the CRO should be appointed;
- (e) Whether the Administration Charge should be approved;
- (f) Whether the Directors' Charge should be approved;
- (g) Whether the Cross-Border Protocol should be approved.

LAW

20 The CCAA applies to a company where the aggregate claims against it or its affiliated debtor companies are more than five million dollars. I am satisfied that both of the Applicants meet the definition of a "company" under section 2(1) of the CCAA.

21 The evidence is such that I am able to conclude that the Payless Canada Entities have failed to pay their February rent for a number of Canadian stores. In addition, defaults have occurred under the ABL Credit Facility and the Term Loan Credit Facility, and the ABL Agent has issued a Cash Dominion Direction.

22 It has been demonstrated that the Payless Canada Entities have insufficient assets to discharge their liabilities and insufficient cash flow to meet their obligations as they come due.

23 Accordingly, I find that the Applicants are insolvent debtor companies under the CCAA.

24 Counsel for the Applicants submits that the Payless Canada Entities require a stay of proceedings in order to prevent enforcement actions by various creditors including landlords and other contractual counterparties. I accept this submission and in my view, it is appropriate to grant the requested stay of proceedings.

25 I am also of the view that it is appropriate that the stay of proceedings apply not only in respect of the Applicants' themselves, but that it extend to the partnership Payless Canada LP.

26 Although the definition of "debtor company" in the CCAA does not include partnerships, this court has previously held that where a limited partnership is significantly interrelated to the business of the applicants and forms an integral part of its operations, the CCAA Court may extend the stay of proceedings accordingly. (See: *Lehndorff General Partner Ltd., Re (1993)*, 9 B.L.R. (2d) 275 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]); *Priszm Income Fund, Re, 2011 ONSC 2061* (Ont. S.C.J.); *Urbancorp Toronto Management Inc., Re, 2016 ONSC 3288* (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]); and *Target Canada Co., Re, 2015 ONSC 303* (Ont. S.C.J.)).

27 In these circumstances, and in order to ensure that the objectives of the CCAA are achieved, I am satisfied that it is appropriate to grant the requested stay of proceedings to Payless Canada LP.

28 In addition, the Payless Canada Entities also seek a stay of proceedings against the Directors and Officers. I am satisfied that the stay against to the Directors and Officers is appropriate as it will allow such parties to focus their time and energies on maximizing recoveries for the benefit of stakeholders.

29 The Applicants propose FTI Consulting Canada Inc. as Monitor. I am satisfied that FTI is qualified to act as Monitor in these proceedings.

30 The proposed Initial Order also provides for the appointment of Ankura as CRO. Counsel to the Applicants submits that the proposed CRO is necessary to assist with the Canadian liquidation and is particularly critical given the number of departures by senior management.

31 The Proposed CRO Engagement Letter has been heavily negotiated and no parties, including the ABL agent and the term lenders, voice objection to the Engagement Letter.

32 I am satisfied that the CRO should be appointed and the CRO Engagement Letter should be approved.

33 I am also satisfied that it is appropriate to grant a charge on the Property in priority to all other charges to protect the CRO, Proposed Monitor, counsel to the Proposed Monitor, and Canadian counsel to the Payless Canada Entities, up to a maximum amount of USD \$2 million (the "Administration Charge"). In arriving at this conclusion, I have taken into account the provisions of section 11.52 of the CCAA and the appropriate considerations which include:

- (a) the size and complexity of the business being restructured;
- (b) the proposed role of the beneficiaries of the charge;
- (c) whether there is an unwarranted duplication of roles;
- (d) whether the quantum of the proposed charge appears to be fair and reasonable;
- (e) the position of the secured creditors likely to be affected by the charge; and
- (f) the position of the monitor.

34 I am also of the view that the requested Directors' Charge is appropriate in the circumstances and it is approved in the maximum amount of USD \$4 million that will reduce to USD \$2 million after March 21, 2019. It is noted that the Directors' Charge only applies with respect to amounts not otherwise covered under the Payless Canada Entities directors' and officers' liability insurance policies.

35 In order to facilitate the orderly administration of the Payless Canada Entities and in recognition of their reliance upon the U.S. Debtors, the Applicants propose that these proceedings be coordinated with the U.S. Proceedings and accordingly the proposed Initial Order includes the approval of a cross-border protocol.

36 I am satisfied that the proposed cross-border protocol establishes appropriate principles for dealing with international jurisdictional issues and procedures to file materials and conduct joint hearings. It is my understanding that the U.S. Debtors will also be seeking the approval of the proposed protocol by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court as part of their First Day Motions.

37 Counsel advises that the form of the Cross-Border Protocol is consistent with this court's decision in *Aralez Pharmaceuticals Inc., Re* (October 25, 2018), Doc. Toronto CV-18-603054-00CL (Ont. S.C.J.) which is based on the Judicial Insolvency Network ("JIN Guidelines"). As stated on the JIN website:

The JIN held its inaugural conference in Singapore on 10 and 11 October 2016 which concluded with the issuance of a set of guidelines titled "Guidelines for Communication and Cooperation between Courts in Cross-Border Insolvency Matters" also known as the JIN Guidelines...The JIN Guidelines address key aspects and the modalities for communication and cooperation amongst courts, insolvency representatives and other parties involved in cross-border insolvency proceedings, including the conduct of joint hearings. The overarching aim of the JIN Guidelines is the preservation of enterprise value and the reduction of legal costs.

38 The JIN Guidelines have been endorsed by the Commercial List Users' Committee of this court.

39 I also note that the JIN Guidelines have been recognized in a number of jurisdictions globally, including the United Kingdom, United States (New York, Delaware and Florida), Singapore, Bermuda, Australia (New South Wales), Korea (Seoul Bankruptcy Court), and the Cayman Islands.

40 The JIN Guidelines have received international recognition and acceptance. As noted, the aim of the JIN Guidelines is the preservation of enterprise value and the reduction of legal costs, an objective that all parties should strive to achieve in every insolvency proceeding.

41 Counsel to the Applicants advised that this application will be served on a number of interested parties, including the landlords of the leased premises.

42 It is both necessary and appropriate to schedule a Comeback Hearing in order to provide affected parties with the opportunity to respond to this application. Counsel to the Applicants propose that the Comeback Hearing be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019.

43 It is expected that the following will be considered at the Comeback Hearing:

(a) Whether the Liquidation Consulting Agreement and Sale Guidelines should be approved; and

(b) Whether an extension of the stay of proceedings is appropriate.

44 I am not certain as to whether this schedule will provide interested parties with adequate time to respond to the issues raised in this application. The Comeback Hearing will proceed on February 21, 2019 on the understanding that certain matters may not be addressed at that time, if it is determined that parties have not had adequate time to respond to the issues raised in the application.

45 The Initial Order has been signed by me.

Application granted.

TAB 6

2010 QCCS 4450
Quebec Superior Court

AbitibiBowater Inc., Re

2010 CarswellQue 10118, 2010 QCCS 4450, 193 A.C.W.S. (3d) 360, 72 C.B.R. (5th) 80, EYB 2010-179705

In The Matter of the Plan of Compromise or Arrangement of

AbitibiBowater Inc., Abitibi-Consolidated Inc., Bowater Canadian Holdings Inc. and The Other
Petitioners Listed on Schedules "A", "B" and "C" (Debtors) and Ernst & Young Inc. (Monitor)

Clément Gascon, J.S.C.

Heard: September 20-21, 2010

Judgment: September 23, 2010

Docket: C.S. Montréal 500-11-036133-094

Counsel: Mr. Sean Dunphy, Me Guy P. Martel, Me Joseph Reynaud, for the Debtors

Me Gilles Paquin, Me Avram Fishman, for the Monitor

Mr. Robert Thornton, for the Monitor

Me Bernard Boucher, for BI Citibank (London Branch), as Agent for Citibank, N.A.

Me Jocelyn Perreault, for Bank of Nova Scotia (as Administrative and Collateral Agent)

Me Marc Duchesne, Me François Gagnon, for the Ad hoc Committee of the Senior Secured Noteholders and U.S. Bank National Association, Indenture Trustee for the Senior Secured Noteholders

Mr. Frederick L. Myers, Mr. Robert J. Chadwick, for the Ad hoc Committee of Bondholders

Mr. Michael B. Rotsztein, for Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.

Me Louise Héléne Guimond, for Syndicat canadien des communications, de l'énergie et du papier (SCEP) et ses sections locales 59-N, 63, 84, 84-35, 88, 90, 92, 101, 109, 132, 138, 139, 161, 209, 227, 238, 253, 306, 352, 375, 1256 et 1455 and for Syndicat des employés(es) et employés(es) professionnels(-les) et de bureau - Québec (SEPB) et les sections locales 110, 151 et 526

Me Neil Peden, Mr. Raj Sahni, for The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of AbitibiBowater Inc. & al.

Me Sébastien Guy, for Cater Pillar Financial Services and Desjardins Trust inc.

Mr. Richard Butler, for Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia and the Attorney General of British Columbia

Me Louis Dumont, Mr. Neil Rabinovitch, for Aurelius Capital Management LLC and Contrarian Capital Management LLC

Mr. Christopher Besant, for NPower Cogen Limited

Mr. Len Marsello, for the Attorney General for Ontario

Mr. Carl Holm, for Bowater Canada Finance Company

Mr. David Ward, for Wilmington Trust US Indenture Trustee of Unsecured Notes issued by BCFC

Clément Gascon, J.S.C.:

Introduction

1 This judgment deals with the sanction and approval of a plan of arrangement under the *CCAA*¹. The sole issue to resolve is the fair and reasonable character of the plan. While the debtor company, the monitor and an overwhelming majority of stakeholders strongly support this sanction and approval, three dissenting voices raise limited objections. The Court provides these reasons in support of the Sanction Order it considers appropriate and justified to issue under the circumstances.

The Relevant Background

2 On April 17, 2009 [[2009 CarswellQue 14194](#) (C.S. Que.)], the Court issued an Initial Order pursuant to the *CCAA* with respect to the Abitibi Petitioners (listed in Schedule A), the Bowater Petitioners (listed in Schedule B) and the Partnerships (listed in Schedule C).

3 On the day before, April 16, 2009, AbitibiBowater Inc., Bowater Inc. and certain of their U.S. and Canadian Subsidiaries (the "*U.S. Debtors*") had, similarly, filed Voluntary Petitions for Relief under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

4 Since the Initial Order, the Abitibi Petitioners, the Bowater Petitioners and the Partnerships (collectively, "*Abitibi*") have, under the protection of the Court, undertaken a huge and complex restructuring of their insolvent business.

5 The restructuring of Abitibi's imposing debt of several billion dollars was a cross-border undertaking that affected tens of thousands of stakeholders, from employees, pensioners, suppliers, unions, creditors and lenders to government authorities.

6 The process has required huge efforts on the part of many, including important sacrifices from most of the stakeholders involved. To name just a few, these restructuring efforts have included the closure of certain facilities, the sale of assets, contracts repudiations, the renegotiation of collective agreements and several costs saving initiatives².

7 In a span of less than 18 months, more than 740 entries have been docketed in the Court record that now comprises in excess of 12 boxes of documents. The Court has, so far, rendered over 100 different judgments and orders. The Stay Period has been extended seven times. It presently expires on September 30, 2010.

8 Abitibi is now nearing emergence from this *CCAA* restructuring process.

9 In May 2010, after an extensive review of the available alternatives, and pursuant to lengthy negotiations and consultations with creditors' groups, regulators and stakeholders, Abitibi filed its Plan of Reorganization and Compromise in the *CCAA* restructuring process (the "*CCAA Plan*"³). A joint Plan of Reorganization was also filed at the same time in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court process (the "*U.S. Plan*").

10 In essence, the Plans provided for the payment in full, on the Implementation Date and consummation of the U.S. Plan, of all of Abitibi's and U.S. Debtors' secured debt obligations.

11 As for their unsecured debt obligations, save for few exceptions, the Plans contemplated their conversion to equity of the post emergence reorganized Abitibi. If the Plans are implemented, the net value would likely translate into a recovery under the *CCAA* Plan corresponding to the following approximate rates for the various Affected Unsecured Creditors Classes:

- (a) 3.4% for the ACI Affected Unsecured Creditor Class;
- (b) 17.1% for the ACCC Affected Unsecured Creditor Class;
- (c) 4.2% for the Saguenay Forest Products Affected Unsecured Creditor Class;
- (d) 36.5% for the BCFPI Affected Unsecured Creditor Class;
- (e) 20.8% for the Bowater Maritimes Affected Unsecured Creditor Class; and
- (f) 43% for the ACNSI Affected Unsecured Creditor Class.

12 With respect to the remaining Petitioners, the illustrative recoveries under the *CCAA* Plan would be nil, as these entities have nominal assets.

13 As an alternative to this debt to equity swap, the basic structure of the *CCAA* Plan included as well the possibility of smaller unsecured creditors receiving a cash distribution of 50% of the face amount of their Proven Claim if such was less than \$6,073, or if they opted to reduce their claim to that amount.

14 In short, the purpose of the *CCAA* Plan was to provide for a coordinated restructuring and compromise of Abitibi's debt obligations, while at the same time reorganizing and simplifying its corporate and capital structure.

15 On September 14, 2010, Abitibi's Creditors' Meeting to vote on the *CCAA* Plan was convened, held and conducted. The resolution approving the *CCAA* Plan was overwhelmingly approved by the Affected Unsecured Creditors of Abitibi, save for the Creditors of one the twenty Classes involved, namely, the BCFC Affected Unsecured Creditors Class.

16 Majorities well in excess of the statutorily required simple majority in number and two-third majority in value of the Affected Unsecured Claims held by the Affected Unsecured Creditors were attained. On a combined basis, the percentages were 97.07% in number and 93.47% in value.

17 Of the 5,793 votes cast by creditors holding claims totalling some 8,9 billion dollars, over 8,3 billion dollars worth of claims voted in favour of approving the *CCAA* Plan.

The Motion ⁴ at Issue

18 Today, as required by Section 6 of the *CCAA*, the Court is asked to sanction and approve the *CCAA* Plan. The effect of the Court's approval is to bind Abitibi and its Affected Unsecured Creditors to the terms of the *CCAA* Plan.

19 The exercise of the Court's authority to sanction a compromise or arrangement under the *CCAA* is a matter of judicial discretion. In that exercise, the general requirements to be met are well established. In summary, before doing so, the Court must be satisfied that ⁵ :

- a) There has been strict compliance with all statutory requirements;
- b) Nothing has been done or purported to be done that was not authorized by the *CCAA*; and
- c) The Plan is fair and reasonable.

20 Only the third condition is truly at stake here. Despite Abitibi's creditors' huge support of the fairness and the reasonableness of the *CCAA* Plan, some dissenting voices have raised objections.

21 They include:

- a) The BCFC Noteholders' Objection;
- b) The Contestations of the Provinces of Ontario and British Columbia; and
- c) The Contestation of NPower Cogen Limited.

22 For the reasons that follow, the Court is satisfied that the *CCAA* Plan is fair and reasonable. The Contestations of the Provinces of Ontario and British Columbia and of NPower Cogen Limited have now been satisfactorily resolved by adding to the Sanction Order sought limited "carve-out" provisions in that regard. As for the only other objection that remains, namely that of some of the BCFC Noteholders, the Court considers that it should be discarded.

23 It is thus appropriate to immediately approve the *CCAA* Plan and issue the Sanction Order sought, albeit with some minor modifications to the wording of specific conclusions that the Court deems necessary.

24 In the Court's view, it is important to allow Abitibi to move forthwith towards emergence from the *CCAA* restructuring process it undertook eighteen month ago.

25 No one seriously disputes that there is risk associated with delaying the sanction of the *CCAA* Plan. This risk includes the fact that part of the exit financing sought by Abitibi is dependent upon the capital markets being receptive to the high yield

notes or term debt being offered, in a context where such markets are volatile. There is, undoubtedly, continuing uncertainty with respect to the strength of the economic recovery and the effect this could have on the financial markets.

26 Moreover, there are numerous arrangements that Abitibi and their key stakeholders have agreed to or are in the process of settling that are key to the successful implementation of the *CCAA* Plan, including collective bargaining agreements with employees and pension funding arrangements with regulators. Any undue delay with implementation of the *CCAA* Plan increases the risk that these arrangements may require alterations or amendments.

27 Finally, at hearing, Mr. Robertson, the Chief Restructuring Officer, testified that the monthly cost of any delay in Abitibi's emergence from this *CCAA* process is the neighbourhood of 30 million dollars. That includes the direct professional costs and financing costs of the restructuring itself, as well as the savings that the labour cost reductions and the exit financing negotiated by Abitibi will generate as of the Implementation Date.

28 The Court cannot ignore this reality in dealing rapidly with the objections raised to the sanction and approval of the *CCAA* Plan.

Analysis

1. The Court's approval of the CCAA Plan

29 As already indicated, the first and second general requirements set out previously dealing with the statutory requirements and the absence of unauthorized conduct are not at issue.

30 On the one hand, the Monitor has reached the conclusion that Abitibi is and has been in strict compliance with all statutory requirements. Nobody suggests that this is not the case.

31 On the other hand, all materials filed and procedures taken by Abitibi were authorized by the *CCAA* and the orders of this Court. The numerous reports of the Monitor (well over sixty to date) make no reference to any act or conduct by Abitibi that was not authorized by the *CCAA*; rather, the Monitor is of the view that Abitibi has not done or purported to do anything that was not authorized by the *CCAA*⁶.

32 In fact, in connection with each request for an extension of the stay of proceedings, the Monitor has reported that Abitibi was acting in good faith and with due diligence. The Court has not made any contrary finding during the course of these proceedings.

33 Turning to the fairness and reasonableness of a *CCAA* Plan requirement, its assessment requires the Court to consider the relative degrees of prejudice that would flow from granting or refusing the relief sought. To that end, in reviewing the fairness and reasonableness of a given plan, the Court does not and should not require perfection⁷.

34 Considering that a plan is, first and foremost, a compromise and arrangement reached, between a debtor company and its creditors, there is, indeed, a heavy onus on parties seeking to upset a plan where the required majorities have overwhelmingly supported it. From that standpoint, a court should not lightly second-guess the business decisions reached by the creditors as a body⁸.

35 In that regard, courts in this country have held that the level of approval by the creditors is a significant factor in determining whether a *CCAA* Plan is fair and reasonable⁹. Here, the majorities in favour of the *CCAA* Plan, both in number and in value, are very high. This indicates a significant and very strong support of the *CCAA* Plan by the Affected Unsecured Creditors of Abitibi.

36 Likewise, in its Fifty-Seventh Report, the Monitor advised the creditors that their approval of the *CCAA* Plan would be a reasonable decision. He recommended that they approve the *CCAA* Plan then. In its Fifty-Eighth Report, the Monitor reaffirmed its view that the *CCAA* Plan was fair and reasonable. The recommendation was for the Court to sanction and approve the *CCAA* Plan.

37 In a matter such as this one, where the Monitor has worked through out the restructuring with professionalism, objectivity and competence, such a recommendation carries a lot of weight.

38 The Court considers that the *CCAA* Plan represents a truly successful compromise and restructuring, fully in line with the objectives of the *CCAA*. Despite its weaknesses and imperfections, and notwithstanding the huge sacrifices and losses it imposes upon numerous stakeholders, the *CCAA* Plan remains a practical, reasonable and responsible solution to Abitibi's insolvency.

39 Its implementation will preserve significant social and economic benefits to the Canadian economy, including enabling about 11,900 employees (as of March 31, 2010) to retain their employment, and allowing hundreds of municipalities, suppliers and contractors in several regions of Ontario and Quebec to continue deriving benefits from a stronger and more competitive important player in the forest products industry.

40 In addition, the business of Abitibi will continue to operate, pension plans will not be terminated, and the Affected Unsecured Creditors will receive distributions (including payment in full to small creditors).

41 Moreover, simply no alternative to the *CCAA* Plan has been offered to the creditors of Abitibi. To the contrary, it appears obvious that in the event the Court does not sanction the *CCAA* Plan, the considerable advantages that it creates will be most likely lost, such that Abitibi may well be placed into bankruptcy.

42 If that were to be the case, no one seriously disputes that most of the creditors would end up being in a more disadvantageous position than with the approval of the *CCAA* Plan. As outlined in the Monitor's 57th Report, the alternative scenario, a liquidation of Abitibi's business, will not prove to be as advantageous for its creditors, let alone its stakeholders as a whole.

43 All in all, the economic and business interests of those directly concerned with the end result have spoken vigorously pursuant to a well-conducted democratic process. This is certainly not a case where the Court should override the express and strong wishes of the debtor company and its creditors and the Monitor's objective analysis that supports it.

44 Bearing these comments in mind, the Court notes as well that none of the objections raised support the conclusion that the *CCAA* Plan is unfair or unreasonable.

2. The BCFC Noteholders' objections

45 In the end, only Aurelius Capital Management LP and Contrarian Capital Management LLC (the "Noteholders") oppose the sanction of the *CCAA* Plan ¹⁰.

46 These Noteholders, through their managed funds entities, hold about one-third of some six hundred million US dollars of Unsecured Notes issued by Bowater Canada Finance Company ("*BCFC*") and which are guaranteed by Bowater Incorporated. These notes are BCFC's only material liabilities.

47 BCFC was a Petitioner under the *CCAA* proceedings and a Debtor in the parallel proceedings under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. However, its creditors voted to reject the *CCAA* Plan: while 76.8% of the Class of Affected Unsecured Creditors of BCFC approved the *CCAA* Plan in number, only 48% thereof voted in favour in dollar value. The required majorities of the *CCAA* were therefore not met.

48 As a result of this no vote occurrence, the Affected Unsecured Creditors of BCFC, including the Noteholders, are Unaffected Creditors under the *CCAA* Plan: they will not receive the distribution contemplated by the plan. As for BCFC itself, this outcome entails that it is not an "Applicant" for the purpose of this Sanction Order.

49 Still, the terms of the *CCAA* Plan specifically provide for the compromise and release of any claims BCFC may have against the other Petitioners pursuant, for instance, to any inter company transactions. Similarly, the *CCAA* Plan specifies that BCFC's equity interests in any other Petitioner can be exchanged, cancelled, redeemed or otherwise dealt with for nil consideration.

50 In their objections to the sanction of the *CCAA* Plan, the Noteholders raise, in essence, three arguments:

(a) They maintain that BCFC did not have an opportunity to vote on the *CCAA* Plan and that no process has been established to provide for BCFC to receive distribution as a creditor of the other Petitioners;

(b) They criticize the overly broad and inappropriate character of the release provisions of the *CCAA* Plan;

(c) They contend that the NAFTA Settlement Funds have not been appropriately allocated.

51 With respect, the Court considers that these objections are ill founded.

52 First, given the vote by the creditors of BCFC that rejected the *CCAA* Plan and its specific terms in the event of such a situation, the initial ground of contestation is moot for all intents and purposes.

53 In addition, pursuant to a hearing held on September 16 and 17, 2010, on an Abitibi's *Motion for Advice and Directions*, Mayrand J. already concluded that BCFC had simply no claims against the other Petitioners, save with respect to the Contribution Claim referred to in that motion and that is not affected by the *CCAA* Plan in any event.

54 There is no need to now review or reconsider this issue that has been heard, argued and decided, mostly in a context where the Noteholders had ample opportunity to then present fully their arguments.

55 In her reasons for judgment filed earlier today in the Court record, Mayrand J. notably ruled that the alleged Inter Company Claims of BCFC had no merit pursuant to a detailed analysis of what took place.

56 For one, the Monitor, in its Amended 49th Report, had made a thorough review of the transactions at issue and concluded that they did not appear to give rise to any inter company debt owing to BCFC.

57 On top of that, Mayrand J. noted as well that the Independent Advisors, who were appointed in the Chapter 11 U.S. Proceedings to investigate the Inter Company Transactions that were the subject of the Inter Company Claims, had completed their report in this regard. As explained in its 58th Report, the Monitor understands that they were of the view that BCFC had no other claims to file against any other Petitioner. In her reasons, Mayrand J. concluded that this was the only reasonable inference to draw from the evidence she heard.

58 As highlighted by Mayrand J. in these reasons, despite having received this report of the Independent Advisors, the Noteholders have not agreed to release its content. Conversely, they have not invoked any of its findings in support of their position either.

59 That is not all. In her reasons for judgment, Mayrand J. indicated that a detailed presentation of the Independent Advisors report was made to BCFC's Board of Directors on September 7, 2010. This notwithstanding, BCFC elected not to do anything in that regard since then.

60 As a matter of fact, at no point in time did BCFC ever file, in the context of the current *CCAA* Proceedings, any claim against any other Petitioner. None of its creditors, including the Noteholders, have either purported to do so for and/or on behalf of BCFC. This is quite telling. After all, the transactions at issue date back many years and this restructuring process has been going on for close to eighteen months.

61 To sum up, short of making allegations that no facts or analysis appear to support or claiming an insufficiency of process because the independent and objective ones followed so far did not lead to the result they wanted, the Noteholders simply have nothing of substance to put forward.

62 Contrary to what they contend, there is no need for yet again another additional process to deal with this question. To so conclude would be tantamount to allowing the Noteholders to take hostage the *CCAA* restructuring process and derail Abitibi's emergence for no valid reason.

63 The other argument of the Noteholders to the effect that BCFC would have had a claim as the holder of preferred shares of BCHI leads to similar comments. It is, again, hardly supported by anything. In any event, assuming the restructuring transactions contemplated under the *CCAA* Plan entail their cancellation for nil consideration, which is apparently not necessarily the case for the time being, there would be nothing unusual in having the equity holders of insolvent companies not receive anything in a compromise and plan of arrangement approved in a *CCAA* restructuring process.

64 In such a context, the Court disagrees with the Noteholders' assertion that BCFC did not have an opportunity to vote on the *CCAA* Plan or that no process was established to provide the latter to receive distribution as a potential creditor of the other Petitioners.

65 To argue that the *CCAA* Plan is not fair and reasonable on the basis of these alleged claims of BCFC against the other Petitioners has no support based on the relevant facts and Mayrand J.'s analysis of that specific point.

66 Second, given these findings, the issue of the breadth and appropriateness of the releases provided under the *CCAA* Plan simply does not concern the Noteholders.

67 As stated by Abitibi's Counsel at hearing, BCFC is neither an "Applicant" under the terms of the releases of the *CCAA* Plan nor pursuant to the Sanction Order. As such, BCFC does not give or get releases as a result of the Sanction Order. The *CCAA* Plan does not release BCFC nor its directors or officers acting as such.

68 As it is not included as an "Applicant", there is no need to provide any type of convoluted "carve-out" provision as the Noteholders requested. As properly suggested by Abitibi, it will rather suffice to include a mere clarification at paragraph 15 of the Sanction Order to reaffirm that in the context of the releases and the Sanction Order, "Applicant" does not include BCFC.

69 As for the Noteholders themselves, they are Unaffected Creditors under the *CCAA* Plan as a result of the no vote of their Class.

70 In essence, the main concern of the Noteholders as to the scope of the releases contemplated by the *CCAA* Plan and the Sanction Order is a mere issue of clarity. In the Court's opinion, this is sufficiently dealt with by the addition made to the wording of paragraph 15 of the Sanction Order.

71 Besides that, as explained earlier, any complaint by the Noteholders that the alleged inter company claims of BCFC are improperly compromised by the *CCAA* Plan has no merit. If their true objective is to indirectly protect their contentions to that end by challenging the wording of the releases, it is unjustified and without basis. The Court already said so.

72 Save for these arguments raised by the Noteholders that the Court rejects, it is worth noting that none of the stakeholders of Abitibi object to the scope of the releases of the *CCAA* Plan or their appropriateness given the global compromise reached through the debt to equity swap and the reorganization contemplated by the plan.

73 The *CCAA* permits the inclusion of releases (even ones involving third parties) in a plan of compromise or arrangement when there is a reasonable connection between the claims being released and compromised and the restructuring achieved by the plan. Amongst others, the broad nature of the terms "compromise or arrangement", the binding nature of a plan that has received creditors' approval, and the principles that parties should be able to put in a plan what could lawfully be incorporated into any other contract support the authority of the Court to approve these kind of releases¹¹. In accordance with these principles, the Quebec Superior Court has, in the past, sanctioned plans that included releases of parties making significant contribution to a restructuring¹².

74 The additional argument raised by the Noteholders with respect to the difference between the releases that could be approved by this Court as compared to those that the U.S. Bankruptcy Court may issue in respect of the Chapter 11 Plan is not convincing.

75 The fact that under the Chapter 11 Plan, creditors may elect not to provide releases to directors and officers of applicable entities does not render similar kind of releases granted under the *CCAA* Plan invalid or improper. That the result may be different in a jurisdiction as opposed to the other does not make the *CCAA* Plan unfair and unreasonable simply for that reason.

76 Third, the last objection of the Noteholders to the effect that the NAFTA Settlement Funds have not been properly allocated is simply a red herring. It is aimed at provoking a useless debate with respect to which the Noteholders have, in essence, no standing.

77 The Monitor testified that the NAFTA Settlement has no impact whatsoever upon BCFC. If it is at all relevant, all the assets involved in this settlement belonged to another of the Petitioners, ACCC, with respect to whom the Noteholders are not a creditor.

78 In addition, this apparent contestation of the allocation of the NAFTA Settlement Funds is a collateral attack on the Order granted by this Court on September 1, 2010, which approved the settlement of Abitibi's NAFTA claims against the Government of Canada, as well as the related payment to be made to the reorganised successor Canadian operating entity upon emergence. No one has appealed this NAFTA Settlement Order.

79 That said, in their oral argument, the Noteholders have finally argued that the Court should lift the Stay of Proceedings Order inasmuch as BCFC was concerned. The last extension of the Stay was granted on September 1, 2010, without objection; it expires on September 30, 2010. It is clear from the wording of this Sanction Order that any extension beyond September 30, 2010 will not apply to BCFC.

80 The Court considers this request made verbally by the Noteholders as unfounded.

81 No written motion was ever served in that regard to start with. In addition, the Stay remains in effect against BCFC up until September 30, 2010, that is, for about a week or so. The explanations offered by Abitibi's Counsel to leave it as such for the time being are reasonable under the circumstances. It appears proper to allow a few days to the interested parties to ascertain the impact, if any, of the Stay not being applicable anymore to BCFC, if alone to ascertain how this impacts upon the various charges created by the Initial Order and subsequent Orders issued by the Court during the course of these proceedings.

82 There is no support for the concern of the Noteholders as to an ulterior motive of Abitibi for maintaining in place this Stay of Proceedings against BCFC up until September 30, 2010.

83 All things considered, in the Court's opinion, it would be quite unfair and unreasonable to deny the sanction of the *CCAA* Plan for the benefit of all the stakeholders involved on the basis of the arguments raised by the Noteholders.

84 Their objections either reargue issues that have been heard, considered and decided, complain of a lack a clarity of the scope of releases that the addition of a few words to the Sanction Order properly addresses, or voice queries about the allocation of important funds to the Abitibi's emergence from the *CCAA* that simply do not concern the entities of which the Noteholders are allegedly creditors, be it in Canada or in the U.S.

85 When one remains mindful of the relative degrees of prejudice that would flow from granting or refusing the relief sought, it is obvious that the scales heavily tilt in favour of granting the Sanction Order sought.

3. The Contestations of the Provinces of Ontario and British Columbia

86 Following negotiations that the Provinces involved and Abitibi pursued, with the assistance of the Monitor, up to the very last minute, the interested parties have agreed upon a "carve-out" wording that is satisfactory to every one with respect to some potential environmental liabilities of Abitibi in the event future circumstances trigger a concrete dispute in that regard.

87 In the Court's view, this is, by far, the most preferred solution to adopt with respect to the disagreement that exists on their respective position as to potential proceedings that may arise in the future under environmental legislation. This approach facilitates the approval of the *CCAA* Plan and the successful restructuring of Abitibi, without affecting the right of any affected party in this respect.

88 The "carve-out" provisions agreed upon will be included in the Sanction Order.

4. The Contestation of NPower Cogen Limited

89 By its Contestation, NPower Cogen Limited sought to preserve its rights with respect to what it called the "Cogen Motion", namely a "*motion to be brought by Cogen before this Honourable Court to have various claims heard*" (para. 24(b) and 43 of NPower Cogen Limited Contestation).

90 Here again, Abitibi and NPower Cogen Limited have agreed on an acceptable "carve-out" wording to be included in the Sanction Order in that regard. As a result, there is no need to discuss the impact of this Contestation any further.

5. Abitibi's Reorganization

91 The Motion finally deals with the corporate reorganization of Abitibi and the Sanction Order includes declarations and orders dealing with it.

92 The test to be applied by the Court in determining whether to approve a reorganization under Section 191 of the *CBCA* is similar to the test applied in deciding whether to sanction a plan of arrangement under the *CCAA*, namely: (a) there must be compliance with all statutory requirements; (b) the debtor company must be acting in good faith; and (c) the capital restructuring must be fair and reasonable ¹³.

93 It is not disputed by anyone that these requirements have been fulfilled here.

6. The wording of the Sanction Order

94 In closing, the Court made numerous comments to Abitibi's Counsel on the wording of the Sanction Order initially sought in the Motion. These comments have been taken into account in the subsequent in depth revisions of the Sanction Order that the Court is now issuing. The Court is satisfied with the corrections, adjustments and deletions made to what was originally requested.

For these Reasons, The Court:

1 *GRANTS* the Motion.

Definitions

2 *DECLARES* that any capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in the *CCAA* Plan ¹⁴ and the Creditors' Meeting Order, as the case may be.

Service and Meeting

3 *DECLARES* that the notices given of the presentation of the Motion and related Sanction Hearing are proper and sufficient, and in accordance with the Creditors' Meeting Order.

4 *DECLARES* that there has been proper and sufficient service and notice of the Meeting Materials, including the *CCAA* Plan, the Circular and the Notice to Creditors in connection with the Creditors' Meeting, to all Affected Unsecured Creditors, and that the Creditors' Meeting was duly convened, held and conducted in conformity with the *CCAA*, the Creditors' Meeting Order and all other applicable orders of the Court.

5 *DECLARES* that no meetings or votes of (i) holders of Equity Securities and/or (ii) holders of equity securities of ABH are required in connection with the *CCAA* Plan and its implementation, including the implementation of the Restructuring Transactions as set out in the Restructuring Transactions Notice dated September 1, 2010, as amended on September 13, 2010.

CCAA Plan Sanction

6 *DECLARES* that:

a) the *CCAA* Plan and its implementation (including the implementation of the Restructuring Transactions) have been approved by the Required Majorities of Affected Unsecured Creditors in each of the following classes in conformity with the *CCAA*: ACI Affected Unsecured Creditor Class, the ACCC Affected Unsecured Creditor Class, the 15.5% Guarantor Applicant Affected Unsecured Creditor Classes, the Saguenay Forest Products Affected Unsecured Creditor Class, the BCFPI Affected Unsecured Creditor Class, the AbitibiBowater Canada Affected Unsecured Creditor Class, the Bowater Maritimes Affected Unsecured Creditor Class, the ACNSI Affected Unsecured Creditor Class, the Office Products Affected Unsecured Creditor Class and the Recycling Affected Unsecured Creditor Class;

b) the *CCAA* Plan was not approved by the Required Majority of Affected Unsecured Creditors in the BCFC Affected Unsecured Creditors Class and that the Holders of BCFC Affected Unsecured Claims are therefore deemed to be Unaffected Creditors holding Excluded Claims against BCFC for the purpose of the *CCAA* Plan and this Order, and that BCFC is therefore deemed not to be an Applicant for the purpose of this Order;

c) the Court is satisfied that the Petitioners and the Partnerships have complied with the provisions of the *CCAA* and all the orders made by this Court in the context of these *CCAA* Proceedings in all respects;

d) the Court is satisfied that no Petitioner or Partnership has either done or purported to do anything that is not authorized by the *CCAA*; and

e) the *CCAA* Plan (and its implementation, including the implementation of the Restructuring Transactions), is fair and reasonable, and in the best interests of the Applicants and the Partnerships, the Affected Unsecured Creditors, the other stakeholders of the Applicants and all other Persons stipulated in the *CCAA* Plan.

7 *ORDERS* that the *CCAA* Plan and its implementation, including the implementation of the Restructuring Transactions, are sanctioned and approved pursuant to Section 6 of the *CCAA* and Section 191 of the *CBCA*, and, as at the Implementation Date, will be effective and will enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Applicants, the Partnerships, the Reorganized Debtors, the Affected Unsecured Creditors, the other stakeholders of the Applicants and all other Persons stipulated in the *CCAA* Plan.

CCAA Plan Implementation

8 *DECLARES* that the Applicants, the Partnerships, the Reorganized Debtors and the Monitor, as the case may be, are authorized and directed to take all steps and actions necessary or appropriate, as determined by the Applicants, the Partnerships and the Reorganized Debtors in accordance with and subject to the terms of the *CCAA* Plan, to implement and effect the *CCAA* Plan, including the Restructuring Transactions, in the manner and the sequence as set forth in the *CCAA* Plan, the Restructuring Transactions Notice and this Order, and such steps and actions are hereby approved.

9 *AUTHORIZES* the Applicants, the Partnerships and the Reorganized Debtors to request, if need be, one or more order(s) from this Court, including *CCAA* Vesting Order(s), for the transfer and assignment of assets to the Applicants, the Partnerships, the Reorganized Debtors or other entities referred to in the Restructuring Transactions Notice, free and clear of any financial

charges, as necessary or desirable to implement and effect the Restructuring Transactions as set forth in the Restructuring Transactions Notice.

10 *DECLARES* that, pursuant to Section 191 of the *CBCA*, the articles of AbitibiBowater Canada will be amended by new articles of reorganization in the manner and at the time set forth in the Restructuring Transactions Notice.

11 *DECLARES* that all Applicants and Partnerships to be dissolved pursuant to the Restructuring Transactions shall be deemed dissolved for all purposes without the necessity for any other or further action by or on behalf of any Person, including the Applicants or the Partnerships or their respective securityholders, directors, officers, managers or partners or for any payments to be made in connection therewith, provided, however, that the Applicants, the Partnerships and the Reorganized Debtors shall cause to be filed with the appropriate Governmental Entities articles, agreements or other documents of dissolution for the dissolved Applicants or Partnerships to the extent required by applicable Law.

12 *DECLARES* that, subject to the performance by the Applicants and the Partnerships of their obligations under the *CCAA* Plan, and in accordance with Section 8.1 of the *CCAA* Plan, all contracts, leases, Timber Supply and Forest Management Agreements ("TSFMA") and outstanding and unused volumes of cutting rights (backlog) thereunder, joint venture agreements, agreements and other arrangements to which the Applicants or the Partnerships are a party and that have not been terminated including as part of the Restructuring Transactions or repudiated in accordance with the terms of the Initial Order will be and remain in full force and effect, unamended, as at the Implementation Date, and no Person who is a party to any such contract, lease, agreement or other arrangement may accelerate, terminate, rescind, refuse to perform or otherwise repudiate its obligations thereunder, or enforce or exercise any right (including any right of dilution or other remedy) or make any demand under or in respect of any such contract, lease, agreement or other arrangement and no automatic termination will have any validity or effect by reason of:

- a) any event that occurred on or prior to the Implementation Date and is not continuing that would have entitled such Person to enforce those rights or remedies (including defaults, events of default, or termination events arising as a result of the insolvency of the Applicants and the Partnerships);
- b) the insolvency of the Applicants, the Partnerships or any affiliate thereof or the fact that the Applicants, the Partnerships or any affiliate thereof sought or obtained relief under the *CCAA*, the *CBCA* or the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable legislation;
- c) any of the terms of the *CCAA* Plan, the U.S. Plan or any action contemplated therein, including the Restructuring Transactions Notice;
- d) any settlements, compromises or arrangements effected pursuant to the *CCAA* Plan or the U.S. Plan or any action taken or transaction effected pursuant to the *CCAA* Plan or the U.S. Plan; or
- e) any change in the control, transfer of equity interest or transfer of assets of the Applicants, the Partnerships, the joint ventures, or any affiliate thereof, or of any entity in which any of the Applicants or the Partnerships held an equity interest arising from the implementation of the *CCAA* Plan (including the Restructuring Transactions Notice) or the U.S. Plan, or the transfer of any asset as part of or in connection with the Restructuring Transactions Notice.

13 *DECLARES* that any consent or authorization required from a third party, including any Governmental Entity, under any such contracts, leases, TSFMAs and outstanding and unused volumes of cutting rights (backlog) thereunder, joint venture agreements, agreements or other arrangements in respect of any change of control, transfer of equity interest, transfer of assets or transfer of any asset as part of or in connection with the Restructuring Transactions Notice be deemed satisfied or obtained, as applicable.

14 *DECLARES* that the determination of Proven Claims in accordance with the Claims Procedure Orders, the Cross-border Claims Protocol, the Cross-border Voting Protocol and the Creditors' Meeting Order shall be final and binding on the Applicants, the Partnerships, the Reorganized Debtors and all Affected Unsecured Creditors.

Releases and Discharges

15 *CONFIRMS* the releases contemplated by Section 6.10 of the *CCAA* Plan and *DECLARES* that the said releases constitute good faith compromises and settlements of the matters covered thereby, and that such compromises and settlements are in the best interests of the Applicants and its stakeholders, are fair, equitable, and are integral elements of the restructuring and resolution of these proceedings in accordance with the *CCAA* Plan, it being understood that for the purpose of these releases and/or this Order, the terms "Applicants" or "Applicant" are not meant to include Bowater Canada Finance Corporation ("*BCFC*").

16 *ORDERS* that, upon payment in full in cash of all BI DIP Claims and ULC DIP Claim in accordance with the *CCAA* Plan, the BI DIP Lenders and the BI DIP Agent or ULC, as the case may be, shall at the request of the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors, without delay, execute and deliver to the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors such releases, discharges, authorizations and directions, instruments, notices and other documents as the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors may reasonably request for the purpose of evidencing and/or registering the release and discharge of any and all Financial Charges with respect to the BI DIP Claims or the ULC DIP Claim, as the case may be, the whole at the expense of the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors.

17 *ORDERS* that, upon payment in full in cash of their Secured Claims in accordance with the *CCAA* Plan, the ACCC Administrative Agent, the ACCC Term Lenders, the BCFPI Administrative Agent, the BCFPI Lenders, the Canadian Secured Notes Indenture Trustee and any Holders of a Secured Claim, as the case may be, shall at the request of the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors, without delay, execute and deliver to the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors such releases, discharges, authorizations and directions, instruments, notices and other documents as the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors may reasonably request for the purpose of evidencing and/or registering the release and discharge of any and all Financial Charges with respect to the ACCC Term Loan Claim, BCFPI Secured Bank Claim, Canadian Secured Notes Claim or any other Secured Claim, as the case may be, the whole at the expense of the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors.

For the purposes of the present paragraph [17], in the event of any dispute as to the amount of any Secured Claim, the Applicants, Partnerships or Reorganized Debtors, as the case may be, shall be permitted to pay to the Monitor the full amount in dispute (as specified by the affected Secured Creditor or by this Court upon summary application) and, upon payment of the amount not in dispute, receive the releases, discharges, authorizations, directions, instruments notices or other documents as provided for therein. Any amount paid to the Monitor in accordance with this paragraph shall be held in trust by the Monitor for the holder of the Secured Claim and the payer as their interests shall be determined by agreement between the parties or, failing agreement, as directed by this Court after summary application.

18 *PRECLUDES* the prosecution against the Applicants, the Partnerships or the Reorganized Debtors, whether directly, derivatively or otherwise, of any claim, obligation, suit, judgment, damage, demand, debt, right, cause of action, liability or interest released, discharged or terminated pursuant to the *CCAA* Plan.

Accounts with Financial Institutions

19 *ORDERS* that any and all financial institutions (the "Financial Institutions") with which the Applicants, the Partnerships and the Reorganized Debtors have or will have accounts (the "Accounts") shall process and/or facilitate the transfer of, or changes to, such Accounts in order to implement the *CCAA* Plan and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Restructuring Transactions.

20 *ORDERS* that Mr. Allen Dea, Vice-President and Treasurer of ABH, or any other officer or director of the Reorganized Debtors, is empowered to take all required acts with any of the Financial Institutions to affect the transfer of, or changes to, the Accounts in order to facilitate the implementation of the *CCAA* Plan and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Restructuring Transactions.

Effect of failure to implement CCAA Plan

21 *ORDERS* that, in the event that the Implementation Date does not occur, Affected Unsecured Creditors shall not be bound to the valuation, settlement or compromise of their Affected Claims at the amount of their Proven Claims in accordance with the *CCAA* Plan, the Claims Procedure Orders or the Creditors' Meeting Order. For greater certainty, nothing in the *CCAA* Plan, the Claims Procedure Orders, the Creditors' Meeting Order or in any settlement, compromise, agreement, document or instrument made or entered into in connection therewith or in contemplation thereof shall, in any way, prejudice, quantify, adjudicate, modify, release, waive or otherwise affect the validity, enforceability or quantum of any Claim against the Applicants or the Partnerships, including in the *CCAA* Proceedings or any other proceeding or process, in the event that the Implementation Date does not occur.

Charges created in the CCAA Proceedings

22 *ORDERS* that, upon the Implementation Date, all *CCAA* Charges against the Applicants and the Partnerships or their property created by the *CCAA* Initial Order or any subsequent orders shall be determined, discharged and released, provided that the BI DIP Lenders Charge shall be cancelled on the condition that the BI DIP Claims are paid in full on the Implementation Date.

Fees and Disbursements

23 *ORDERS* and *DECLARES* that, on and after the Implementation Date, the obligation to pay the reasonable fees and disbursements of the Monitor, counsel to the Monitor and counsel to the Applicants and the Partnerships, in each case at their standard rates and charges and including any amounts outstanding as of the Implementation Date, in respect of the *CCAA* Plan, including the implementation of the Restructuring Transactions, shall become obligations of Reorganized ABH.

Exit Financing

24 *ORDERS* that the Applicants are authorized and empowered to execute, deliver and perform any credit agreements, instruments of indebtedness, guarantees, security documents, deeds, and other documents, as may be required in connection with the Exit Facilities.

Stay Extension

25 *EXTENDS* the Stay Period in respect of the Applicants until the Implementation Date.

26 *DECLARES* that all orders made in the *CCAA* Proceedings shall continue in full force and effect in accordance with their respective terms, except to the extent that such Orders are varied by, or inconsistent with, this Order, the Creditors' Meeting Order, or any further Order of this Court.

Monitor and Chief Restructuring Officer

27 *DECLARES* that the protections afforded to Ernst & Young Inc., as Monitor and as officer of this Court, and to the Chief Restructuring Officer pursuant to the terms of the Initial Order and the other Orders made in the *CCAA* Proceedings, shall not expire or terminate on the Implementation Date and, subject to the terms hereof, shall remain effective and in full force and effect.

28 *ORDERS* and *DECLARES* that any distributions under the *CCAA* Plan and this Order shall not constitute a "distribution" and the Monitor shall not constitute a "legal representative" or "representative" of the Applicants for the purposes of section 159 of the Income Tax Act (Canada), section 270 of the Excise Tax Act (Canada), section 14 of the Act Respecting the Ministère du Revenu (Québec), section 107 of the Corporations Tax Act (Ontario), section 22 of the Retail Sales Tax Act (Ontario), section 117 of the Taxation Act, 2007 (Ontario) or any other similar federal, provincial or territorial tax legislation (collectively the "Tax Statutes") given that the Monitor is only a Disbursing Agent under the *CCAA* Plan, and the Monitor in making such payments is not "distributing", nor shall be considered to "distribute" nor to have "distributed", such funds for the purpose of the Tax Statutes, and the Monitor shall not incur any liability under the Tax Statutes in respect of it making any payments ordered or permitted hereunder, and is hereby forever released, remised and discharged from any claims against it under or pursuant to

the Tax Statutes or otherwise at law, arising in respect of payments made under the *CCAA* Plan and this Order and any claims of this nature are hereby forever barred.

29 *ORDERS* and *DECLARES* that the Disbursing Agent, the Applicants and the Reorganized Debtors, as necessary, are authorized to take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable Tax withholding and reporting requirements, including withholding a number of shares of New ABH Common Stock equal in value to the amount required to comply with such withholding requirements from the shares of New ABH Common Stock to be distributed to current or former employees and making the necessary arrangements for the sale of such shares on the TSX or the New York Stock Exchange on behalf of the current or former employees to satisfy such withholding requirements. All amounts withheld on account of Taxes shall be treated for all purposes as having been paid to the Affected Unsecured Creditor in respect of which such withholding was made, provided such withheld amounts are remitted to the appropriate Governmental Entity.

Claims Officers

30 *DECLARES* that, in accordance with paragraph [25] hereof, any claims officer appointed in accordance with the Claims Procedure Orders shall continue to have the authority conferred upon, and to the benefit from all protections afforded to, claims officers pursuant to Orders in the *CCAA* Proceedings.

General

31 *ORDERS* that, notwithstanding any other provision in this Order, the *CCAA* Plan or these *CCAA* Proceedings, the rights of the public authorities of British Columbia, Ontario or New Brunswick to take the position in or with respect to any future proceedings under environmental legislation that this or any other Order does not affect such proceedings by reason that such proceedings are not in relation to a claim within the meaning of the *CCAA* or are otherwise beyond the jurisdiction of Parliament or a court under the *CCAA* to affect in any way is fully reserved; as is reserved the right of any affected party to take any position to the contrary.

32 *DECLARES* that nothing in this Order or the *CCAA* Plan shall preclude NPower Cogen Limited ("Cogen") from bringing a motion for, or this Court from granting, the relief sought in respect of the facts and issues set out in the Claims Submission of Cogen dated August 10, 2010 (the "Claim Submission"), and the Reply Submission of Cogen dated August 24, 2010, provided that such relief shall be limited to the following:

a) a declaration that Cogen's claim against Abitibi Consolidated Inc. ("Abitibi") and its officers and directors, arising from the supply of electricity and steam to Bridgewater Paper Company Limited between November 1, 2009 and February 2, 2010 in the amount of £9,447,548 plus interest accruing at the rate of 3% *per annum* from February 2, 2010 onwards (the "Claim Amount") is (i) unaffected by the *CCAA* Plan or Sanction Order; (ii) is an Excluded Claim; or (iii) is a Secured Claim; (iv) is a D&O Claim; or (v) is a liability of Abitibi under its Guarantee;

b) an Order directing Abitibi and its Directors and Officers to pay the Claim Amount to Cogen forthwith; or

c) in the alternative to (b), an order granting leave, if leave be required, to commence proceedings for the payment of the Claim Amount under s. 241 of the *CBCA* and otherwise against Abitibi and its directors and officers in respect of same.

33 *DECLARES* that any of the Applicants, the Partnerships, the Reorganized Debtors or the Monitor may, from time to time, apply to this Court for directions concerning the exercise of their respective powers, duties and rights hereunder or in respect of the proper execution of the Order on notice to the Service List.

34 *DECLARES* that this Order shall have full force and effect in all provinces and territories in Canada.

35 *REQUESTS* the aid and recognition of any Court or administrative body in any Province of Canada and any Canadian federal court or administrative body and any federal or state court or administrative body in the United States of America and any court or administrative body elsewhere, to act in aid of and to be complementary to this Court in carrying out the terms

of the Order, including the registration of this Order in any office of public record by any such court or administrative body or by any Person affected by the Order.

Provisional Execution

36 *ORDERS* the provisional execution of this Order notwithstanding any appeal and without the necessity of furnishing any security;

37 *WITHOUT COSTS.*

Schedule "A" — Abitibi Petitioners

1. *ABITIBI-CONSOLIDATED INC.*
2. *ABITIBI-CONSOLIDATED COMPANY OF CANADA*
3. *3224112 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED*
4. *MARKETING DONOHUE INC.*
5. *ABITIBI-CONSOLIDATED CANADIAN OFFICE PRODUCTS HOLDINGS INC.*
6. *3834328 CANADA INC.*
7. *6169678 CANADA INC.*
8. *4042140 CANADA INC.*
9. *DONOHUE RECYCLING INC.*
10. *1508756 ONTARIO INC.*
11. *3217925 NOVA SCOTIA COMPANY*
12. *LA TUQUE FOREST PRODUCTS INC.*
13. *ABITIBI-CONSOLIDATED NOVA SCOTIA INCORPORATED*
14. *SAGUENAY FOREST PRODUCTS INC.*
15. *TERRA NOVA EXPLORATIONS LTD.*
16. *THE JONQUIERE PULP COMPANY*
17. *THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AND TERMINAL COMPANY*
18. *SCRAMBLE MINING LTD.*
19. *9150-3383 QUÉBEC INC.*
20. *ABITIBI-CONSOLIDATED (U.K.) INC.*

Schedule "B" — Bowater Petitioners

1. *BOWATER CANADIAN HOLDINGS INC.*
2. *BOWATER CANADA FINANCE CORPORATION*

3. *BOWATER CANADIAN LIMITED*
4. *3231378 NOVA SCOTIA COMPANY*
5. *ABITIBIBOWATER CANADA INC.*
6. *BOWATER CANADA TREASURY CORPORATION*
7. *BOWATER CANADIAN FOREST PRODUCTS INC.*
8. *BOWATER SHELBURNE CORPORATION*
9. *BOWATER LAHAVE CORPORATION*
10. *ST-MAURICE RIVER DRIVE COMPANY LIMITED*
11. *BOWATER TREATED WOOD INC.*
12. *CANEXEL HARDBOARD INC.*
13. *9068-9050 QUÉBEC INC.*
14. *ALLIANCE FOREST PRODUCTS (2001) INC.*
15. *BOWATER BELLEDUNE SAWMILL INC.*
16. *BOWATER MARITIMES INC.*
17. *BOWATER MITIS INC.*
18. *BOWATER GUÉRETTE INC.*
19. *BOWATER COUTURIER INC.*

Schedule "C" — 18.6 CCAA Petitioners

1. *ABITIBIBOWATER INC.*
2. *ABITIBIBOWATER US HOLDING 1 CORP.*
3. *BOWATER VENTURES INC.*
4. *BOWATER INCORPORATED*
5. *BOWATER NUWAY INC.*
6. *BOWATER NUWAY MID-STATES INC.*
7. *CATAWBA PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC*
8. *BOWATER FINANCE COMPANY INC.*
9. *BOWATER SOUTH AMERICAN HOLDINGS INCORPORATED*
10. *BOWATER AMERICA INC.*

11. LAKE SUPERIOR FOREST PRODUCTS INC.
12. BOWATER NEWSPRINT SOUTH LLC
13. BOWATER NEWSPRINT SOUTH OPERATIONS LLC
14. BOWATER FINANCE II, LLC
15. BOWATER ALABAMA LLC
16. COOSA PINES GOLF CLUB HOLDINGS LLC

Motion granted.

Footnotes

- 1 *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36.
- 2 See Monitor's Fifty-Seventh Report dated September 7, 2010, and Monitor's Fifty-Ninth Report dated September 17, 2010.
- 3 This Plan of Reorganisation and Compromise (as modified, amended or supplemented by CCAA Plan Supplements 3.2, 6.1(a)(i) (as amended on September 13, 2010) and 6.1(a)(ii) dated September 1, 2010, CCAA Plan Supplements 6.8(a), 6.8(b) (as amended on September 13, 2010), 6.8(d), 6.9(1) and 6.9(2) dated September 3, 2010, and the First Plan Amendment dated September 10, 2010, and as may be further modified, amended, or supplemented in accordance with the terms of such Plan of Reorganization and Compromise) (collectively, the "CCAA Plan") is included as Schedules E and F to the Supplemental 59th Report of the Monitor dated September 21, 2010.
- 4 Motion for an Order Sanctioning the Plan of Reorganization and Compromise and Other Relief (the "Motion"), pursuant to Sections 6, 9 and 10 of the CCAA and Section 191 of the Canada Business Corporations Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44 (the "CBCA").
- 5 *Boutiques San Francisco Inc. (Arrangement relatif aux)*, SOQUIJ AZ-50263185, B.E. 2004BE-775 (S.C.); *Cable Satisfaction International Inc. v. Richter & Associés inc.*, J.E. 2004-907 (C.S. Que.) [2004 CarswellQue 810 (C.S. Que.)].
- 6 See Monitor's Fifty-Eight Report dated September 16, 2010.
- 7 *T. Eaton Co., Re* (1999), 15 C.B.R. (4th) 311 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]); *Sammi Atlas Inc. (Re)* (1998), 3 C.B.R. (4th) 171 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]); *PSINET Ltd., Re* (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]).
- 8 *Uniforêt inc., Re* (C.S. Que.) [2003 CarswellQue 3404 (C.S. Que.)], *TQS inc., Re*, 2008 QCCS 2448 (C.S. Que.), B.E. 2008BE-834; *PSINET Ltd., Re* (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]); *Olympia & York Developments Ltd. (Re)* (1993), 12 O.R. (3d) 500 (Ont. Gen. Div.).
- 9 *Olympia & York Developments Ltd. (Re)* (1993), 12 O.R. (3d) 500 (Ont. Gen. Div.); *Boutiques San Francisco inc. (Arrangement relatif aux)*, SOQUIJ AZ-50263185, B.E. 2004BE-775; *PSINET Ltd., Re* (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]); *Northland Properties Ltd., Re* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 (B.C. S.C.), affirmed 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C. C.A.).
- 10 The Indenture Trustee acting under the Unsecured Notes supports the Noteholders in their objections.
- 11 See, in this respect, *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.*, 2008 ONCA 587 (Ont. C.A.); *Charles-Auguste Fortier inc., Re* (2008), J.E. 2009-9, 2008 QCCS 5388 (C.S. Que.); *Hy Bloom inc. c. Banque Nationale du Canada*, [2010] R.J.Q. 912 (C.S. Que.).
- 12 *Quebecor World Inc. (Arrangement relatif à)*, S.C. Montreal, N° 500-11-032338-085, 2009-06-30, Mongeon J.
- 13 *Raymor Industries inc. (Proposition de)*, [2010] R.J.Q. 608, 2010 QCCS 376 (C.S. Que.); *Quebecor World Inc. (Arrangement relatif à)*, S.C. Montreal, N° 500-11-032338-085, 2009-06-30, Mongeon J., at para. 7-8; *MEI Computer Technology Group Inc., Re* [2005

[CarswellQue 13408](#) (C.S. Que.), (S.C., 2005-11-14), SOQUIJ AZ-50380254, 2005 CanLII 54083; *Doman Industries Ltd., Re*, 2003 BCSC 375 (B.C. S.C. [In Chambers]); *Laidlaw, Re* (Ont. S.C.J.).

- 14 It is understood that for the purposes of this Sanction Order, the CCAA Plan is the Plan of Reorganisation and Compromise (as modified, amended or supplemented by CCAA Plan Supplements 3.2, 6.1(a)(i) (as amended on September 13, 2010) and 6.1(a)(ii) dated September 1, 2010, CCAA Plan Supplements 6.8(a), 6.8(b) (as amended on September 13, 2010), 6.8(d), 6.9(1) and 6.9(2) dated September 3, 2010, and the First Plan Amendment dated September 10, 2010, and as may be further modified, amended, or supplemented in accordance with the terms of such Plan of Reorganization and Compromise) included as Schedules E and F to the Supplemental 59th Report of the Monitor dated September 21, 2010.

TAB 7

1993 CarswellOnt 182
Ontario Court of Justice (General Division)

Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co.

1993 CarswellOnt 182, [1993] O.J. No. 545, 12 O.R. (3d) 500, 17 C.B.R. (3d) 1, 38 A.C.W.S. (3d) 1149

**Re Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36; Re
plan of arrangement of OLYMPIA & YORK DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
and all other companies set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto**

R.A. Blair J.

Heard: February 1 and 5, 1993
Oral reasons: February 5, 1993
Written reasons: February 24, 1993
Judgment: February 24, 1993
Docket: Doc. B125/92

Counsel: [List of counsel attached as Schedule "A" hereto.]

R.A. Blair J.:

1 On May 14, 1992, Olympia & York Developments Limited and 23 affiliated corporations ("the Applicants") sought, and obtained an Order granting them the protection of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* [R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36] for a period of time while they attempted to negotiate a Plan of Arrangement with their creditors and to restructure their corporate affairs. The Olympia & York group of companies constitute one of the largest and most respected commercial real estate empires in the world, with prime holdings in the main commercial centres in Canada, the U.S.A., England and Europe. This empire was built by the Reichmann family of Toronto. Unfortunately, it has fallen on hard times, and, indeed, it seems, it has fallen apart.

2 A Final Plan of Compromise or Arrangements has now been negotiated and voted on by the numerous classes of creditors. 27 of the 35 classes have voted in favour of the Final Plan; 8 have voted against it. The Applicants now bring the Final Plan before the Court for sanctioning, pursuant to section 6 of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*.

The Plan

3 The Plan is described in the motion materials as "the Revised Plans of Compromise and Arrangement dated December 16, 1992, as further amended to January 25, 1993". I shall refer to it as "the Plan" or "the Final Plan". Its purpose, as stated in Article 1.2,

... is to effect the reorganization of the businesses and affairs of the Applicants in order to bring stability to the Applicants for a period of not less than five years, in the expectation that all persons with an interest in the Applicants will derive a greater benefit from the continued operation of the businesses and affairs of the Applicants on such a basis than would result from the immediate forced liquidation of the Applicants' assets.

4 The Final Plan envisages the restructuring of certain of the O & Y ownership interests, and a myriad of individual proposals — with some common themes — for the treatment of the claims of the various classes of creditors which have been established in the course of the proceedings.

5 The contemplated O & Y restructuring has three principal components, namely:

1. The organization of O & Y Properties, a company to be owned as to 90% by OYDL and as to 10% by the Reichmann family, and which is to become OYDL's Canadian Real Estate Management Arm;

2. Subject to certain approvals and conditions, *and provided the secured creditors do not exercise their remedies against their security*, the transfer by OYDL of its interest in certain Canadian real estate assets to O & Y properties, in exchange for shares; and,

3. A GW reorganization scheme which will involve the transfer of common shares of GWU holdings to OYDL, the privatization of GW utilities and the amalgamation of GW utilities with OYDL.

6 There are 35 classes of creditors for purposes of voting on the Final Plan and for its implementation. The classes are grouped into four different categories of classes, namely by claims of project lenders, by claims of joint venture lenders, by claims of joint venture co-participants, and by claims of "other classes".

7 Any attempt by me to summarize, in the confines of reasons such as these, the manner of proposed treatment for these various categories and classes would not do justice to the careful and detailed concept of the Plan. A variety of intricate schemes are put forward, on a class by class basis, for dealing with the outstanding debt in question during the 5 year Plan period.

8 In general, these schemes call for interest to accrue at the contract or some other negotiated rate, and for interest (and, in some cases, principal) to be paid from time to time during the Plan period if O & Y's cash flow permits. At the same time, O & Y (with, I think, one exception) will continue to manage the properties that it has been managing to date, and will receive revenue in the form of management fees for performing that service. In many, but not all, of the project lender situations, the Final Plan envisages the transfer of title to the newly formed O & Y Properties. Special arrangements have been negotiated with respect to lenders whose claims are against marketable securities, including the Marketable Securities Lenders, the GW Marketable Security and Other Lenders, the Carena Lenders and the Gulf and Abitibi Lenders.

9 It is an important feature of the Final Plan that secured creditors are ceded the right, if they so choose, to exercise their realization remedies at any time (subject to certain strictures regarding timing and notice). In effect, they can "drop out" of the Plan if they desire.

10 The unsecured creditors, of course, are heirs to what may be left. Interest is to accrue on the unsecured loans at the contract rate during the Plan period. The Final Plan calls for the administrator to calculate, at least annually, an amount that may be paid on the O & Y unsecured indebtedness out of OYDL's cash on hand, and such amount, if indeed such an amount is available, may be paid out on court approval of the payment. The unsecured creditors are entitled to object to the transfer of assets to O & Y Properties if they are not reasonably satisfied that O & Y Properties "will be a viable, self-financing entity". At the end of the Plan period, the members of this class are given the option of converting their remaining debt into stock.

11 The Final Plan contemplates the eventuality that one or more of the secured classes may reject it. Section 6.2 provides,

a) that if the Plan is not approved by the requisite majority of holders of any Class of Secured Claims before January 16, 1993, the stay of proceedings imposed by the initial CCAA order of May 14, 1992, as amended, shall be automatically lifted; and,

b) that in the event that Creditors (other than the unsecured creditors and one Class of Bondholders' Claims) do not agree to the Plan, any such Class shall be deemed not to have agreed to the Plan and to be a Class of Creditors not affected by the Plan, *and that the Applicants shall apply to the court for a Sanction Order which sanctions the Plan only insofar as it affects the classes which have agreed to the Plan.*

12 Finally, I note that Article 1.3 Of the Final Plan stipulates that the Plan document "constitutes a separate and severable plan of compromise and arrangement with respect to each of the Applicants."

The Principles to be Applied on Sanctioning

13 In *Nova Metal Products Inc. v. Comiskey (Trustee of) (sub nom. Elan Corp. v. Comiskey)* (1990), 1 O.R. (3d) 289 (C.A.), Doherty J.A. concluded his examination of the purpose and scheme of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, with this overview, at pp. 308-309:

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 (No. 1)* (1989), 102 A.R. 161 (Q.B.), at p. 165.

14 Mr. Justice Doherty's summary, I think, provides a very useful focus for approaching the task of sanctioning a Plan.

15 Section 6 of the CCAA 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*; 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. (Emphasis added)

16 Thus, the final step in the CCAA process is court sanctioning of the Plan, after which the Plan becomes binding on the creditors and the company. The exercise of this statutory obligation imposed upon the court is a matter of discretion.

17 The general principles to be applied in the exercise of the Court's discretion have been developed in a number of authorities. They were summarized by Mr. Justice Trainor in *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175 (B.C.S.C.) and adopted on appeal in that case by McEachern C.J.B.C., who set them out in the following fashion at (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C.C.A.), p. 201:

The authorities do not permit any doubt about the principles to be applied in a case such as this. They are set out over and over again in many decided cases and may be summarized as follows:

(1) there must be strict compliance with all statutory requirements;

(2) all materials filed and procedures carried out must be examined to determine if anything has been done or purported to have been done which is not authorized by the C.C.A.A.;

(3) The plan must be fair and reasonable.

18 In an earlier Ontario decision, *Re Dairy Corp. of Canada*, [1934] O.R. 436 (C.A.), Middleton J.A. applied identical criteria to a situation involving an arrangement under the Ontario *Companies Act*. The N.S.C.A. recently followed *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* in *Re Keddy Motor Inns Ltd.* (1992), 13 C.B.R. (3d) 245 (N.S.C.A.). Farley J. did as well in *Re Campeau Corp.*, [1992] O.J. No. 237 (Ont. Ct. of Justice, Gen. Div.) [now reported at 10 C.B.R. (3d) 104].

Strict Compliance with Statutory Requirements

19 Both this first criterion, dealing with statutory requirements, and the second criterion, dealing with the absence of any unauthorized conduct, I take to refer to compliance with the various procedural imperatives of the legislation itself, or to compliance with the various orders made by the court during the course of the CCAA process: See *Re Campeau, supra*.

20 At the outset, on May 14, 1992 I found that the Applicants met the criteria for access to the protection of the Act — they are insolvent; they have outstanding issues of bonds issued in favour of a trustee, and the compromise proposed at that time, and now, includes a compromise of the claims of those creditors whose claims are pursuant to the trust deeds. During the course of the proceedings Creditors' Committees have been formed to facilitate the negotiation process, and creditors have been divided into classes for the purposes of voting, as envisaged by the Act. Votes of those classes of creditors have been held, as required.

21 With the consent, and at the request of, the Applicants and the Creditors' Committees, The Honourable David H.W. Henry, a former Justice of this Court, was appointed "Claims Officer" by Order dated September 11, 1992. His responsibilities in that capacity included, as well as the determination of the value of creditors' claims for voting purposes, the responsibility of presiding over the meetings at which the votes were taken, or of designating someone else to do so. The Honourable Mr. Henry, himself, or The Honourable M. Craig or The Honourable W. Gibson Gray — both also former Justices of this Court — as his designees, presided over the meetings of the Classes of Creditors, which took place during the period from January 11, 1993 to January 25, 1993. I have his Report as to the results of each of the meetings of creditors, and confirming that the meetings were duly convened and held pursuant to the provisions of the Court Orders pertaining to them and the CCAA.

22 I am quite satisfied that there has been strict compliance with the statutory requirements of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*.

Unauthorized conduct

23 I am also satisfied that nothing has been done or purported to have been done which is not authorized by the CCAA.

24 Since May 14, the court has been called upon to make approximately 60 Orders of different sorts, in the course of exercising its supervisory function in the proceedings. These Orders involved the resolution of various issues between the creditors by the court in its capacity as "referee" of the negotiation process; they involved the approval of the "GAR" Orders negotiated between the parties with respect to the funding of O & Y's general and administrative expenses and restructuring costs throughout the "stay" period; they involved the confirmation of the sale of certain of the Applicants' assets, both upon the agreement of various creditors and for the purposes of funding the "GAR" requirements; they involved the approval of the structuring of Creditors' Committees, the classification of creditors for purposes of voting, the creation and defining of the role of "Information Officer" and, similarly, of the role of "Claims Officer". They involved the endorsement of the information circular respecting the Final Plan and the mailing and notice that was to be given regarding it. The Court's Orders encompassed, as I say, the general supervision of the negotiation and arrangement period, and the interim sanctioning of procedures implemented and steps taken by the Applicants and the creditors along the way.

25 While the court, of course, has not been a participant during the elaborate negotiations and undoubted boardroom brawling which preceded and led up to the Final Plan of Compromise, I have, with one exception, been the Judge who has made the orders referred to. No one has drawn to my attention any instances of something being done during the proceedings which is not authorized by the CCAA.

26 In these circumstances, I am satisfied that nothing unauthorized under the CCAA has been done during the course of the proceedings.

27 This brings me to the criterion that the Plan must be "fair and reasonable".

Fair and reasonable

28 The Plan must be "fair and reasonable". That the ultimate expression of the Court's responsibility in sanctioning a Plan should find itself telescoped into those two words is not surprising. "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 make its exercise an exercise in equity — and "reasonableness" is what lends objectivity to the process.

29 From time to time, in the course of these proceedings, I have borrowed liberally from the comments of Mr. Justice Gibbs whose decision in *Quintette Coal Ltd. v. Nippon Steel Corp.* (1990), 51 B.C.L.R. (2d) 105 (C.A.) contains much helpful guidance in matters of the CCAA. The thought I have borrowed most frequently is his remark, at p. 116, that the court is "called upon to weigh the equities, or balance the relative degrees of prejudice, which would flow from granting or refusing" the relief sought under the Act. This notion is particularly apt, it seems to me, when consideration is being given to the sanctioning of the Plan.

30 If a debtor company, in financial difficulties, has a reasonable chance of staving off a liquidator by negotiating a compromise arrangement with its creditors, "fairness" to its creditors as a whole, and to its shareholders, prescribes that it should be allowed an opportunity to do so, consistent with not "unfairly" or "unreasonably" depriving secured creditors of their rights under their security. Negotiations should take place in an environment structured and supervised by the court in a "fair" and balanced — or, "reasonable" — manner. When the negotiations have been completed and a plan of arrangement arrived at, and when the creditors have voted on it — technical and procedural compliance with the Act aside — the plan should be sanctioned if it is "fair and reasonable".

31 When a plan is sanctioned it becomes binding upon the debtor company and upon creditors of that company. What is "fair and reasonable", then, must be addressed in the context of the impact of the plan on the creditors and the various classes of creditors, in the context of their response to the plan, and with a view to the purpose of the CCAA.

32 On the appeal in *Re Northland Properties Ltd.*, *supra*, at p. 201, Chief Justice McEachern made the following comment in this regard:

... there can be no doubt about the purpose of the C.C.A.A. It is to enable compromises to be made for the common benefit of the creditors and of the company, particularly to keep a company in financial difficulties alive and out of the hands of liquidators. To make the Act workable, it is often necessary to permit a requisite majority of each class to bind the minority to the terms of the plan, but the plan must be fair and reasonable.

33 In *Re Alabama, New Orleans, Texas & Pacific Junction Railway Co.*, [1891] 1 Ch. at 231 (C.A.), a case involving a scheme and arrangement under the *Joint Stock Companies Arrangements Act, 1870* [(U.K.), 33 & 34 Vict., c. 104], Lord Justice Bowen put it this way, at p. 243:

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.

Again at p. 245:

It is in my judgment desirable to call attention to this section, and to the extreme care which ought to be brought to bear upon the holding of meetings under it. It enables a compromise to be forced upon the outside creditors by a majority of the body, or upon a class of the outside creditors by a majority of that class.

34 Is the Final Plan presented here by the O & Y Applicants "fair and reasonable"?

35 I have reviewed the Plan, including the provisions relating to each of the Classes of Creditors. I believe I have an understanding of its nature and purport, of what it is endeavouring to accomplish, and of how it proposes this be done. To describe the Plan as detailed, technical, enormously complex and all-encompassing, would be to understate the proposition.

This is, after all, we are told, the largest corporate restructuring in Canadian — if not, worldwide — corporate history. It would be folly for me to suggest that I comprehend the intricacies of the Plan in all of its minutiae and in all of its business, tax and corporate implications. Fortunately, it is unnecessary for me to have that depth of understanding. I must only be satisfied that the Plan is fair and reasonable in the sense that it is feasible and that it fairly balances the interests of all of the creditors, the company and its shareholders.

36 One important measure of whether a Plan is fair and reasonable is the parties' approval of the Plan, and the degree to which approval has been given.

37 As other courts have done, I observe that it is not my function to second guess the business people with respect to the "business" aspects of the Plan, descending into the negotiating arena and 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.

38 This point has been made in numerous authorities, of which I note the following: *Re Northland Properties Ltd.* (1988), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 175, at p. 184 (B.C.S.C.), affirmed (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195, at p. 205 (B.C.C.A.); *Re Langley's Ltd.*, [1938] O.R. 123 (C.A.), at p. 129; *Re Keddy Motor Inns Ltd.* (1992), 13 C.B.R. (3d) 245; *École Internationale de Haute Esthétique Edith Serei Inc. (Receiver of) c. Edith Serei Internationale (1987) Inc.* (1989), 78 C.B.R. (N.S.) 36 (C.S. Qué.).

39 In *Re Keddy Motors Inns Ltd.*, *supra*, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal spoke of "a very heavy burden" on parties seeking to show that a Plan is not fair and reasonable, involving "matters of substance", when the Plan has been approved by the requisite majority of creditors (see pp. 257-258). Freeman J.A. stated at p. 258:

The Act clearly contemplates rough-and-tumble negotiations between debtor companies desperately seeking a chance to survive and creditors willing to keep them afloat, but on the best terms they can get. What the creditors and the company must live with is a plan of their own design, not the creation of a court. The court's role is to ensure that creditors who are bound unwillingly under the Act are not made victims of the majority and forced to accept terms that are unconscionable.

40 In *École Internationale*, *supra* at p. 38, Dugas J. spoke of the need for "serious grounds" to be advanced in order to justify the court in refusing to approve a proposal, where creditors have accepted it, unless the proposal is unethical.

41 In this case, as Mr. Kennedy points out in his affidavit filed in support of the sanction motion, the final Plan is "the culmination of several months of intense negotiations and discussions between the applicants and their creditors, [reflects] significant input of virtually all of the classes of creditors and [is] the product of wide-ranging consultations, give and take and compromise on the part of the participants in the negotiating and bargaining process." The body of creditors, moreover, Mr. Kennedy notes, "consists almost entirely of sophisticated financial institutions represented by experienced legal counsel" who are, in many cases, "members of creditors' committees constituted pursuant to the amended order of May 14, 1992." Each creditors' committee had the benefit of independent and experienced legal counsel.

42 With the exception of the 8 classes of creditors that did not vote to accept the Plan, the Plan met with the overwhelming approval of the secured creditors and the unsecured creditors of the Applicants. This level of approval is something the court must acknowledge with some deference.

43 Those secured creditors who have approved the Plan retain their rights to realize upon their security at virtually any time, subject to certain requirements regarding notice. In the meantime, they are to receive interest on their outstanding indebtedness, either at the original contract rate or at some other negotiated rate, and the payment of principal is postponed for a period of 5 years.

44 The claims of creditors — in this case, secured creditors — who did not approve the Plan are specifically treated under the Plan as "unaffected claims" i.e. claims not compromised or bound by the provisions of the Plan. Section 6.2(C) of the Final Plan states that the applicants may apply to the court for a sanction Order which sanctions the Plan only insofar as it affects the classes which have agreed to the Plan.

45 The claims of unsecured creditors under the Plan are postponed for 5 years, with interest to accrue at the relevant contract rate. There is a provision for the administrator to calculate, at least annually, an amount out of OYDL's cash on hand which may be made available for payment to the unsecured creditors, if such an amount exists, and if the court approves its payment to the unsecured creditors. The unsecured creditors are given some control over the transfer of real estate to O & Y Properties, and, at the end of the Plan period, are given the right, if they wish, to convert their debt to stock.

46 Faced with the prospects of recovering nothing on their claims in the event of a liquidation, against the potential of recovering something if O & Y is able to turn things around, the unsecured creditors at least have the hope of gaining something if the Applicants are able to become the "self-sustaining and viable corporation" which Mr. Kennedy predicts they will become "in accordance with the terms of the Plan."

47 Speaking as co-chair of the Unsecured Creditors' Committee at the meeting of that Class of Creditors, Mr. Ed Lundy made the following remarks:

Firstly, let us apologize for the lengthy delays in today's proceedings. It was truly felt necessary for the creditors of this Committee to have a full understanding of the changes and implications made because there were a number of changes over this past weekend, plus today, and we wanted to be in a position to give a general overview observation to the Plan.

The Committee has retained accounting and legal professionals in Canada and the United States. The Co-Chairs, as well as institutions serving on the Plan and U.S. Subcommittees with the assistance of the Committee's professionals have worked for the past seven to eight months evaluating the financial, economic and legal issues affecting the Plan for the unsecured creditors.

In addition, the Committee and its Subcommittees have met frequently during the CCAA proceedings to discuss these issues. Unfortunately, the assets of OYDL are such that their ultimate values cannot be predicted in the short term. As a result, the recovery, if any, by the unsecured creditors cannot now be predicted.

The alternative to approval of the CCAA Plan of arrangement appears to be a bankruptcy. The CCAA Plan of arrangement has certain advantages and disadvantages over bankruptcy. These matters have been carefully considered by the Committee.

After such consideration, the members have indicated their intentions as follows ...

Twelve members of the Committee have today indicated they will vote in favour of the Plan. No members have indicated they will vote against the Plan. One member declined to indicate to the committee members how they wished to vote today. One member of the Plan was absent. Thank you.

48 After further discussion at the meeting of the unsecured creditors, the vote was taken. The Final Plan was approved by 83 creditors, representing 93.26% of the creditors represented and voting at the meeting and 93.37% in value of the Claims represented and voting at the meeting.

49 As for the O & Y Applicants, the impact of the Plan is to place OYDL in the position of property manager of the various projects, in effect for the creditors, during the Plan period. OYDL will receive income in the form of management fees for these services, a fact which gives some economic feasibility to the expectation that the company will be able to service its debt under the Plan. Should the economy improve and the creditors not realize upon their security, it may be that at the end of the period there will be some equity in the properties for the newly incorporated O & Y Properties and an opportunity for the shareholders to salvage something from the wrenching disembodiment of their once shining real estate empire.

50 In keeping with an exercise of weighing the equities and balancing the prejudices, another measure of what is "fair and reasonable" is the extent to which the proposed Plan treats creditors equally in their opportunities to recover, consistent with their security rights, and whether it does so in as non-intrusive and as non-prejudicial a manner as possible.

51 I am satisfied that the Final Plan treats creditors evenly and fairly. With the "drop out" clause entitling secured creditors to realize upon their security, should they deem it advisable at any time, all parties seem to be entitled to receive at least what they would receive out of a liquidation, i.e. as much as they would have received had there not been a reorganization: See *Re NsC Diesel Power Inc.* (1990), 97 N.S.R. (2d) 295 (T.D.). Potentially, they may receive more.

52 The Plan itself envisages other steps and certain additional proceedings that will be taken. Not the least inconsiderable of these, for example, is the proposed GW reorganization and contemplated arrangement under the OBCA. These further steps and proceedings, which lie in the future, may well themselves raise significant issues that have to be resolved between the parties or, failing their ability to resolve them, by the Court. I do not see this prospect as something which takes away from the fairness or reasonableness of the Plan but rather as part of grist for the implementation mill.

53 For all of the foregoing reasons, I find the Final Plan put forward to be "fair and reasonable".

54 Before sanction can be given to the Plan, however, there is one more hurdle which must be overcome. It has to do with the legal question of whether there must be unanimity amongst the classes of creditors in approving the Plan before the court is empowered to give its sanction to the Plan.

Lack of unanimity amongst the classes of creditors

55 As indicated at the outset, all of the classes of creditors did not vote in favour of the Final Plan. Of the 35 classes that voted, 27 voted in favour (overwhelmingly, it might be added, both in terms of numbers and percentage of value in each class). In 8 of the classes, however, the vote was either against acceptance of the Plan or the Plan did not command sufficient support in terms of numbers of creditors and/or percentage of value of claims to meet the 50%/75% test of section 6.

56 The classes of creditors who voted against acceptance of the Plan are in each case comprised of secured creditors who hold their security against a single project asset or, in the case of the Carena claims, against a single group of shares. Those who voted "no" are the following:

Class 2 — First Canadian Place Lenders

Class 8 — Fifth Avenue Place Bondholders

Class 10 — Amoco Centre Lenders

Class 13 — L'Esplanade Laurier Bondholders

Class 20 — Star Top Road Lenders

Class 21 — Yonge-Sheppard Centre Lenders

Class 29 — Carena Lenders

Class 33a — Bank of Nova Scotia Other Secured Creditors

57 While section 6 of the CCAA makes the mathematics of the approval process clear — the Plan must be approved by at least 50% of the creditors of a particular class representing at least 75% of the dollar value of the claims in that class — it is not entirely clear as to whether the Plan must be approved by every class of creditors before it can be sanctioned by the court. The language of the section, it will be recalled, is as follows:

6. *Where a majority in number representing three-fourths in value of the creditors, or class of creditors ... agree to any compromise or arrangement ... the compromise or arrangement may be sanctioned by the court. (Emphasis added)*

58 What does "a majority ... of the ... class of creditors" mean? Presumably it must refer to more than one group or class of creditors, otherwise there would be no need to differentiate between "creditors" and "class of creditors". But is the majority of the "class of creditors" confined to a majority within an individual class, or does it refer more broadly to a majority within each and every "class", as the sense and purpose of the Act might suggest?

59 This issue of "unanimity" of class approval has caused me some concern, because, of course, the Final Plan before me has not received that sort of blessing. Its sanctioning, however, is being sought by the Applicants, is supported by all of the classes of creditors approving, and is not opposed by any of the classes of creditors which did not approve.

60 At least one authority has stated that strict compliance with the provisions of the CCAA respecting the vote is a prerequisite to the court having jurisdiction to sanction a plan: See *Re Keddy Motor Inns Ltd.*, *supra*, at p. 20. Accepting that such is the case, I must therefore be satisfied that unanimity amongst the classes is not a requirement of the Act before the court's sanction can be given to the Final Plan.

61 In assessing this question, it is helpful to remember, I think, that the CCAA is remedial and that it "must be given a wide and liberal construction so as to enable it to effectively serve this ... purpose": *Elan Corp. v. Comiskey*, *supra*, per Doherty J.A., at p. 307. Speaking for the majority in that case as well, Finlayson J.A. (Krever J.A., concurring) put it this way, at p. 297:

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 ... are entitled to a broad and liberal interpretation of the jurisdiction of the court under the CCAA.

62 Approaching the interpretation of the unclear language of section 6 of the Act from this perspective, then, one must have regard to the purpose and object of the legislation and to the wording of the section within the rubric of the Act as a whole. Section 6 is not to be construed in isolation.

63 Two earlier provisions of the CCAA set the context in which the creditors' meetings which are the subject of section 6 occur. Sections 4 and 5 state that where a compromise or an arrangement is proposed between a debtor company and its unsecured creditors (s. 4) or its secured creditors (s. 5), the court may order a meeting of the creditors to be held. The format of each section is the same. I reproduce the pertinent portions of s. 5 here only, for the sake of brevity. It states:

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 ... order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors ... (Emphasis added)

64 It seems that the compromise or arrangement contemplated is one with the secured creditors (as a whole) or *any* class — as opposed to *all classes* — of them. A logical extension of this analysis is that, other circumstances being appropriate, the plan which the court is asked to approve may be one involving some, but not all, of the classes of creditors.

65 Surprisingly, there seems to be a paucity of authority on the question of whether a plan must be approved by the requisite majorities in *all* classes before the court can grant its sanction. Only two cases of which I am aware touch on the issue at all, and neither of these is directly on point.

66 In *Re Wellington Building Corp.*, [1934] O.R. 653 (S.C.), Mr. Justice Kingstone dealt with a situation in which the creditors had been divided, for voting purposes, into secured and unsecured creditors, but there had been no further division amongst the secured creditors who were comprised of first mortgage bondholders, second, third and fourth mortgagees, and lienholders. Kingstone J. refused to sanction the plan because it would have been "unfair" to the bondholders to have done so (p. 661). At p. 660, he stated:

I think, while one meeting may have been sufficient under the Act for the purpose of having all the classes of secured creditors summoned, it was necessary under the Act that they should vote in classes and that three-fourths of the value of each class should be obtained in support of the scheme before the Court could or should approve of it. (Emphasis added)

67 This statement suggests that unanimity amongst the classes of creditors in approving the plan is a requirement under the CCAA. Kingstone J. went on to explain his reasons as follows (p. 600):

Particularly is this the case where the holders of the senior securities' (in this case the bondholders') rights are seriously affected by the proposal, as they are deprived of the arrears of interest on their bonds if the proposal is carried through. It was never the intention under the act, I am convinced, to deprive creditors in the position of these bondholders of their right to approve as a class by the necessary majority of a scheme propounded by the company; otherwise this would permit the holders of junior securities to put through a scheme inimical to this class and amounting to confiscation of the vested interest of the bondholders.

68 Thus, the plan in *Re Wellington Building Corp.* went unsanctioned, both because the bondholders had unfairly been deprived of their right to vote on the plan as a class and because they would have been unfairly deprived of their rights by the imposition of what amounted to a confiscation of their vested interests as bondholders.

69 On the other hand, the Quebec Superior Court sanctioned a plan where there was a lack of unanimity in *Multidev Immobilia Inc. v. Société Anonyme Just Invest* (1988), 70 C.B.R. (N.S.) 91 (C.S. Que.). There, the arrangement had been accepted by all creditors except one secured creditor, Société Anonyme Just Invest. The company presented an amended arrangement which called for payment of the objecting creditor in full. The other creditors were aware that Just Invest was to receive this treatment. Just Invest, nonetheless, continued to object. Thus, three of eight classes of creditors were in favour of the plan; one, Bank of Montreal was unconcerned because it had struck a separated agreement; and three classes of which Just Invest was a member, opposed.

70 The Quebec Superior Court felt that it would be contrary to the objectives of the CCAA to permit a secured creditor who was to be paid in full to upset an arrangement which had been accepted by other creditors. Parent J. was of the view that the Act would not permit the Court to ratify an arrangement which had been refused by a class or classes of creditors (Just Invest), thereby binding the objecting creditor to something that it had not accepted. He concluded, however, that the arrangement could be approved *as regards the other creditors who voted in favour of the Plan*. The other creditors were cognizant of the arrangement whereby Just Invest was to be fully reimbursed for its claims, as I have indicated, and there was no objection to that amongst the classes that voted in favour of the Plan.

71 While it might be said that *Multidev, supra*, supports the proposition that a Plan will not be ratified if a class of creditors opposes, the decision is also consistent with the carving out of that portion of the Plan which concerns the objecting creditor and the sanctioning of the balance of the Plan, where there was no prejudice to the objecting creditor in doing so. To my mind, such an approach is analogous to that found in the Final Plan of the O & Y applicants which I am being asked to sanction.

72 I think it relatively clear that a court would not sanction a plan if the effect of doing so were to impose it upon a class, or classes, of creditors who rejected it and to bind them by it. Such a sanction would be tantamount to the kind of unfair confiscation which the authorities unanimously indicate is not the purpose of the legislation. That, however, is not what is proposed here.

73 By the terms of the Final Plan itself, the claims of creditors who reject the Plan are to be treated as "unaffected claims" not bound by its provisions. In addition, secured creditors are entitled to exercise their realization rights either immediately upon the "consummation date" (March 15, 1993) or thereafter, on notice. In short, even if they approve the Plan, secured creditors have the right to drop out at any time. Everyone participating in the negotiation of the Plan and voting on it, knew of this feature. There is little difference, and little different affect on those approving the Plan, it seems to me, if certain of the secured creditors drop out in advance by simply refusing to approve the Plan in the first place. Moreover, there is no prejudice to the eight classes of creditors which have not approved the Plan, because nothing is being imposed upon them which they have not accepted and none of their rights are being "confiscated".

74 From this perspective it could be said that the parties are merely being held to — or allowed to follow — their contractual arrangement. There is, indeed, authority to suggest that a Plan of compromise or arrangement is simply a contract between the debtor and its creditors, sanctioned by the court, and that the parties should be entitled to put anything into such a Plan that could be lawfully incorporated into any contract: See *Re Canadian Vinyl Industries Inc.* (1978), 29 C.B.R. (N.S.) 12 (C.S. Que.), at p. 18; L.W. Houlden & C.H. Morawetz, *Bankruptcy Law of Canada*, vol. 1 (Toronto: Carswell, 1984) pp. E-6 and E-7.

75 In the end, the question of determining whether a plan may be sanctioned when there has not been unanimity of approval amongst the classes of creditors becomes one of asking whether there is any unfairness to the creditors who have not approved it, in doing so. Where, as here, the creditors classes which have not voted to accept the Final Plan will not be bound by the Plan as sanctioned, and are free to exercise their full rights as secured creditors against the security they hold, there is nothing unfair in sanctioning the Final Plan without unanimity, in my view.

76 I am prepared to do so.

77 A draft Order, revised as of late this morning, has been presented for approval. It is correct to assume, I have no hesitation in thinking, that each and every paragraph and subparagraph, and each and every word, comma, semi-colon, and capital letter has been vigilantly examined by the creditors and a battalion of advisors. I have been told by virtually every counsel who rose to make submissions, that the draft as is exists represents a very "fragile consensus", and I have no doubt that such is the case. It's wording, however, has not received the blessing of three of the classes of project lenders who voted against the Final Plan — The First Canadian Place, Fifth Avenue Place and L'Esplanade Laurier Bondholders.

78 Their counsel, Mr. Barrack, has put forward their serious concerns in the strong and skilful manner to which we have become accustomed in these proceedings. His submission, put too briefly to give it the justice it deserves, is that the Plan does not and cannot bind those classes of creditors who have voted "no", and that the language of the sanctioning Order should state this clearly and in a positive way. Paragraph 9 of his Factum states the argument succinctly. It says:

9. It is submitted that if the Court chooses to sanction the Plan currently before it, it is incumbent on the Court to make clear in its Order that the Plan and the other provisions of the proposed Sanction Order apply to and are binding upon only the company, its creditors in respect of claims in classes which have approved the Plan, and trustees for such creditors.

79 The basis for the concern of these "No" creditors is set out in the next paragraph of the Factum, which states:

10. This clarification in the proposed Sanction Order is required not only to ensure that the Order is only binding on the parties to the compromises but also to clarify that if a creditor has multiple claims against the company and only some fall within approved classes, then the Sanction Order only affects those claims and is not binding upon and has no effect upon the balance of that creditor's claims or rights.

80 The provision in the proposed draft Order which is the most contentious is paragraph 4 thereof, which states:

4. THIS COURT ORDERS that subject to paragraph 5 hereof the Plan be and is hereby sanctioned and approved and will be binding on and will enure to the benefit of the Applicants and the Creditors holding Claims in Classes referred to in paragraph 2 of this Order in their capacities as such Creditors.

81 Mr. Barrack seeks to have a single, but much debated word — "only" — inserted in the second line of that paragraph after the word "will", so that it would read "and will *only* be binding on the Applicants and the Creditors Holding Claims in Classes" [which have approved the Plan]. On this simple, single, word, apparently, the razor-thin nature of the fragile consensus amongst the remaining creditors will shatter.

82 In the alternative, Mr. Barrack asks that para. 4 of the draft be amended and an additional paragraph added as follows:

35. It is submitted that to reflect properly the Court's jurisdiction, paragraph 4 of the proposed Sanction Order should be amended to state:

4. This Court Orders that the Plan be and is hereby sanctioned and approved and is binding only upon the Applicants listed in Schedule A to this Order, creditors in respect of the claims in those classes listed in paragraph 2 hereof, and any trustee for any such class of creditors.

36. It is also submitted that an additional paragraph should be added if any provisions of the proposed Sanction Order are granted beyond paragraph 4 thereof as follows:

This Court Orders that, except for claims falling within classes listed in paragraph 2 hereof, no claims or rights of any sort of any person shall be adversely affected in any way by the provisions of the Plan, this Order or any other Order previously made in these proceedings.

83 These suggestions are vigorously opposed by the Applicants and most of the other creditors. Acknowledging that the Final Plan does not bind those creditors who did not accept it, they submit that no change in the wording of the proposed Order is necessary in order to provided those creditors with the protection to which they say they are entitled. In any event, they argue, such disputes, should they arise, relate to the interpretation of the Plan, not to its sanctioning, and should only be dealt with in the context in which they subsequently arise — if arise they do.

84 The difficulty is that there may or may not be a difference between the order "binding" creditors and "affecting" creditors. The Final Plan is one that has specific features for specific classes of creditors, and as well some common or generic features which cut across classes. This is the inevitable result of a Plan which is negotiated in the crucible of such an immense corporate re-structuring. It may be, or it may not be, that the objecting Project Lenders who voted "no" find themselves "affected" or touched in some fashion, at some future time by some aspect of the Plan. With a re-organization and corporate re-structuring of this dimension it may simply not be realistic to expect that the world of the secured creditor, which became not-so-perfect with the onslaught of the Applicants' financial difficulties, and even less so with the commencement of the CCAA proceedings, will ever be perfect again.

85 I do, however, agree with the thrust of Mr. Barrack's submissions that the Sanction Order and the Plan can be binding only upon the Applicants and the creditors of the Applicants in respect of claims in classes which have approved the Plan, and trustees for such creditors. That is, in effect, what the Final Plan itself provides for when, in section 6.2(C), it stipulates that, where classes of creditors do not agree to the Plan,

(i) the Applicants shall treat such Class of Claims to be an Unaffected Class of Claims; and,

(ii) the Applicants *shall* apply to the Court "for a Sanction Order which sanctions the Plan *only insofar as it affects the Classes which have agreed to the Plan.*

86 The Final Plan before me is therefore sanctioned on that basis. I do not propose to make any additional changes to the draft Order as presently presented. In the end, I accept the position, so aptly put by Ms. Caron, that the price of an overabundance of caution in changing the wording may be to destroy the intricate balance amongst the creditors which is presently in place.

87 In terms of the court's jurisdiction, section 6 directs me to sanction the Order, if the circumstances are appropriate, and enacts that, once I have done so, the Order "is binding ... on all the creditors or the class of creditors, as the case may be, and on any trustee for any such class of creditors ... and on the company". As I see it, that is exactly what the draft Order presented to me does.

88 Accordingly, an order will go in terms of the draft Order marked "revised Feb. 5, 1993", with the agreed amendments noted thereon, and on which I have placed my fiat.

89 These reasons were delivered orally at the conclusion of the sanctioning Hearing which took place on February 1 and February 5, 1993. They are released in written form today.

Application allowed.

APPENDIX "A" — Counsel for Sanctioning Hearing Order

David A. Brown, Q.C., Yoine Goldstein, Q.C., Stephen Sharpe and Mark E. Meland	-- For the Olympia & York Applicants
Ronald N. Robertson, Q.C.	-- For Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
David E. Baird, Q.C., and Ms Patricia Jackson	-- For Bank of Nova Scotia
Michael Barrack and S. Richard Orzy	-- For the First Canadian Place Bondholders, the Fifth Avenue Place Bondholders and the L'Esplanade Lauriere Bondholders
William G. Horton	-- For Royal Bank of Canada
Peter Howard and Ms J. Superina	-- For Citibank Canada
Frank J. C. Newbould, Q.C.	-- For the Unsecured/Under- Secured Creditors Committee
John W. Brown, Q.C., and J.J. Lucki	-- For Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Harry Fogul and Harold S. Springer	-- For the Exchange Tower Bondholders
Allan Sternberg and Lawrence Geringer	-- For the O & Y Eurocreditco Debenture Holders
Arthur O. Jacques and Paul M. Kennedy	-- For Bank of Nova Scotia, Agent for Scotia Plaza Lenders
Lyndon Barnes and J.E. Fordyce	-- For Credit Lyonnais, Credit Lyonnais Canada
J. Carfagnini	-- For National Bank of Canada
J.L. McDougall, Q.C.	-- For Bank of Montreal
Carol V.E. Hitchman	-- For Bank of Montreal (Phase I First Canadian Place)
James A. Grout	-- For Credit Suisse
Robert I. Thornton	-- For I.B.J. Market Security Lenders
Ms C. Carron	-- For European Investment Bank
W.J. Burden	-- For some debtholders of O & Y Commercial Paper II Inc.
G.D. Capern	-- For Robert Campeau
Robert S. Harrison and	-- For Royal Trust Co. as

A.T. Little

Trustee

TAB 8

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL LIST**

THE HONOURABLE MR.)
JUSTICE HAINEY)
TUESDAY, THE 16TH
DAY OF OCTOBER 2018



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

AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 243 OF THE *BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY ACT*, R.S.C., 1985, c. B-3, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF SEARS CANADA INC., 9370-2751 QUÉBEC INC., 191020 CANADA INC., THE CUT INC., SEARS CONTACT SERVICES INC., INITIUM LOGISTICS SERVICES INC., INITIUM COMMERCE LABS INC., INITIUM TRADING AND SOURCING CORP., SEARS FLOOR COVERING CENTRES INC., 173470 CANADA INC., 2497089 ONTARIO INC., 6988741 CANADA INC., 10011711 CANADA INC., 1592580 ONTARIO LIMITED, 955041 ALBERTA LTD., 4201531 CANADA INC., 168886 CANADA INC., AND 3339611 CANADA INC.

(each, an "**Applicant**", and collectively, the "**Applicants**")

AMENDED AND RESTATED RECEIVERSHIP ORDER

THIS MOTION made by Ursel Phillips Fellows Hopkinson LLP, as Employee Representative Counsel (as defined in the Employee Representative Counsel Order granted by this Court on July 13, 2017), for an Order pursuant to section 243(1) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, R.S.C., 1985, c. B-3 as amended (the "**BIA**") appointing FTI Consulting Canada Inc. as receiver (in such capacity, the "**Receiver**") without security, of the bank accounts described in **Schedule "B"** to this Order, was heard this day at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

ON READING the Affidavit of Karen Ensslen, sworn October 11, 2018, the 26th Report of FTI Consulting Canada Inc., in its capacity as monitor (the "**Monitor**"), and on hearing the submissions of counsel for the Applicants, the Monitor, FTI Consulting Canada Inc. (as the proposed Receiver), and Employee Representative Counsel, no one else appearing although duly served as appears from the affidavit of service of Christien Lam sworn October 12, 2018 and on reading the consent of FTI Consulting Canada Inc. to act as the Receiver,

SERVICE

1. THIS COURT ORDERS that the time for service of the Notice of Motion and the Motion is hereby abridged and validated so that this motion is properly returnable today and hereby dispenses with further service thereof.

LIFTING OF THE STAY

2. THIS COURT ORDERS that the stay of proceedings granted by this Court under the Amended and Restated Initial Order dated June 22, 2017, (the "**Initial Order**") is hereby lifted with respect to the Applicants and the Receivership Property (as defined below) solely to allow: (i) the appointment of the Receiver over the Receivership Property on the Receivership Effective Date (as defined below); and (ii) the Receiver to act in respect of the Receivership Property in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

APPOINTMENT

3. THIS COURT ORDERS that pursuant to section 243(1) of the BIA, and effective two (2) business days following service on the Service List (as defined in the Initial Order) of the certificate attached as **Schedule "A"** hereto (the "**Receivership Effective Date**"), FTI Consulting Canada Inc. will hereby be appointed Receiver, without security, of the bank accounts described in **Schedule "B"** to this Order (the "**Receivership Property**") to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500) collectively in all accounts, and of no other property of the Applicants.

4. THIS COURT DECLARES that the Receiver is a receiver within the meaning of Section 243(1) of the BIA.

RECEIVER'S POWERS

5. THIS COURT ORDERS that, from and after the Receivership Effective Date, the Receiver will be empowered and authorized, but not obligated, to act at once in respect of the Receivership Property and the Receiver will be expressly empowered and authorized to do any of the following where the Receiver considers it necessary or desirable:

- a) subject to paragraphs 12 and 13 of this Order, to exercise control over the Receivership Property;
- b) to perform its statutory obligations under the *Wage Earner Protection Program Act* (Canada) (the "**WEPPA**");
- c) to take any steps reasonably incidental to the exercise of these powers or the performance of any statutory obligations; and
- d) to engage counsel to assist with the exercise of the Receiver's powers conferred by this Order.

6. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver be and is hereby relieved from compliance with the provision of Sections 245(1), 245(2) and 246 of the BIA, provided that the Receiver shall provide notice of its appointment in the prescribed form and manner to the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, accompanied by the prescribed fee.

DUTY TO PROVIDE ACCESS AND CO-OPERATION TO THE RECEIVER

7. THIS COURT ORDERS that (i) the Applicants, (ii) all of their current and former directors, officers, employees, agents, accountants, legal counsel and members, and all other persons acting on their instructions or behalf, and (iii) all other individuals, firms, corporations, governmental bodies or agencies, or other entities having notice of this Order (all of the foregoing, collectively, being "**Persons**" and each being a "**Person**") shall forthwith advise the Receiver of the existence of any Receivership Property in such Person's possession or control and shall grant immediate and continued access to the Receivership Property to the Receiver.

8. THIS COURT ORDERS that all Persons shall forthwith advise the Receiver of the existence of any books, documents, securities, contracts, orders, corporate and accounting records, and any other papers, records and information of any kind related to the Receivership Property, the employees of the Applicants for the purposes of complying with the Receiver's

statutory obligations under the WEPPA, and any computer programs, computer tapes, computer disks, or other data storage media containing any such information (the foregoing, collectively, the "**Records**") in that Person's possession or control, and shall grant to the Receiver unfettered access to and use of accounting, computer, software and physical facilities relating thereto, provided however that nothing in this paragraph 8 or in paragraph 9 of this Order shall require the delivery of Records, or the granting of access to Records, which may not be disclosed or provided to the Receiver due to the privilege attaching to solicitor-client communication or due to applicable laws prohibiting such disclosure.

9. THIS COURT ORDERS that if any Records are stored or otherwise contained on a computer or other electronic system of information storage, whether by independent service provider or otherwise, all Persons in possession or control of such Records shall forthwith give unfettered access to the Receiver as the Receiver in its discretion deems expedient, and shall not alter, erase or destroy any Records without the prior written consent of the Receiver. Further, for the purposes of this paragraph, all Persons shall provide the Receiver with all such assistance in gaining immediate access to the information in the Records as the Receiver may in its discretion require including providing the Receiver with instructions on the use of any computer or other system and providing the Receiver with any and all access codes, account names and account numbers that may be required to gain access to the information.

NO PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE RECEIVER

10. THIS COURT ORDERS that the stay of proceedings in effect in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 17 of the Initial Order shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any Proceedings (as defined in the Initial Order) or any right or remedy against or in respect of the Receiver and the Receivership Property and nothing herein shall derogate from the stay of proceedings in effect pursuant to the Initial Order, except to the extent necessary to give effect to the appointment of the Receiver.

EMPLOYEES

11. THIS COURT ORDERS that all employees of the Applicants shall remain the employees of the Applicants until such time as the Applicants may terminate the employment of such employees. The Receiver shall not be liable for any employee-related liabilities or obligations, including any successor employer liabilities as provided for in section 14.06(1.2) of the BIA.

LIMITATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES

12. THIS COURT ORDERS that nothing herein contained shall require the Receiver to occupy or to take control, care, charge, possession or management (separately and/or collectively, "**Possession**") of any of the Receivership Property or any of the Applicants' other assets, property or undertaking, including (without limitation) property that might be environmentally contaminated, might be a pollutant or a contaminant, or might cause or contribute to a spill, discharge, release or deposit of a substance contrary to any federal, provincial or other law respecting the protection, conservation, enhancement, remediation or rehabilitation of the environment or relating to the disposal of waste or other contamination including, without limitation, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Ontario Environmental Protection Act*, the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, or the *Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations thereunder (the "**Environmental Legislation**").

POSSESSION OF RECEIVERSHIP PROPERTY

13. The Receiver shall take no part whatsoever in the management or the supervision of the management of the Business (as defined in the Initial Order) and the Receiver shall not, as a result of this Order or anything done in pursuance of the Receiver's duties and powers under this Order, be deemed to be in possession of or be deemed to have taken any steps to dispose of any of the Receivership Property, or of any other assets, property or undertaking of the Applicants, including (without limitation) within the meaning of any Environmental Legislation, unless it is actually in possession. Any distribution of the Receivership Property shall be made only upon further Order of this Court following service and notice as required by the Initial Order; provided, however, that the Receiver is authorized and directed to permit the Applicants' access to sufficient funds from the Receivership Property as requested by the Applicants to operate the Business in compliance with the Initial Order.

LIMITATION ON THE RECEIVER'S LIABILITY

14. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver shall incur no liability or obligation as a result of its delivery of the Receivership Certificate, its appointment or the carrying out the provisions of this Order or the Applicants' operation of their Business, including any liability or obligation in respect of taxes, withholdings, interest, penalties, or other like claims, save and except for any gross negligence or wilful misconduct on its part, and it shall have no obligations under sections 81.4(5) or 81.6(3) of the BIA. Nothing in this Order shall derogate from the protections afforded the Receiver by section 14.06 of the BIA or by any other applicable legislation.

COSTS OF ADMINISTRATION

15. THIS COURT ORDERS that paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 of the Initial Order shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Receiver and the Receiver's legal counsel. The Receiver and the Receiver's legal counsel shall be entitled to the benefit of the Administration Charge on the Property (each as defined in the Initial Order) as security for their professional fees and disbursements incurred at their standard rates and charges subject to the maximum amount set out in the Initial Order and with the priority set out in the Initial Order. The fees and disbursements of the Receiver and the Receiver's counsel shall not be subject to Section 246(3) of the BIA.

SERVICE AND NOTICE

16. THIS COURT ORDERS that, subject to further Order of the Court, service and notice with respect to this Order and the appointment of the Receiver shall be in accordance with Paragraphs 60, 61 and 62 of the Initial Order.

INITIAL ORDER

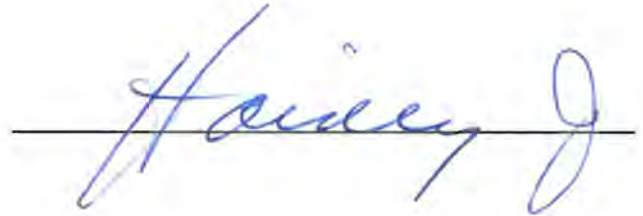
17. THIS COURT ORDERS that, except as expressly stated herein with respect to the Receivership Property, nothing herein amends the terms of the Initial Order, including the powers, authorizations, obligations and protections for the Monitor, the Applicants and the Applicants' directors and officers contained in the Initial Order.

GENERAL

18. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver may from time to time apply to this Court for advice and directions in the discharge of its powers and duties hereunder.

19. THIS COURT ORDERS that nothing in this Order shall prevent the Receiver from acting as a trustee in bankruptcy of the Applicants (or any of them).

20. THIS COURT ORDERS that this Order and all of its provisions are effective as of 12:01 p.m. Eastern Time on October 16, 2018.



ENTERED AT / INSCRIT A TORONTO
ON / BOOK NO:
LE / DANS LE REGISTRE NO:

DEC 18 2018

PER / PAR: *RW*

Schedule "A"
Receivership Certificate

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 SECTION 243 OF THE *BANKRUPTCY*
AND INSOLVENCY ACT, R.S.C., 1985, c. B-3, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR
ARRANGEMENT OF SEARS CANADA INC., 9370-2751
QUÉBEC INC., 191020 CANADA INC., THE CUT INC., SEARS
CONTACT SERVICES INC., INITIUM LOGISTICS SERVICES
INC., INITIUM COMMERCE LABS INC., INITIUM TRADING AND
SOURCING CORP., SEARS FLOOR COVERING CENTRES
INC., 173470 CANADA INC., 2497089 ONTARIO INC., 6988741
CANADA INC., 10011711 CANADA INC., 1592580 ONTARIO
LIMITED, 955041 ALBERTA LTD., 4201531 CANADA INC.,
168886 CANADA INC., AND 3339611 CANADA INC.

RECEIVERSHIP CERTIFICATE

The undersigned confirm that this is the "Receivership Certificate" referred to in the Receivership Order of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) made on October 16, 2018, and that in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Receivership Order, the Receivership Effective Date shall be **[insert date that is two (2) business days following service of this certificate on the Service List]**.

**FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., IN
ITS CAPACITY AS PROPOSED
RECEIVER, AND NOT IN ITS
PERSONAL OR CORPORATE
CAPACITY**

**URSEL, PHILLIPS, FELLOWS HOPKINSON
LLP, IN ITS CAPACITY AS EMPLOYEE
REPRESENTATIVE COUNSEL IN THE
WITHIN PROCEEDINGS**

Per: _____
Name:
Title:

Per: _____
Name:
Title:

Schedule "B"

Receivership Property

1. Account in the name of Sears Canada Inc. located at Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto, ON and ending with 151-129-4.
2. Account in the name of 191020 Canada Inc. located at Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto, ON and ending with 139-332-1.
3. Account in the name of 9370-2751 Québec Inc. located at Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto, ON and ending with 139-330-5.
4. Account in the name of 168886 Canada Inc. located at Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto, ON and ending with 139-333-9.
5. Account in the name of Sears Contact Services Inc. located at Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto, ON and ending with 135-672-4.

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 243 OF THE BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY ACT, R.S.C., 1985, c. B-3, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF SEARS CANADA INC., et al.

Court File No: CV-17-11846-00CL

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL LIST**

Proceeding commenced at Toronto

RECEIVERSHIP ORDER

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Fax: (416) 968-0325

Employee Representative Counsel

TAB 9

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL LIST

THE HONOURABLE MR.) WEDNESDAY, THE 25TH DAY
)
JUSTICE PENNY) OF NOVEMBER, 2015

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 101 OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE ACT,
R.S.O. 1990, C. C-43, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT
OF VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES FOR CANADA, VICTORIAN ORDER OF
NURSES FOR CANADA – EASTERN REGION AND VICTORIAN ORDER OF
NURSES FOR CANADA – WESTERN REGION

Applicants

**ORDER
(Appointing Receiver)**

THIS MOTION made by the Applicants for an Order pursuant to section 101 of the *Courts of Justice Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.43, as amended (the "CJA") appointing Collins Barrow Toronto Limited as receiver (in such capacity, the "Receiver") without security, of all of the goodwill and intellectual property of Victorian Order Of Nurses For Canada, Victorian Order Of Nurses For Canada – Eastern Region and Victorian Order Of Nurses For Canada – Western Region (collectively, the "Applicants") acquired for, or used in relation to a business carried on by the Applicants, was heard this day at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

ON READING the affidavit of Jo-Anne Poirier sworn November 24, 2015 and the Exhibits thereto and on hearing the submissions of counsel for the Applicants, Collins Barrow

Toronto Limited (as the proposed Receiver), the Board of Directors of the Applicants and The Bank of Nova Scotia, no one else appearing although duly served as appears from the affidavit of service of Evan Cobb sworn November 25, 2015 and on reading the consent of Collins Barrow Toronto Limited to act as the Receiver,

SERVICE

1. THIS COURT ORDERS that the time for service of the Notice of Application and the Application is hereby abridged and validated so that this motion is properly returnable today and hereby dispenses with further service thereof.

APPOINTMENT

2. THIS COURT ORDERS that pursuant to section 101 of the CJA, Collins Barrow Toronto Limited is hereby appointed Receiver, without security, of all of the goodwill and intellectual property of the Applicants acquired for, or used in relation to a business carried on by the Applicants, including all proceeds thereof (the "Receivership Property"), and of no other property of the Applicants.

3. THIS COURT DECLARES that the Receiver is a receiver within the meaning of Section 243(2)(b) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (Canada)* (the "BIA").

RECEIVER'S POWERS

4. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver is hereby empowered and authorized, but not obligated, to act at once in respect of the Receivership Property and the Receiver is hereby expressly empowered and authorized to do any of the following where the Receiver considers it necessary or desirable:

- (a) subject to Paragraph 5 of this order, to exercise control over the Receivership Property;
- (b) to exercise its statutory obligations under the *Wage Earner Protection Program Act (Canada)*;
- (c) to take any steps reasonably incidental to the exercise of these powers or the performance of any statutory obligations; and

- (d) to engage counsel to assist with the exercise of the Receiver's powers conferred by this Order.

5. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver shall have no obligation or authority to take steps to take possession of, dispose of or realize upon any of the Receivership Property.

6. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver be and is hereby relieved from compliance with the provision of Sections 245(1), 245(2) and 246 of the BIA; provided that the Receiver shall provide notice of its appointment in the prescribed form and manner to the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, accompanied by the prescribed fee.

DUTY TO PROVIDE ACCESS AND CO-OPERATION TO THE RECEIVER

7. THIS COURT ORDERS that (i) the Applicants, (ii) all of their current and former directors, officers, employees, agents, accountants, legal counsel and members, and all other persons acting on their instructions or behalf, and (iii) all other individuals, firms, corporations, governmental bodies or agencies, or other entities having notice of this Order (all of the foregoing, collectively, being "Persons" and each being a "Person") shall forthwith advise the Receiver of the existence of any Receivership Property in such Person's possession or control and shall grant immediate and continued access to the Receivership Property to the Receiver.

8. THIS COURT ORDERS that all Persons shall forthwith advise the Receiver of the existence of any books, documents, securities, contracts, orders, corporate and accounting records, and any other papers, records and information of any kind related to the Receivership Property, and any computer programs, computer tapes, computer disks, or other data storage media containing any such information (the foregoing, collectively, the "Records") in that Person's possession or control, and shall grant to the Receiver unfettered access to and use of accounting, computer, software and physical facilities relating thereto, provided however that nothing in this paragraph 8 or in paragraph 9 of this Order shall require the delivery of Records, or the granting of access to Records, which may not be disclosed or provided to the Receiver due to the privilege attaching to solicitor-client communication or due to applicable laws prohibiting such disclosure.

9. THIS COURT ORDERS that if any Records are stored or otherwise contained on a computer or other electronic system of information storage, whether by independent service provider or otherwise, all Persons in possession or control of such Records shall forthwith give unfettered access to the Receiver as the Receiver in its discretion deems expedient, and shall

not alter, erase or destroy any Records without the prior written consent of the Receiver. Further, for the purposes of this paragraph, all Persons shall provide the Receiver with all such assistance in gaining immediate access to the information in the Records as the Receiver may in its discretion require including providing the Receiver with instructions on the use of any computer or other system and providing the Receiver with any and all access codes, account names and account numbers that may be required to gain access to the information.

NO PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE RECEIVER

10. THIS COURT ORDERS that the stay of proceedings in effect in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 17 of the Initial Order under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (Canada) granted in these proceedings on the date hereof, as may be amended from time to time (the "Initial Order") shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any Proceedings (as defined in the Initial Order) or any right or remedy against or in respect of the Receiver and the Receivership Property and nothing herein shall derogate from the stay of proceedings in effect pursuant to the Initial Order, except to the extent necessary to give effect to the appointment of the Receiver.

EMPLOYEES

11. THIS COURT ORDERS that all employees of the Applicants shall remain the employees of the Applicants until such time as the Applicants may terminate the employment of such employees. The Receiver shall not be liable for any employee-related liabilities or obligations, including any successor employer liabilities as provided for in section 14.06(1.2) of the BIA, other than such amounts as the Receiver may specifically agree in writing to pay, or in respect of its obligations under sections 81.4(5) or 81.6(3) of the BIA or under the *Wage Earner Protection Program Act*.

LIMITATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES

12. THIS COURT ORDERS that nothing herein contained shall require the Receiver to occupy or to take control, care, charge, possession or management (separately and/or collectively, "Possession") of any of the Receivership Property or any of the Applicants' other assets, property or undertaking, including (without limitation) property that might be environmentally contaminated, might be a pollutant or a contaminant, or might cause or contribute to a spill, discharge, release or deposit of a substance contrary to any federal, provincial or other law respecting the protection, conservation, enhancement, remediation or rehabilitation of the environment or relating to the disposal of waste or other contamination

including, without limitation, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Ontario Environmental Protection Act*, the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, or the *Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations thereunder (the "Environmental Legislation"), provided however that nothing herein shall exempt the Receiver from any duty to report or make disclosure imposed by applicable Environmental Legislation.

POSSESSION OF RECEIVERSHIP PROPERTY

13. The Receiver shall take no part whatsoever in the management or the supervision of the management of the Business (as defined in the Initial Order) and the Receiver shall not, as a result of this Order or anything done in pursuance of the Receiver's duties and powers under this Order, be deemed to be in possession of or be deemed to have taken any steps to dispose of any of the Receivership Property, or of any other assets, property or undertaking of the Applicants, including (without limitation) within the meaning of any Environmental Legislation, unless it is actually in possession.

LIMITATION ON THE RECEIVER'S LIABILITY

14. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver shall incur no liability or obligation as a result of its appointment or the carrying out the provisions of this Order, save and except for any gross negligence or wilful misconduct on its part, or in respect of its obligations under sections 81.4(5) or 81.6(3) of the BIA or under the *Wage Earner Protection Program Act*. Nothing in this Order shall derogate from the protections afforded the Receiver by section 14.06 of the BIA or by any other applicable legislation.

RECEIVER'S ACCOUNTS

15. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver and counsel to the Receiver shall be paid their reasonable fees and disbursements, in each case at their standard rates and charges and that the Applicants are hereby authorized to pay to the Receiver a retainer in the amount of \$15,000, to be held by the Receiver as security for the payment of the Receiver's and its counsel's fees and disbursements outstanding from time to time.

16. THIS COURT ORDERS the Receiver shall be entitled to and is hereby granted a charge (the "Receiver's Charge") on the Property (as such term is defined in the Initial Order), as security for its, and its counsel's, fees and disbursements, both before and after the making of this Order in respect of these proceedings, and that the Receiver's Charge shall form a charge

on the Property ranking: (i) subordinate to the Charges (as such term is defined in the Initial Order); and (ii) in priority to all Encumbrances (as defined in the Initial Order) in favour of any Person that rank subordinate to the Charges.

SERVICE AND NOTICE

17. THIS COURT ORDERS subject to further Order of the Court, service and notice with respect to this Order and the appointment of the Receiver shall be in accordance with Paragraphs 48 and 49 of the Initial Order.

GENERAL

18. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver may from time to time apply to this Court for advice and directions in the discharge of its powers and duties hereunder.

19. THIS COURT ORDERS that nothing in this Order shall prevent the Receiver from acting as a trustee in bankruptcy of the Applicants (or any of them).

20. THIS COURT ORDERS that any interested party may apply to this Court to vary or amend this Order on not less than seven (7) days' notice to the Receiver and to any other party likely to be affected by the order sought or upon such other notice, if any, as this Court may order.

21. THIS COURT ORDERS that this Order and all of its provisions are effective as of 12:01 p.m. Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on November 27, 2015.



ENTERED AT / INSCRIT À TORONTO
ON / BOOK NO:
LE / DANS LE REGISTRE NO:

NOV 25 2015

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED
AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 101 OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, C. C-43, AS AMENDED
AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES FOR CANADA, VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES FOR CANADA – EASTERN REGION AND VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES FOR CANADA – WESTERN REGION

Court File No: *CV-15-11192-000*

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL LIST**

Proceeding commenced at Toronto

**ORDER
(APPOINTING RECEIVER)**

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Lawyers for the Applicants

TAB 10

2015 ONSC 7371
Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, Re

2015 CarswellOnt 19150, 2015 ONSC 7371, 261 A.C.W.S. (3d) 517, 32 C.B.R. (6th) 236

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

In the Matter of Section 101 of the Courts of Justice Act, R.S.O. 1990 c. C-43 as Amended

In the Matter of a Plan of Compromise or Arrangement of Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada - Eastern Region, and Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada - Western Region

Penny J.

Heard: November 25, 2015
Judgment: November 27, 2015
Docket: CV-15-11192-00CL

Proceedings: reasons in full to *Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, Re* ([November 25, 2015](#)), [Doc. Toronto CV-15-11192-00CL](#), Penny J. (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List])

Counsel: Evan Cobb, Matthew Halpin, for Applicants
Joseph Bellissimo, for Bank of Nova Scotia
Mark Laugesen, for Collins Barrow Toronto Limited (Proposed Monitor)
Kenneth Kraft, for Board of Directors of the Applicants

Penny J.:

Overview

1 On November 25, 2015 I heard an application for an initial order under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* for court protection of certain Victorian Order of Nurses entities. I treated the application as essentially *ex parte*. In a brief handwritten endorsement, I granted the application and signed an initial order under the CCAA and an order appointing a receiver of certain of the VON group's assets, with written reasons to follow. These are those reasons.

Background

2 The Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada and the other entities in the VON group have, for over 100 years, provided home and community care services which address the healthcare needs of Canadians in various locations across the country on a not-for-profit basis.

3 The VON group delivers its programs through four regional entities:

- (1) VON — Eastern Region
- (2) VON — Western Region
- (3) VON — Ontario and

(4) VON — Nova Scotia.

VON Canada does not itself provide direct patient service but functions as the "head office" infrastructure supporting the operations of the regional entities.

4 The VON group has, for a number of years, suffered liquidity problems. Current liabilities have consistently exceeded current assets by a significant margin; current net losses from 2012 to 2015 total over \$13 million; and cash flows from operations from 2012 to 2015 were similarly negative in the amount of over \$8 million. The VON group faces a significant working capital shortfall. A number of less drastic restructuring efforts have been ongoing since 2006 but these efforts have not turned the tide. Current forecasts suggest that the VON group will face a liquidity crisis in the near future if restructuring steps are not taken.

5 Financial analysis of the VON group reveals that VON Canada, VON East and VON West account for a disproportionately high share of the VON group's overall losses and operating cash shortfalls relative to the revenues generated from these entities.

6 As a result of these circumstances, VON Canada, VON East and VON West seek protection from their creditors under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. The applicants also seek certain limited protections for VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia, which carry on a core aspect of the VON group's business but are not applicants in these proceedings. The applicants also seek the appointment of a receiver of certain of the VON group's assets.

7 The goal of the contemplated restructuring is to modify the scope of the VON group's operations and focus on its core business and regions. This will involve winding down the non-viable operations of VON East and VON West in an orderly fashion and restructuring and downsizing the management services provided by VON Canada in order to have a more efficient and cost-effective operating structure.

Jurisdiction

8 The CCAA applies to a "debtor company" with total claims against it of more than \$5 million. A debtor company is "any company that is bankrupt or insolvent." "Insolvent" is not defined in the CCAA but has been found to include a corporation that is reasonably expected to run out of liquidity within the period of time reasonably required to implement a restructuring.

9 In any event, based on the affidavit evidence of the VON group's CEO, Jo-Anne Poirier, the applicants are each unable to meet their obligations that have become due and the aggregate fair value of their property is not sufficient to enable them to pay all of their obligations.

10 The corporate structure of the applicants does not conform to the parent/subsidiary structure that would be typically found in the business corporation context. I am satisfied, however, that VON East and VON West are under the control of VON Canada from a practical perspective. They are all affiliated companies with the same board of directors. Accordingly, while VON East and VON West do not, on a standalone basis, face claims in excess of \$5 million, the applicants, as a group, clearly do. The applicants have complied with s. 10(2) of the CCAA. The application for an initial order is accompanied by a statement indicating on a weekly basis the projected cash flow of the applicants, a report containing the prescribed representations of the applicants regarding the preparation of the cash flow statement and copies of all financial statements prepared during the year before the application.

11 I am therefore satisfied that I have the jurisdiction to make the order sought.

Notice

12 The VON group is a large organization with over 4,000 employees operating from coast to coast. I accept that prior notice to all creditors, or potential creditors, is neither feasible nor practical in the circumstances. The application is made on notice to the VON group, the proposed monitor/receiver, the proposed chief restructuring officer and to the VON group's most significant secured creditor, the Bank of Nova Scotia.

13 There shall be a comeback hearing within two weeks of my initial order which will enable any creditor which had no notice of the application to raise any issues of concern.

Stay

14 Under s. 11.02 of the CCAA, the court may in its initial order make an order staying proceedings, restraining further proceedings or prohibiting the commencement of proceedings against the debtor provided that the stay is no longer than 30 days.

15 The CCAA's broad remedial purpose is to allow a debtor the opportunity to emerge from financial difficulty with a view to allowing the business to continue, to maximize returns to creditors and other stakeholders and to preserve employment and economic activity. The remedy of a stay is usually essential to achieve this purpose. I am satisfied that the stay of proceedings against the applicants should be granted.

16 Slightly more unusual is the request for a stay of proceedings against VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia, neither of which are applicants in these proceedings. However, the evidence of Ms. Poirier establishes that VON Canada is a cost, not a revenue, center and that VON Canada is entirely reliant upon revenues generated by VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia for its own day-to-day operations. There is a concern that VON Canada's filing of this application could trigger termination or other rights with respect to funding relationships VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia have with various third party entities which purchase their services. Such actions would create material prejudice to VON Canada's potential restructuring by interrupting its most important revenue stream.

17 In the circumstances, I am satisfied that the stay requested in respect of VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia, which is limited only to those steps that third party entities might otherwise take against VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia *due to the applicants being parties to this proceeding*, is appropriate.

Payment of Pre-filing and Other Obligations

18 The initial order authorizes, but does not require, payment of outstanding and future wages as well as fees and disbursements for any restructuring assistance, fees and disbursements of the monitor, counsel to the monitor, the chief restructuring officer, the applicants' counsel and counsel to the boards of directors. These are all payments necessary to operate the business on an ongoing basis or to facilitate the restructuring.

19 The initial order also contemplates payment of liabilities for pre-filing charges incurred on VON group credit cards issued by the Bank of Nova Scotia. The Bank is a secured creditor. It is funding the restructuring (there is no DIP financing or DIP charge). It has agreed to extend credit by continuing to make these cards available on a go forward basis, but conditioned on payment of the pre-filing credit card liabilities. I am satisfied that these measures are necessary for the conduct of the restructuring.

Modified Cash Management System

20 Historically, net cash flows were not uniform across the VON group entities. This resulted in significant timing differences between inflows and outflows for any particular VON organization. To assist with this lack of uniformity, the VON group entered into an agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia whereby funds could be effectively pooled among the VON group, outflows and inflows netted out and a net overall cash position for the VON group determined and maintained. At the date of the commencement of these proceedings, the cash balance in the VON Canada pooled account was approximately \$1.8 million. These funds will remain available to the applicants during the CCAA proceedings.

21 Immediately upon the granting of the initial order, however, the cash management system will be replaced with a new, modified cash management arrangement. Under the new arrangement, the VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia cash inflows and outflows will take place in a segregated pooling arrangement pursuant to which the consolidated cash position of only those two entities will be maintained.

22 The applicants will establish their own arrangement under which a consolidated cash position of the applicants will be maintained. Thus, VON Canada, VON East and VON West will continue to utilize their own consolidated cash balance held by those entities collectively.

23 The segregation of the VON Ontario and VON Nova Scotia cash management is necessary because they are not applicants.

24 A consolidated cash management arrangement is, however, necessary for the applicants, *inter se*, in order to ensure that the applicants continue to have sufficient liquidity to cover their costs during these proceedings. Without this arrangement, during the proposed CCAA proceedings VON East and VON West would face periodic cash deficiencies to the detriment of the group as a whole and which would put the orderly wind down of the critical services offered by VON East and VON West at risk.

25 I am satisfied that the introduction of the new cash management is both necessary and appropriate in order to:

(a) segregate the cash operations of the VON group entities which are subject to the CCAA proceedings from the VON group entities which are not; and

(b) allow the applicants in the CCAA proceedings to pool their cash inputs and outputs, which is necessary in order to avoid liquidity crises in respect of VON East and VON West operations during the wind down period.

Proposed Monitor

26 Under s. 11.7 of the CCAA, the court is required to appoint a monitor. The applicants have proposed Collins Barrow Toronto Limited, which has consented to act as the court-appointed monitor. I accept Collins Barrow as the court appointed monitor.

Chief Restructuring Officer (CRO)

27 Section 11 of the CCAA provides the court with authority to allow the applicants to enter into arrangements to facilitate restructuring. This includes the retention of expert advisors where necessary to help with the restructuring efforts. March Advisory Services Inc. has worked extensively with VON Canada to date with its pre-court endorsed restructuring efforts and has extensive background knowledge of the VON group's structure and business operations. The VON group lacks internal business transformation and restructuring expertise. VON Canada's "head office" personnel will be fully engaged simply running the business and implementing necessary changes. I am satisfied that March Advisory Services Inc.'s engagement is both appropriate and essential to a successful restructuring effort and that its appointment as CRO should be approved.

28 Both the VON group and the monitor believe that the quantum and nature of the remuneration to be paid to the CRO is fair and reasonable. I am therefore satisfied that the court should approve the CRO's engagement letter. I am also satisfied that the CRO's engagement letter should be sealed. This sealing order meets the test under the SCC decision in *Sierra Club of Canada v. Canada (Minister of Finance)* [2002 CarswellNat 822 (S.C.C.)]. The information is commercially sensitive, in that it could impair the CRO's ability to obtain market rates in other engagements, and the salutary effects of granting the sealing order (enabling March Advisory Services Inc. to accept this assignment) outweigh the minimal impact on the principle of open courts.

Administration Charge

29 Section 11.52 of the CCAA enables the court to grant an administration charge. In order to grant this charge, the court must be satisfied that notice has been given to the secured creditors likely to be affected by the charge, the amount is appropriate, and the charge extends to all of the proposed beneficiaries.

30 Due to the confidential nature of this application and the operational issues that would have arisen had prior disclosure of these proceedings been given to all secured creditors, all known secured creditors were not been provided with notice of the initial application. The only secured creditor of the applicants provided with notice is the Bank of Nova Scotia.

31 For this reason, the proposed initial order provides that the administration charge shall initially rank subordinate to the security interests of all other secured creditors of the applicants with the exception of the Bank of Nova Scotia. The applicants will seek an order providing for the subordination of all other security interests to the administration charge in the near future following notice to all potentially affected secured creditors.

32 The amount of the administration charge is \$250,000. In the scheme of things, this is a relatively modest amount. The proposed monitor has reviewed the administration charge and has found it reasonable. The beneficiaries of the administrative charge are the monitor and its counsel, counsel to the applicants, the CRO, and counsel to the boards of directors.

33 The evidence is that the applicants and the proposed monitor believe that the above noted professionals have played and will continue to play a necessary and integral role in the restructuring activities of the applicants.

34 I am satisfied that the administration charge is required and reasonable in the circumstances to allow the debtor to have access to necessary professional advice to carry out the proposed restructuring.

Directors' Charge

35 In order to secure indemnities granted by the applicants to their directors and officers and to the CRO for obligations that may be incurred in connection with the restructuring efforts after the commencement of the CCAA proceedings, the applicants seek a directors' charge in favor of the directors and officers and the CRO in the amount of \$750,000.

36 Section 11.51 of the CCAA allows the court to approve a directors' charge on a priority basis. In order to grant a directors' charge the court must be satisfied that notice has been given to the secured creditors, the amount is appropriate, the applicant could not obtain adequate indemnification for the directors or officers otherwise and the charge does not apply in respect of any obligation incurred by a director or officer as a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

37 As noted above, all known secured creditors have not been provided with notice. For this reason, the applicants propose that the priority of the directors' charge be handled in the same manner as the administration charge.

38 The evidence of Ms. Poirier shows that there is already a considerable level of directors' and officers' insurance. There is no evidence that this insurance is likely to be discontinued or that the VON group can not or will not be able to continue to pay the premiums. However, given the size of the VON group's operations, the number of employees, the diverse geographic scope in which the group operates, the potential for coverage disputes which always attends on insurance arrangements and the important fact that this board is composed entirely of volunteers, additional protection for the directors to remain involved post-filing is warranted, *Prizm Income Fund, Re*, 2011 ONSC 2061 (Ont. S.C.J.) at para. 45.

39 The amount of the charge was estimated by taking into consideration the existing directors' and officers' insurance and potential liabilities which may attach including employee related obligations such as outstanding payroll obligations, outstanding vacation pay and liability for remittances to government authorities. This charge only relates to matters arising after the commencement of these proceeding. It also covers the CRO.

40 The proposed monitor has reviewed and has raised no concerns about the proposed directors' charge.

41 The director' charge contemplated by the initial order expressly excludes claims that arise as a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

42 For these reasons, I am satisfied that the directors' charge is appropriate in all the circumstances.

Key Employee Retention Plan

43 The applicants seek approval of a key employee retention plan in the amount of up to \$240,000, payable to key employees during 2016.

44 This is a specialized business. The experience and knowledge of critical employees is highly valuable to the applicants. These employees have extensive knowledge of and experience with the applicants. The applicants are unlikely to be able to replace critical employees post-filing. Under the contemplated restructuring, the employee ranks of the applicants will be significantly downsized. As a result, there is a strong possibility that certain critical employees will consider other employment options in the absence of retention compensation.

45 The KERP was approved by the board of directors of the applicants. Provided the arrangements are reasonable, decisions of this kind fall within the business judgment rule as a result of which they are not second-guessed by the courts.

46 The amount is relatively modest given the size of the operation and the number of employees. I am satisfied that the KERP is reasonable in all the circumstances. I am also satisfied that the specific allocation of the KERP is reasonably left to the business judgment of the board.

47 Because the KERP involves sensitive personal compensation information about identifiable individuals, disclosure of this information could be harmful to the beneficiaries of the KERP. I am satisfied that the *Sierra Club* test is met in connection with the sealing of this limited information.

Receivership Order

48 The *Wage Earner Protection Program Act* was established to make payments to individuals in respect of wages owed to them by employers who are bankrupt or subject to a receivership. The amounts that may be paid under WEPPA to an individual include severance and termination pay as well as vacation pay accrued.

49 In aggregate, over 300 employees are expected to be terminated at the commencement of these proceedings. These employees will be paid their ordinary course salary and wages up to the date of their terminations. However, the applicants do not have sufficient liquidity to pay these employees' termination or severance pay or accrued vacation pay.

50 The terminated employees would not be able to enjoy the benefit of the WEPPA in the current circumstances. This is because the WEPPA does not specifically contemplate the effect of proceedings under the CCAA.

51 A receiver under the WEPPA includes a receiver within the meaning of s. 243(2) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*. A receiver under the BIA includes a receiver appointed under the *Courts of Justice Act* if appointed to take control over the debtor's property. Under the WEPPA, an employer is subject to receivership if any property of the employer is in the possession or control of the receiver.

52 In this case, the applicants seek the appointment of a receiver under s. 101 of the *Courts of Justice Act* to enable the receiver to take possession and control of the applicants' goodwill and intellectual property (i.e., substantially all of the debtor's property *other than* accounts receivable and inventory, which must necessarily remain with the debtors during restructuring).

53 In *Cinram (Re)* (October 19, 2012), Toronto CV-12-9767-00CL, Morawetz R.S.J. found it was just and convenient to appoint a receiver under s. 101 over certain property of a CCAA debtor within a concurrent CCAA proceeding where the purpose of the receivership was to clarify the position of employees with respect to the WEPPA.

54 In this case, the evidence is that no stakeholder will be prejudiced by the proposed receivership order. To the contrary, there could be significant prejudice to the terminated employees if there is no receivership and former employees are not able to avail themselves of benefits under the WEPPA.

55 In the circumstances, I find it is just and convenient to appoint a receiver under s. 101 over the goodwill and intellectual property of the applicants.

Further Notice

56 I am satisfied that the proposed notice procedure is reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances and it is approved.

Comeback Hearing

57 In summary, I am satisfied that it is necessary and appropriate to grant CCAA protection to VON Canada, VON East and VON West. There shall be a comeback hearing at 10 a.m. before me on Wednesday, December 9, 2015.

Order accordingly.

TAB 11

2004 CarswellOnt 469
Ontario Superior Court of Justice [Commercial List]

Air Canada, Re

2004 CarswellOnt 469, [2004] O.J. No. 303, 128 A.C.W.S. (3d) 1067, 47 C.B.R. (4th) 169

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 191 OF THE CANADA
BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT
OF AIR CANADA AND THOSE SUBSIDIARIES LISTED ON SCHEDULE "A"

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

Farley J.

Heard: January 16, 2004
Judgment: January 16, 2004
Docket: 03-CL-4932

Counsel: Sean F. Dunphy, Ashley John Taylor for Air Canada
Peter J. Osborne, Peter H. Griffin for Monitor
Howard Gorman for Ad Hoc Unsecured Creditors Committee
Aubrey Kauffman for Ad Hoc Committee of Various Creditors
Jay Swartz for Deutsche Bank
Mark Gelowitz for Trinity Time Investments
Robert Thornton, Gregory Azeff for GE Capital Aviation Services Inc.
J. Porter for Cerberus
Kevin McElcheran for CIBC
Murray Gold for CUPE
Ian Dick for AG Canada
James Tory for Air Canada Board
Joseph J. Bellissimo for Aircraft Lessor/Lender Group
Terri Hilborn for Unionized Retiree Committee
William Sasso, Sharon Strosberg for Mizuho International, PLC
Jim Dube for Deutsche Lufthansa A.G.

Farley J.:

1 These reasons deal with three matters which the court was asked to approve Air Canada (AC) entering into various agreements; simply put they were as follows:

- (1) the Merrill Lynch (ML) indemnity;
- (2) the entering into the amendments to the Trinity Agreement; and

(3) the Global Restructuring Agreements (GRA).

ML Indemnity

2 There was no opposition to this. The court was advised that such an indemnity was customarily given and that the terms of this particular one were such as is normally given. I therefore approve AC granting such an indemnity to ML.

Trinity Amendments

3 As I understood the submissions this morning, Mizuho a member of the Unsecured Creditors Committee (UCC) was the only interested party which spoke out against the Trinity amendments. It continues to be dissatisfied with the process by which Trinity was selected as the equity plan sponsor. I merely point out, once again, that this process was not of the Court's choosing but rather one which AC commenced on notice to the service list and as to which there were no objections before Trinity was selected on November 8, 2003 (together with the "fiduciary out" provision contained in its proposal). Aside from the court approvals envisaged by that process, the court only became involved when it was appreciated that there were some difficulties with the practical implementation of the process.

4 I further understand that the Ad Hoc Committee of Various Creditors (CVC) withdrew its opposition yesterday along with its cross motion. The UCC (one assumes on some majority basis) supported the Trinity Amendments but indicated that, as a sounding board, it wished to continue sounding that it still had concerns about aspects of corporate governance and management incentives.

5 I have no doubt, if adjustments in any particular area make sense between the signatories (AC and Trinity) and to the extent that any beneficiaries are involved, that such adjustments will be made for everyone's overall benefit (everyone in the sense of AC including all of its stakeholders including creditors, labour, management, pensioners, etc.) not only for the short term interests but the long term interests of AC emerging from these CCAA proceedings as an ongoing viable enterprise on into the future, well able to serve the public (both Canadian and foreign). A harmonious relationship with trust and respect flowing in all directions amongst the stakeholders will be to everyone's long term advantage. With respect to corporate governance though, I am able to make a more direct observation. A director, no matter who nominates that person, owes duties and obligations to the corporation, not the nominator: see *820099 Ontario Inc. v. Harold E. Ballard Ltd.* (1991), 3 B.L.R. (2d) 113 (Ont. Div. Ct.), at 123, aff'd (1991), 3 B.L.R. (2d) 123 (Ont. Gen. Div.).

6 There was no evidence to show that the Board of AC in exercising its fiduciary duties did not properly consider on a quantitative and qualitative basis the factors (on a pro and con basis) relating to whether Cerberus had provided a Superior Proposal (as that was defined in section 9 of the Trinity Agreement approved earlier by this Court). Indeed there was no complaint from Cerberus in this respect. The Board's letter to me of December 22, 2003 carefully reviewed the considerations which the Board (with the assistance of Seabury and ML, together with the general oversight and views of the Monitor) gave in their deliberations with their ultimate decision that the Cerberus December 10, 2003 proposal was not a Superior Proposal with the result that the Board has selected Trinity to be the equity program sponsor in accordance with the Trinity amended deal. I approve AC executing the Trinity amended deal and implementing same, with the recognition and proviso that there may be further amendments/adjustments which may be entered into subject to the guidelines of my discussion above. I note in particular that the UCC helpfully pointed out that section 7.3 still needs to be modified, and that is being worked on. The Air Canada Pilots Association observed that there still needed to be some fine-tuning at para. 22 of its factum noting that: "These matters of the detailed implementation of the Amended Trinity Investment Agreement can all be resolved by good faith negotiations between Air Canada, Trinity and affected stakeholders, with the assistance and support of the Monitor"; I did not have the benefit of any submissions in this regard (para.22) nor was any expected to either be given or taken as the parties all appreciated that this was not to be an exercise in "nitpicking".

7 At paragraph 71 of its 19th report, the Monitor stated:

71. The Monitor is of the continuing view that the Equity Solicitation Process must be completed as soon as possible. The restructuring process and many other restructuring initiatives have been delayed by approximately two months as a result of the continued uncertainty concerning the selection of the equity plan sponsor. The equity solicitation process must be concluded so that the balance of the restructuring process can be completed before the expiry on April 30, 2004 of the financing commitments from each of Trinity, GECC and DB pursuant to the Standby Agreement. The Monitor recommends that this Honourable Court approve the Company's motion seeking approval of the Amended Trinity Investment Agreement.

8 I would therefore approve the Trinity amendments so that AC can proceed to enter into and implement the Amended Trinity Investment Agreement. I note that this approval is not intended to determine any rights which third parties may have.

GRA

9 As with the previous approvals, I take the requirement under the CCAA is that approval of the Court may be given where there is consistency with the purpose and spirit of that legislation, a conclusion by the Court that as a primary consideration, the transaction is fair and reasonable and will be beneficial to the debtor and its stakeholders generally: see *Northland Properties Ltd., Re* (1989), 73 C.B.R. (N.S.) 195 (B.C. C.A.), at 201. In *Canadian Red Cross Society / Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge, Re* (1998), 5 C.B.R. (4th) 299 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]), Blair J. at p. 316 adopted the principles in *Royal Bank v. Soundair Corp.* (1991), 7 C.B.R. (3d) 1 (Ont. C.A.) as an appropriate guideline for determining when an agreement or transaction should be approved during a CCAA restructuring but prior to the actual plan of reorganization being in place. In *Sammi Atlas Inc., Re* (1998), 3 C.B.R. (4th) 171 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]), I observed at p. 173 that in considering what is fair and reasonable treatment, one must look at the creditors as a whole (i.e. generally) and to the objecting creditors (specifically) and see if rights are compromised in an attempt to balance interests (and have the pain of the compromise equitably shared) as opposed to the confiscation of rights. I think that philosophy should be applicable to the circumstances here involving the various stakeholders. As I noted immediately above in *Sammi Atlas Inc.*, equitable treatment is not necessarily equal treatment.

10 The Monitor's 19th report at paragraphs 20-21 indicates that:

20. The GRA provides the following benefits for Air Canada:

- The retention of a significant portion of its fleet of core aircraft, spare engines and flight simulators, which are critical to its ongoing operations;
- The restructuring of obligations with respect to 106 of 107 Air Canada and Jazz air operating, parked and undelivered aircraft (effective immediately for 12 GECC-managed aircraft and upon exit from CCAA for the remaining 94 GECC-owned aircraft, except as indicated below), including lease rate reductions on 51 aircraft (of which 3 aircraft have been returned as of the current date), cash flow relief for 29 aircraft, termination of the Applicants' obligations with respect to 20 parked aircraft (effective immediately), the cancellation of 4 future aircraft lease commitments and the restructuring of the overall obligations with respect to 2 aircraft. Obligations with respect to the last remaining aircraft remain unaffected as it is management's view that this lease was already at market;
- Exit financing of approximately US\$585 million (the "Exit Facility") to be provided by GECC upon the Company's emergence from CCAA;
- Aircraft financing up to a maximum of US\$950 million (the "RJ Aircraft Financing") to be provided by GECC and to be used by Air Canada to finance the future purchase of approximately 43 regional jet aircraft; and
- The surrender of any distribution on account of any deficiency claims under the CCAA Plan with respect to GECC-owned aircraft only, without in any way affecting GECC's right to vote on the Plan in respect of any deficiency claim.

21. In return for these restructuring and financing commitments, the GRA provides for the following:

- Payment of all current aircraft rent by Air Canada to GECC, during the interim period until emergence from CCAA proceedings, at contractual lease rates for GECC-owned aircraft and at revised lease rates for GECC-managed aircraft;
- The delivery of notes refinancing existing obligations to GECC in connection with 2 B747-400 cross-collateralized leases (the "B747 Restructuring") including one note convertible into equity of the restructured Air Canada at GECC's option;
- The delivery of stock purchase warrants (the "Warrants") for the purchase of an additional 4% of the common stock of the Company at a strike price equal to the price paid by any equity plan sponsor; and
- The cross-collateralization of all GECC and affiliate obligations (the "Interfacility Collateralization Agreement") on Air Canada's emergence from CCAA proceedings for a certain period of time.

The Monitor concluded at paragraph 70:

70. The Monitor notes that, if considered on their own, the lease concessions provided to Air Canada by GECC pursuant to the GRA differ substantially from those being provided by other aircraft lessors. In addition, the Monitor notes that GECC has benefitted from the cross collateralization on 22 aircraft pursuant to the CCAA Credit Facility and Interfacility Collateralization Agreement, particularly as it relates to the settlement of Air Canada's obligations to GECC under the B747 Restructuring. However, the Monitor also notes that the substantial benefits provided to Air Canada under the GRA including the availability of US \$585 million of exit financing and US\$950 million of regional jet aircraft financing are significant and critical to the Company's emergence from CCAA proceedings in an expedited manner. In the Monitor's view the financial benefits provided to Air Canada under the GRA outweigh the costs to the Applicants' estate arising as a result of the cross collateralization benefit provided to GECC under the CCAA Credit Facility and Interfacility Collateralization Agreement. Accordingly, the Monitor recommends to this Honourable Court that the GRA be approved.

11 The GRA was opposed by the UCC (again apparently on some majority basis as one of its members, Cara, was indicated as being in favour and I also understand that Lufthansa was also supportive); the UCC's position was supplemented by separate submissions by another of its members, CIBC. I agree with the position of the UCC that the concern of the court is not with respect to the past elements of the DIP financing by GE and the cross-collateralization of 22 aircraft that agreement provided for. I also note the position of the UCC that it recognizes that the GRA is a package deal which cannot be cherry picked by any stakeholder nor modified by the Court; the UCC accepts that the GRA must be either taken as a package deal or rejected. It suggested that GE, if the court rejects the GRA as advocated by the UCC, will not abandon the field but rather it will stay and negotiate terms which the UCC feels would be more appropriate. That may be true but I would observe that in my view the delay and uncertainty involved would likely be devastating for AC. Would AC be able to meet the April 30, 2004 deadline for the Trinity deal which requires that the GRA be in place? What would the effect be upon the booking public?

12 I note that the UCC complains that other creditors are not being given equal treatment. However, counsel for another large group of aircraft lessors and financiers indicated that they had no difficulty with the GRA. Indeed, it seems to me that GE is in a somewhat significantly different position than the other creditors given the aforesaid commitment to provide an Exit Facility and an RJ facility. Trinity and Deutsche Bank (DB) with respect to their proposed inflow of \$1 billion in equity would be subordinate to GE; this new money (as opposed to sunk old money of the UCC and as well as that of the other creditors) supports the GRA. I note as well although it is "past history" that GE has compromised a significant portion of its \$2 billion claim for existing commitments down to \$1.4 billion, while at the same time committing to funding of large amounts for future purposes, all at a time when the airline industry generally does not have ready access to such.

13 With respect to the two 747 LILOs (lease in, lease out), there is the concession that AC will enjoy any upside potential in an after marketing while being shielded from any further downside. GE has also provided AC with some liquidity funding assistance by deferring some of its charges to a latter period post emergence. Further it has been calculated that as to post filing

arrears, there will be a true up on emergence and assuming that would be March 31, 2004, it is expected that there would be a wash as between AC and GE, with a slight "advantage" to AC if emergence were later. I pause to note here that emergence sooner rather than later is in my view in everyone's best interests - and that everyone should focus on that and give every reasonable assistance and cooperation.

14 With respect to the snapback rights, I note that AC would be able to eliminate same by repaying the LILO notes and the Tranche Loans and AC would be legally permitted to eliminate this concern 180 days post emergence. I recognize that AC would be in a much stronger functional and psychological bargaining position to obtain replacement funding post emergence than it is now able to do while in CCAA protection proceedings. I would assume that such a project would be a financial priority for AC post emergence and that timing should not prevent AC from starting to explore that possibility in the near future (even before emergence). I also note that GE anticipates that the snapback rights would not likely come into play, given, I take it, its analysis of the present and future condition of AC and its experience and expertise in the field. I take it *as a side note* that GE from this observation by it will not have a quick trigger finger notwithstanding the specific elements in the definition of Events of Default; that of course may only be commercial reality - and that could of course change, but one would think that GE would have to be concerned about its ongoing business reputation and thus have to justify such action. Snapback rights only come into existence upon emergence, not on the entry into the GRA.

15 I conclude that on balance the GRA is beneficial to AC and its stakeholders; in my view it is fair and reasonable and in the best interests of AC. It will permit AC to get on with the remaining and significant steps its needs to accomplish before it can emerge. The same goes for the Trinity deal. I therefore approve AC's entering into and implementing the GRA, subject to the same considerations as to completing the documentation and making amendments/adjustments as I discussed above in *Trinity Amendments*.

16 Orders accordingly.

Application granted.

TAB 12

2016 ABQB 419
Alberta Court of Queen's Bench

Lutheran Church - Canada, Re

2016 CarswellAlta 1484, 2016 ABQB 419, [2016] A.W.L.D. 3664,
[2016] A.W.L.D. 3694, 269 A.C.W.S. (3d) 218, 38 C.B.R. (6th) 36

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

In the Matter of Lutheran Church - Canada, the Alberta - British Columbia District,
Encharis Community Housing and Services, Encharis Management and Support Services,
and Lutheran Church - Canada, The Alberta - British Columbia District Investments Ltd.

B.E. Romaine J.

Heard: July 15, 2016

Judgment: August 2, 2016

Docket: Calgary 1501-00955

Counsel: Francis N.J. Taman, Ksena J. Court for District Group
Jeffrey L. Oliver, Frank Lamie for Monitor
Chris D. Simard, Alexis E. Teasdale for District Creditors' Committee
Douglas S. Nishimura for DIL Creditors' Committee
Errin A. Poyner for Elvira Kroeger and Randall Kellen
Allan A. Garber for Marilyn Huber and Sharon Sherman
Dean Hutchison for Concentra Trust
Christa Nicholson for Francis Taman, Bishop and McKenzie LLP

B.E. Romaine J.:

I. Introduction

1 This *CCAA* proceeding has been complicated by some unusual features. There are approximately 2,592 creditors of the Church extension fund with proven claims of approximately \$95.7 million, plus 12 trade creditors with claims of approximately \$957,000. There are 896 investors in the Church investment corporation with outstanding claims of \$22.4 million. Many of these creditors and investors invested their funds at least in part because of their connection to the Lutheran Church. Many of them are elderly. Some of them are angry that what they thought were safe vehicles for investment, given the involvement of their Church, have proven not to be immune to insolvency. Some of them invested their life savings at a time of life when such funds are their only security during retirement. Inevitably, there is bitterness, a lack of trust and a variety of different opinions about the outcome of this insolvency restructuring.

2 A group of creditors have applied to replace the Monitor at a time when the last two plans of arrangement and compromise in these proceedings had been approved by the requisite double majority of creditors. I dismiss the application to replace the Monitor on the basis that there is no reason arising from conflict or breach of duty to do so. I find that the proposed plans are within my jurisdiction to sanction are fair and reasonable in the circumstances and should be sanctioned. These are my reasons.

II. Factual Overview

A. Background

3 On January 23, 2015, the Lutheran Church — Canada, the Alberta — British Columbia District (the "District"), Encharis Community Housing and Services ("ECHS"), Encharis Management and Support Services ("EMSS") and Lutheran Church — Canada, the Alberta — British Columbia District Investment Ltd. ("DIL", collectively the "District Group") obtained an initial order under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended. Deloitte Restructuring Inc. was appointed as Monitor and a CRO was appointed for the District and DIL.

4 The District is a registered charity that includes the Church Extension Fund ("CEF"), which was created to allow District members to lend money to what are characterized as faith-based developments. Through the CEF, the District borrowed approximately \$96 million from corporations, churches and individuals. These funds were invested by the District in a variety of ways, including loans and mortgages available to congregations to build or renovate churches and schools, real estate investments, and a mortgage on a real estate development known as the Prince of Peace Development.

5 CEF was managed by the District's Department of Stewardship and Financial Ministries and was not created as a separate legal entity. As such, District members who loaned funds to CEF are creditors of the District (the "District Depositors").

6 ECHS owned land and buildings within the Prince of Peace Development, including the Manor and the Harbour, senior care facilities managed by EMSS. EMSS operated the Manor and Harbour for the purpose of providing integrated supportive living services at the Manor and the Harbour to seniors.

7 The Prince of Peace Development also included a church, a school, condominiums, lands known as the Chestermere lands and other development lands.

8 DIL is a not-for-profit company that acted as a trust agent and investment manager of registered retirement savings plans, registered retirement income plans and tax-free savings accounts for annuitants. Concentra Trust acted as the trustee with respect to these investments. Depositors to DIL are referred to as the "DIL Investors". The District Depositors and the DIL Investors will collectively be referred to as the "Depositors".

9 Soon after the initial order, the District and the Monitor received feedback that the District Depositors and the DIL Investors wanted to have a voice in the *CCAA* process. Thus, on February 13, 2015, Jones, J granted an order creating creditors' committees for the District (the "District Creditors' Committee") and DIL (the "DIL Creditors' Committee"), tasked with representing the interests of the District Depositors and DIL Investors. The members of the committees were elected from among the Depositors. By the order that created them, they must act in a fiduciary capacity with respect to their respective groups of creditors. The committees were authorized to engage legal counsel, who have represented them throughout the *CCAA* process, and the committees and their counsel have been active participants in the process.

10 ECHS and EMSS prepared plans of compromise and arrangement that were approved by creditors and sanctioned by the Court in January 2016. Pursuant to those plans, ECHS' interest in the condominiums was transferred to a new corporation that is to be incorporated under the District Plan ("NewCo"). The Chestermere lands were sold. The remainder of the lands and buildings (the "Prince of Peace properties") are dealt with in the District Plan.

11 On 22nd and 23rd of February, 2016, a Depositor and an agent of a Depositor commenced proceedings against Lutheran Church — Canada, Lutheran Church — Canada Financial Ministries, Francis Taman, Bishop & McKenzie LLP, John Williams, Roland Chowne, Prowse Chowne LLP, Concentra Trust, and Shepherd's Village Ministries Ltd., all defendants with involvement in the District Group's affairs, pursuant to the *Class Proceedings Act*, S.A. 2003, c. C-16.5 (Alberta). Two other Depositors issued a Notice of Civil Claim in the Supreme Court of British Columbia pursuant to the *Class Proceedings Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.50 (British Columbia) against the same defendants (together with the Alberta proceeding, the "class action proceedings").

12 On March 3, 2016, DIL submitted a plan of arrangement that had been approved by creditors for sanction by the Court. I deferred the decision on whether to sanction the DIL plan until the District plan had been finalized, presented to District creditors, and, if approved, submitted for sanctioning. At the same time, I stayed the class action proceedings. The DIL and

District plans contain similar provisions that are subject to controversy among some Depositors. There is considerable overlap among the DIL Investors and the District Depositors.

13 On July 15, 2016, the District applied for an order sanctioning the District plan. On the same day, the Depositors who commenced the class action proceedings applied for an order replacing the Monitor.

B. The District Plan

14 The District plan has one class of creditors. Pursuant to the claims process, there were 2,638 District Depositors. An emergency fund was implemented prior to the filing date and approved by the Court as part of the initial order, to ensure that District Depositors, many of whom are seniors, would have sufficient funds to cover their basic necessities. Taking into account those payments, District Depositors had proven claims of approximately \$96.2 million as at December 31, 2015.

15 Under the plan, each eligible affected creditor will be paid the lesser of \$5,000 or the total amount of their claim (the "Convenience Payment(s)") upon the date that the District plan takes effect. This will result in 1,640 District Depositors (approximately 62%) and 10 trades creditors (approximately 77%) being paid in full. The Convenience Payments are estimated to total \$6.3 million.

16 The District plan contemplates the liquidation of certain non-core assets. Each time the quantum of funds held in trust from the liquidation of these assets, net of the "Restructuring Holdback" and the "Representative Action Holdback" referred to later in this decision, reaches \$3 million, funds will be distributed on a pro-rata basis to creditors.

17 If the District plan is approved, a private Alberta corporation ("NewCo") will be formed following the effective date of the plan. NewCo will purchase the Prince of Peace properties from ECHS in exchange for the NewCo shares. The value of the NewCo shares would be based on the following:

- a) the forced sale value of the Harbour and Manor seniors' care facilities based on an independent appraisal dated November 30, 2015;
- b) the forced sale value of the remaining Peace of Peace properties, based on an independent appraisal dated October 15, 2015;
- c) the estimated value of the assets held by ECHS that would be transferred to NewCo pursuant to the ECHS plan; and
- d) the estimated value of the assets held by EMSS that would be transferred to NewCo pursuant to the EMSS plan.

18 ECHS will then transfer the NewCo shares to the District in partial satisfaction of the District — ECHS mortgage. The NewCo shares will be distributed to eligible affected creditors of the District on a pro-rata basis. The Monitor currently estimates that creditors remaining unpaid after the Convenience Payment will receive NewCo shares valued at between 53% and 60% of their remaining proven claims. The cash payments arising from liquidation of non-core assets and the distribution of shares are anticipated by the Monitor to provide creditors who are not paid in full by the Convenience Payments with distributions valued at between 68% and 80% of their remaining proven claims, after deducting the Convenience Payments. Non-resident creditors (8 in total) will receive only cash.

19 Distributions to creditors will be subject to two holdbacks:

- a) the "Restructuring Holdback", to satisfy reasonable fees and expenses of the Monitor, the Monitor's legal counsel, the CRO, the District Group's legal counsel and legal counsel for the District Creditors' Committee, the amount of which will be determined prior to the date of each distribution based on the estimated professional fees required to complete the administration of the *CCAA* proceedings; and
- b) the "Representative Holdback", an amount sufficient to fund the out-of-pocket costs associated with the "Representative Action" process described later in this decision, and to indemnify any District Depositor who may be appointed as a

representative plaintiff in the Representative Action for any costs award against him or her. The Representative Action Holdback will be determined prior to any distribution based on guidance from a Subcommittee appointed to pursue the Representative Action and retain representative counsel.

20 The District will continue to operate but the District's bylaws and handbook will be amended such that the District would no longer be able to raise or administer funds through any type of investment vehicle. NewCo will continue to operate the Harbour and Manor seniors' care facilities.

21 NewCo's bylaws will include a clause requiring that 50% of the board of directors must be comprised of District Depositors or their nominees. Although NewCo is being created with the object of placing the NewCo assets in the hands of a professional management team with appropriate business and real estate expertise, the District Creditors' Committee wanted to ensure that affected Creditors will have representation equal to that of the professional management team on the NewCo board. The members of the NewCo board may change prior to NewCo being formed, subject to District Creditors' Committee approval. Subsequent changes to the NewCo board would be voted on at future shareholder meetings.

22 The articles of incorporation for NewCo will be created to include the following provisions, which are intended to provide additional protection for affected creditors:

a) NewCo assets may only be pledged as collateral for up to 10% of their fair market value, subject to an amendment by a special resolution of the shareholders of NewCo;

b) a redemption of a portion of the NewCo shares would be allowed upon the sale of any portion of the NewCo assets that generates net sale proceeds of over \$5 million;

c) NewCo would establish a mechanism to join those NewCo shareholders who wished to purchase NewCo shares with those NewCo shareholders who wished to sell them;

d) a general meeting of the NewCo shareholders will be called no later than six months following the effective date of the plan for the purpose of having NewCo shareholders vote on a proposed mandate for NewCo, which may include the expansion of the Harbour and Manor seniors' care facilities, the subdivision and orderly liquidation or all or a portion of the NewCo assets or a joint venture to further develop the NewCo assets; and

e) to provide dissent rights to minority NewCo shareholders.

The Representative Action

23 The District plan establishes a Representative Action process whereby a future legal action or actions, which may be undertaken as a class proceeding, can be undertaken for the benefit of those District Depositors who elect or are deemed to elect to participate. The Representative Action would include only claims by District Depositors who are not fully paid under the District plan and specifically includes the following:

a) claims related to a contractual right of one or more of the District Depositors;

b) claims bases on allegations of misrepresentation or wrongful or oppressive conduct;

c) claims for breach of any legal, equitable, contractual or other duty;

d) claims pursuant to which the District has coverage under directors' and officers' liability insurance; and

e) claims to be pursued in the District's name, including any derivative action or any claims that could be assigned to a creditor pursuant to Section 38 of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, if such legislation were applicable.

24 District Depositors may opt-out of the Representative Action process, in which case they would be barred from further participation. Evidently, some Depositors are precluded by their religious beliefs from participating in this type of litigation.

25 The District Depositors who elect to participate in the Representative Action process will have a portion of their cash distributions from the sale of assets withheld to fund the Representative Action Holdback. It will only be possible to estimate the value of the Representative Action Holdback once representative counsel has been retained. At that point, the Monitor will send correspondence to the participating Depositors with additional information, including the name of the legal counsel chosen, the estimated amount of the Representative Action Holdback, the commencement date of the representative action, the deadline for opting out of the Representative Action and instructions on how to opt out of the Representative Action should they choose to do so.

26 A Subcommittee will be established to choose legal counsel to represent the participating District Depositors. The Subcommittee will include between three and five individuals and all members of the Subcommittee will be appointed by the District Creditors' Committee. The Subcommittee is not anticipated to include a member of the District Committee.

27 The duties and responsibilities of the Subcommittee will include the following:

- a) reviewing the qualifications of at least three lawyers and selecting one lawyer to act as counsel;
- b) with the assistance of counsel, identifying a party(ies) willing to act as the Representative Plaintiff;
- c) remaining in place throughout the Representative Action with its mandate to include:
 - (i) assisting in maximizing the amount available for distribution;
 - (ii) consulting with and instructing counsel including communicating with the participating District Depositors at reasonable intervals and settling all or a portion of the Representative Action;
 - (iii) replacing counsel;
 - (iv) serving in a fiduciary capacity on behalf of the participating District Depositors;
 - (v) establishing the amount of Representative Action Holdback and directing that payments be made to counsel from the Representative Action Holdback; and
 - (vi) bringing any matter before the Court by way of an application for advice and direction.

28 The Representative Action process will be the sole recourse available to District Depositors with respect to the Representative Action claims.

29 The District plan releases:

- a) the Monitor, the Monitor's legal counsel, the District Group's legal counsel, the CRO, the legal counsel for the District Committee and the District Committee members, except to the extent that any liability arises out of any fraud, gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of the released representatives, to the extent that any actions or omissions of the released representatives are directly or indirectly related to the *CCAA* proceedings or their commencement; and
- b) the District, the other *CCAA* applicants, the present and former directors, officers and employees of the District, parties covered under the D&O Insurance and any independent contractors of the District who were employed three days or more on a regular basis, from claims that are largely limited to statutory filing obligations.

30 The following claims are specifically excluded from being released by the District plan:

- a) claims against directors that relate to contractual rights of one or more creditors or are based on allegations of misrepresentations made by directors to creditors or of wrongful or oppressive conduct by directors as set out in Section 5.1(2) of the *CCAA*;

b) claims prosecuted by the Alberta Securities Commission or the British Columbia Securities Commission arising from compliance requirements of the *Securities Act* of Alberta and the *Financial Institutions Act* of British Columbia;

c) claims made by the Superintendent of Financial Institutions arising from the compliance requirements of the *Loan and Trust Corporations Acts* of Alberta and British Columbia; and

d) any Representative Action claims, whether or not they are insured under the District's directors and officers liability insurance, that are advanced solely as part of the Representative Action.

C. The District Meeting

31 On March 21, 2016, I granted an order authorizing the District to file the District plan of compromise and arrangement and present it to the creditors. A draft version of the Monitor's Report to District Creditors was provided to both the Court and counsel for the class action plaintiffs ahead of the District meeting order being granted. Neither class action counsel voiced specific concerns with the disclosure provided therein.

32 The first meeting of District creditors was held on May 14, 2016. Counsel for the BC and Alberta class action plaintiffs were in attendance and able to make submissions to the meeting and to question the Monitor. A number of attendees made submissions and asked questions. Certain documents that had been referenced in a Monitor's FAQ report on the issue of future potential development of the Prince of Peace properties (described later in this decision) were discussed in detail and questions with respect to these documents were answered by the Monitor. The meeting lasted approximately six hours. It was adjourned at the request of the representative of a Depositor who wanted more time to consider the Prince of Peace development disclosure and obtain further instructions from his congregation.

33 After making inquiries and being satisfied that congregations who wished further consultation had time to do so, the Monitor posted a notice on its website on May 20, 2016 that the reconvened meeting was to be held on June 10, 2016. The notice was sent by email to those creditors who are congregations on May 20, 2016 and sent by regular mail to all creditors on May 24, 2016. The notice advised creditors that they had additional time to change their vote on the District plan, should they choose to do so. Four congregations asked the Monitor for further information before the reconvened meeting.

34 The Monitor received a total of 1,294 votes on the District plan from eligible affected creditors with claims totalling approximately \$85.1 million. Of these votes, 1,239 were received by way of election letters and 55 were received by way of written ballots submitted in person or by proxy at the District meeting. In total, 50% of eligible affected creditors voted and the claims of those creditors who voted represented 88% of the total proven claims of eligible affected creditors.

35 Of the creditors who voted, 1,076 or approximately 83% voted in favour of the District plan and 218 or approximately 17% voted against the District plan. Those creditors who voted in favour of the plan held claims totalling approximately \$65 million, or approximately 76% in value of the voting claims, and those creditors who voted against the plan held claims totalling approximately \$20.1 million or approximately 24% in value of the voting claims. Therefore, the District plan was approved by the required majority, being two-thirds in dollar value and a majority in number of voting eligible affected creditors.

D. The DIL Plan

36 The DIL plan includes only one class of affected creditors consisting of DIL Investors. The DIL Investors reside in eight provinces and territories in Canada and in three U.S. states. Most of the accounts held by DIL Investors are RRSP and RRIF accounts.

37 Following the release of the original DIL package of meeting materials, based on discussions with DIL Investors, the Monitor prepared two documents entitled "Answers to frequently asked questions" (the "FAQs"), one of which was dated December 24, 2015 and the other dated January 18, and amended January 20, 2015.

38 The DIL plan contains provisions for the orderly transition of the registered accounts from Concentra to a replacement trustee and administrator. As part of this transition, the cash and short-term investments held by DIL will be transferred, net of holdbacks outlined in the DIL plan, to the replacement fund manager. The mortgages held by Concentra and administered by DIL will be converted to cash over time and paid to the fund manager.

39 Pursuant to previous order, DIL was authorized to distribute up to \$15 million to the DIL Investors. For those DIL Investors who held registered retirement savings plan, tax free savings accounts or locked-in retirement accounts with DIL, their pro-rate share of the first DIL Distribution was transferred into accounts that had been established with the replacement fund manager. For those DIL Investors who held RRIFs or LIFs, their pro-rate share of the first DIL distribution was transferred upon their request, to an alternate registered account of their choosing. A second distribution of up to \$7.5 million was made in April, 2016.

40 In addition to this these interim distribution, statutory annual minimum payment to RRIF holders were made for 2015. Selected DIL Investors also received payments pursuant to the emergency fund. Taking into account these payments, pre-filing distributions to DIL Investors totalled approximately \$15.6 million, 41% of their original investment without taking into account any estimated write-downs on the value of the assets held by DIL.

41 The DIL plan contains substantially the same provisions with respect to limited releases and a Representative Action process as the District plan.

42 The Monitor estimates that, prior to any recovery under the Representation Action, DIL Investors will recover between 77% and 83% of their original investment as of the filing date.

E. The DIL Meeting

43 The DIL meeting of creditors was held on January 23, 2016.

44 There were 87 attendees at the DIL meeting. The Monitor received a total of 472 votes from DIL Investors with claims totalling approximately \$14.5 million. In total, 53% of DIL Investors voted and the claims of those DIL Investors who voted represented 65% of the total proven claims of DIL Investors.

45 Of the 472 DIL Investors who voted, 434, or approximately 92%, voted in favour of the DIL plan and 38 DIL Investors, or approximately 8%, voted against the DIL plan. Those DIL Investors who voted in favour of the DIL plan had claims totalling approximately \$12.7 million, or approximately 87% of the claims, and those DIL Investors who voted against the DIL plan had claims totalling approximately \$1.8 million, or approximately 13% of the claims and a majority in number of voting DIL Investors. Therefore, the DIL plan was approved by the required double majority.

III. The Applications

A. Application to Remove the Monitor

46 The Depositors who commenced the British Columbia class action proceedings, Elvira Kroeger and Randall Kellen, apply:

- a) to remove the Monitor and replace it with Ernst & Young LLP; or alternatively
- b) to appoint Ernst & Young as a "Limited Purpose Monitor" to review the Representative Action provisions of the District plan and render its opinion to the Court with respect to whether the plan is fair and reasonable to the District Depositors;
- c) to authorize Ernst & Young to retain legal counsel to assist it in rendering its opinion to the Court if it considers it reasonable and necessary to do so; and
- d) to secure Ernst & Young's fees and those of its counsel to a maximum amount of \$150,000.00 plus applicable taxes under the current Administration Charge or under a second Administration Charge to rank *pari passu* with the current Administration Charge.

47 They are supported in their application by the Alberta class action plaintiffs, collectively the "opposing Depositors". The opposing Depositors submit that the Monitor is unable by reason of conflict of interest to provide the Court with a neutral and objective opinion with respect to the Representative Action provisions of the District plan. They also submit that the Monitor has breached its fiduciary duty to the Court and to the District creditors by failing to disclose certain municipal planning documents relating to the Prince of Peace Development.

1. Overview

48 It is trite law that the Monitor in *CCAA* proceedings is an officer of the Court and that its duty is to act in the best interests of all stakeholders. Monitors are required to act honestly and fairly and to provide independent observation and oversight of the debtor company.

49 The Monitor is expected and required to report regularly to the Court, creditors and other stakeholders, and has a statutory obligation to advise the Court on the reasonableness and fairness of any plan of arrangement proposed between the debtor and its creditors: section 23(1) of the *CCAA*. Courts accord a high level of deference to decisions and opinions of the Monitor.

50 The opposing Depositors submit that the Monitor is acting as an advocate of the debtor, without a sufficient degree of neutrality. They submit, by implication, that I should give the Monitor's recommendations on the plans little or no deference for that reason.

51 An attack on the Monitor is an attack on the integrity of the *CCAA* process, and must be taken seriously.

2. Conflict of Interest

52 The opposing Depositors allege that the Monitor has a conflict of interest on the following bases:

a) In its Pre-Filing Report to the Court, the Monitor disclosed that it had provided consulting services to the District between February 6, 2014 and the date of the initial order, including:

(i) on February 6, 2014; to provide an independent evaluation of the potential options relating to the Prince of Peace Development and to create a plan for executing the option that was ultimately chosen;

(ii) on June 30, 2014; to provide an evaluation of the debt structure of the CEF as it related to the District, the members of the District, ECHS, EMSS and the Prince of Peace Development; and

(iii) on July 25, 2014; to act as a consultant regarding the informal or formal restructuring of the District Group.

b) In its Fourth Report dated June 24, 2015, the Monitor advised that it had recently determined that a related professional accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche (now Deloitte LLP) had acted as auditor for the District from 1990 to 1998 or 1999. While the Monitor had performed a conflicts check prior to agreeing to act as Monitor, this check failed to flag the previous audit engagement. The Monitor further stated that, while its former role as auditor to District did not preclude it from acting as Monitor in these proceedings, it might be precluded from conducting a preliminary review of the District's expenditures in relation to the Prince of Peace development for the period during which it had acted as auditor. However, as the District had been unable to produce supporting documentation with respect to funds expended on the Prince of Peace development prior to 2006, and Deloitte did not act as auditor subsequent to 1999, the Monitor took the position that "it was not conflicted from completing the Review to the extent that they can for the period for which documentation is available".

c) On March 8, 2016, the Monitor advised the Court and the parties that Deloitte & Touche had completed the DIL audit for the years ended January 31, 1998 and January 31, 1999, the first two years during which DIL operated the registered fund. Again, the reason for the late disclosure appears to be that the engagements were recorded under different names those now used by the District.

53 These previous services do not, on their face, disqualify the Monitor from acting as Monitor. With respect to the audit services, it is not a conflict of interest for the auditor of a debtor company to act as Monitor in *CCAA* proceedings. In this case, the sister company of the Monitor has not been the auditor of either the District or DIL for over 16 years, The Monitor does not suffer from any of the restrictions placed on who may be a Monitor by Section 11.7(2) of the *Act*. While the late disclosure of the historical audits was unfortunate, audits performed more than 16 years ago by a sister corporation raise no reasonable apprehension of bias, either real or perceived.

54 It is also not a conflict of interest, nor is it unusual, for a proposed Monitor to be involved with the debtor companies for a period of time prior to a *CCAA* filing. The Monitor made full disclosure of that involvement prior to being appointed, more than a year before this application was brought.

55 This is not a case where a Monitor was involved in or required to give advice to the Court on the essential issue before it, such as a pre-filing sales process. The issues with respect to the plans before the Court arise from details of the plans that have been the subject of negotiation and consultation among the District Group, the Creditors' Committees and the Monitor post-filing.

56 The opposing Depositors, however, point to certain representations that were made by the District in letters to some of Depositors in the months prior to the *CCAA* filing, which they say were untrue and misleading. They submit that the Monitor must have known about these letters, and thus condoned, if not participated in, misrepresentations made to the Depositors.

57 The Monitor responds that it did not act in a management capacity with respect to the District nor did it prepare or issue communications pre-filing. It did not control the District Group.

58 There is no realistic indication of conflict arising from these allegations. The attempt to taint the Monitor with knowledge of letters sent by the District to the Depositors is speculation unsupported by any evidence.

59 The opposing Depositors also submit that the prior audit engagements create a potential conflict for the Monitor in the event that the Subcommittees of the Creditors' Committees decide to bring a claim against Deloitte & Touche as former auditor of the District or DIL. In that respect, Ms. Kroeger and Mr. Kellen have by letter dated March 4, 2016 demanded that the District commence legal proceedings against the District's auditors, including Deloitte & Touche. Given the stay, the District took no action, and the opposing Depositors concede that they did not expect the District to act during the *CCAA* proceedings.

60 It is not appropriate for this Court to determine or to speculate on whether the Depositors have a realistic cause of action against an auditor sixteen years after the final audit engagement, but assuming that the Representative Action provisions of the plans could result in an action against a sister corporation of the Monitor, the proposed ongoing role of the Monitor in those proceedings should be examined to determine whether such role could give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest.

61 As the Monitor points out, its role with respect to the Representative Action is limited to assisting in the formation of the Subcommittees (although it has no role in deciding who will serve on the Subcommittees), facilitating the review of qualifications of legal counsel who wish to act in the Representative Action (although the Monitor will not participate in the selection of the representative counsel), and communicating with Depositors based on instructions given by the Subcommittees with respect to the names of the members of the Subcommittees, the name of the representative counsel, the estimated amount of the Representative Action Holdback, the commencement date of the Representative Action, the deadline for opting out of the Representative Action, and instructions on how to opt-out of the Representative Action should Depositors choose to do so. The Monitor's involvement will be directed by the Subcommittees and is anticipated to be limited to these tasks. The Monitor notes that, should it or the Subcommittees determine that the Monitor has a conflict of interest in respect of completing any of these tasks, the Monitor would recuse itself. It submits however, that it is appropriate that it be involved in order to ensure that the Subcommittees are able to undertake these duties in a manner that complies with the requirements of the plans and does not prejudice the rights of Depositors under the plans.

62 The Monitor will aid in making distributions under the plans, including with respect to the release of any unused portion of the Representative Action Holdback, which it anticipates will be determined on a global basis and communicated by the Subcommittees to the Monitor on a global basis. The Monitor will have no knowledge of the considerations or calculations that so into establishing the Representative Action Holdback. Further, the Monitor does not need to be, and will not under any circumstances be, privy to any information regarding the strategy that the representative counsel chooses to communicate to Depositors, including the parties to be named in the Representative Action.

63 In the circumstances, the Monitor is the most appropriate party to be involved in communication with Depositors in the early stages of the Representative Action process, as it has the information and experience necessary to ensure that such communication is done quickly, effectively, and at the lowest possible expense.

64 The mere possibility of a decision to proceed against the Monitor's sister corporation does not justify the expense and disruption of bringing in a new Monitor to perform these administrative tasks. If the Subcommittees determine that an action can be commenced against the historical auditors that is not barred by limitations considerations, the issue of a real, rather than a speculative conflict, can be raised before the Court for advice and direction in accordance with the plans. The possibility that the Subcommittees may decide not to proceed against the historical auditors does not imply undue influence from the Monitor. The members of the Subcommittees will be fiduciaries, bound to act in the best interests of the remaining creditors.

65 There is no persuasive argument nor any evidence that they would act other than in those best interests.

66 The opposing Depositors' submission that the Monitor cannot with any degree of neutrality or objectivity advise the Court on the reasonableness and fairness of the Representative Action provisions of the plans ignores the fact that the Monitor is not released from liability for any damages arising from its pre-CCAA conduct as auditor to the District by the plans.

67 The opposing Depositors submit that there are "substantive and procedural benefits" from its continuing position that the Monitor may take advantage of. On closer examination, those alleged advantages are insignificant.

68 In summary, I find that there is no actual or perceived conflict of interest that would warrant the replacement of the Monitor, particularly at this late state of the CCAA proceedings. The Monitor made full disclosure of the historical audit relationship of its sister corporation to the District and DIL and its own pre-filing relationship to the District Group. Neither the Monitor nor Deloitte & Touche benefit from any releases as part of the plans. The Monitors' continuing involvement in the Representative Action process is limited, administrative in nature, and would take place pre-litigation.

3. Breach of Fiduciary Duty

69 A more serious charge against the Monitor than conflict of interest is the opposing Depositors' allegation that the Monitor breached its fiduciary duty to the Court and to District Depositors by failing to disclose certain municipal planning documents.

70 The documents at issue are:

a) a master-site development plan (the "MSDP") that was prepared for the District by an architectural firm in December, 2012 and was subsequently approved by the Municipal District of Rocky View County. This plan includes site information, layout and analysis of activities, facilities, maintenance and operations and a context for land use and the associated population density; and

b) an approved area structure plan for the Hamlet of Conrich (the "Conrich ASP"), which was put forward by the MD of Rocky View and which includes reference to the Prince of Peace properties.

71 The MSDP identifies several prerequisites to development of the Prince of Peace properties, including a connection to the municipal water supply, the upgrading of the sanitary sewer lift station and work on a storm water management infrastructure. The Monitor notes the MSDP was prepared specifically for the development contemplated by EHSS in 2012, being medium density residential and additional assisted living capacity, ground floor retail and a parkade structure. As such, it is likely

outdated and may not align with future development. A more recent appraisal of the properties in 2015 assumed low density development. The 2015 appraisal of the properties takes into account the work that would need to be undertaken by any third party who wished to further develop the Prince of Peace properties.

72 The opposing Depositors submit that the infrastructure projects identified by the MSDP would be costly and would likely pose barriers to development. They presented hearsay evidence of a conversation Mr. Kellen had with a Rocky View official that is of limited relevance apart from its hearsay nature, because future development would likely be different from what was contemplated in 2012.

73 The Conrich ASP stipulates that no development may occur within the Hamlet of Conrich until the kinds of infrastructure requirements identified in the MSDP are met. The ASP is being appealed by the City of Chestermere.

74 The Monitor became aware of these documents during its pre-filing services to the District Group. When a Depositor raised a question about these reports on April 28, 2016 at an information meeting, the Monitor prepared a QFA document dated April 29, 2016 regarding the future subdivision and development of the Prince of Peace properties and referencing the documents. This QFA was posted on the Monitor's website on April 29, 2016 and mailed to all affected creditors with claims over \$5,000 on May 3, 2016, more than a month before the meeting at which the District plan was approved.

75 The issue is whether the Monitor breached its duty to the Court and creditors by failing to disclose these reports earlier. The answer to this question must take into account the context of the District plan and the nature of the Monitor's recommendations.

76 The District plan does not contemplate that any further development of the Prince of Peace properties would occur pursuant to the *CCAA* proceedings. The possibility that NewCo shareholders would pursue further development is one of the options available to NewCo or to a third party purchaser of the Prince of Peace properties if NewCo shareholders decide to sell the properties, as recognized in the plan materials. The plan gives NewCo shareholders the opportunity to consider their options.

77 As the Monitor notes, a vote on the District plan is not a vote in favour of any particular mandate for NewCo. The District plan contemplates that a NewCo shareholders' meeting will be held within six months of the District plan taking effect, at which time the NewCo shareholders will vote on a proposed mandate for NewCo, which may include the expansion of the Harbour and Manor seniors' care facilities, the subdivision and orderly liquidation of all or a portion of the assets held by NewCo, a joint venture to further develop the Prince of Peace properties or other options. These options will need to be investigated and reported on by NewCo's management team ahead of the NewCo shareholders' meeting.

78 It was in this context that the Monitor considered the content of its reports to Depositors on the District plan and did not disclose the two plans, which in any event may be dated and of little relevance to a future development. I do not accept the opposing Depositors' allegation that the Monitor "concealed" this information.

79 In that regard, I note that, although Mr. Kellen in a sworn affidavit deposed that he became aware of the MSDP and Conrich ASP on or about April, 2016, he appears to have posted a link to the Conrich ASP in the CEF Forum website on February 24, 2015. It also appears that the MSDP document was discussed in the CEF Forum in January, 2016, with a link posted for participants in the forum. Mr. Kellen filed a supplementary affidavit after the Monitor noted these facts in its Twenty-First Report. He says that he now recalls reviewing the Conrich ASP, which references the MSDP, in February, 2015, but does not recall reading it in any great detail, that he did not appreciate the significance of the documents and simply forgot about them. This is hard to reconcile with Mr. Kellen's present insistence that the documents are highly relevant.

80 A further issue is whether the Monitor's recommendation of the District plan gave rise to a duty to disclose these documents. The opposing Depositors submit that the Monitor endorsed the plan on the basis of potential upside opportunities available through development. This submission appears to refer to a sentence in the Monitor's March 28, 2016 report to creditors, as follows:

The issuance of NewCo Shares pursuant to the District Plan allows District Depositors to benefit from the ability to liquidate the Prince of Peace Properties at a time when market conditions are more favourable or the ability to benefit from potential

upside opportunities that may be available such as through the further expansion of the Harbour and Manor seniors' care facilities, through a joint venture to further develop the Prince of Peace Properties or through other options

(emphasis added).

81 Clearly, the Monitor in its report referenced further development as only one of the options available to NewCo shareholders at the time of their first shareholders' meeting. It is incorrect to say that the Monitor's endorsement of the District plan was based solely on the option of development by NewCo acting alone. The Monitor did not recommend any particular mandate for NewCo in its various reports.

82 The Monitor decided that disclosure of the two documents at issue was not necessary in the context of a plan that put decisions with respect to the various options available to the new corporate owner of the property in the hands of the shareholders at a future date.

83 The opposing Depositors submit, however, that the District Depositors had the right to this information relating the pros and cons of development before deciding whether to become NewCo shareholders in the first place.

84 As it happened, they did have such access through the Monitor's April 29, 2016 QFA document, and also, it appears, through information posted on the CEF Forum and from information communicated during the information meetings for Depositors. There is no evidence that any Depositor failed to receive the Monitor's QFA document prior to the June 10, 2016 District meeting date.

85 The opposing Depositors are critical of the Monitor's QFA disclosure. The problem appears to be that the Monitor does not agree that the issues disclosed in the MSDP and the Conrich ASP are as dire as the opposing Depositors describe.

86 The opposing Depositors also fault the Monitor for not referencing a website where the documents could be found, but I note that the QFA provides a telephone numbers and email address for any inquiries.

87 They fault the Monitor for not discussing in the QFA the requirement to upgrade the sanitary sewer lift station and to provide for the disposal of storm water. As noted by the Monitor, those issues are typical of what would be encountered by any developer in considering a new development. The QFA refers to the development risks as follows:

All development activities have risk associated with them, however, the Monitor is not aware of any known issues related to the PoP Development which would suggest that the future subdivision or development of Prince of Peace Properties would not be feasible other than the risks that are typically associated with real estate development generally.

88 A difference of opinion between the opposing Depositors and the Monitor with respect to the significance of these development requirements does not constitute concealment, bad faith or breach of duty by the Monitor.

89 The opposing Depositors also fault the Monitor for failing to provide Depositors with new election letters and forms of proxy in its May 20, 2016 notice of adjournment of the District meeting. The notice clearly sets out the procedure to be followed if a Depositor wishes to change his or her vote or proxy. It invites Depositors to contact the Monitor by telephone or email if they have any additional questions. The Monitor notes that it sent out three election forms with its initial mail-out to Depositors, and received no requests for a new election form. It received at least one change of vote after sending out this notice.

90 One of the Alberta class action plaintiffs alleges that the Monitor impeded them from distributing material at the information meetings. The Monitor reports that the Alberta plaintiffs were present at the Sherwood Park meeting, handing out material and requesting contact information from other attendees. Some of the attendees expressed confusion as to who had authored the material being handed out by the two Alberta plaintiffs and who was requesting their contact information. The Monitor requested that the Alberta plaintiffs hand-out material at a reasonable distance from the meeting room entrance and communicate clearly to attendees that the material they were handing out was not authored, endorsed or being circulated by the Monitor and that they were not requesting contact information on behalf of the Monitor.

91 The Monitor wrote to class action counsel as follows:

The Monitor recognizes that your clients have expressed views thus far which are in opposition to the District's plan. Of course it is up to each depositor, including your clients, to decide how to vote. We also recognize that any party, including your clients, are entitled to voice their support or opposition to the District's plan. However, in the interest of ensuring an efficient meeting that respects the *CCAA* process and the interests of other depositors in attendance, the Monitor is implementing the below referenced rules and procedures. These rules and procedures are intended to provide your clients with the ability to convey their opinions in a fashion which does not impede the meeting and respects the rights of other parties in attendance.

92 The Monitor had a table established for the use of the class action representatives within reasonable proximity to the entrance to the room in which the meetings were held. The class action representatives were entitled to circulate written information to attendees within the reasonable vicinity of that table, but not permitted to disseminate any written material within the room or in the doorway entering the room in which the meetings were held.

93 The rules provided that any written communication circulated by the class action representatives was to include a prominently displayed disclaimer that such materials were not authored, endorsed or being circulated by the Monitor. A sign identifying the class action representatives was to be prepared by them and displayed at the table established for their use.

94 These are reasonable rules, designed to avoid confusion, and they did not impede the class action plaintiffs from voicing their views.

95 The opposing Depositors submit that the Monitor instructed attendees at information meetings to cast their votes immediately, without waiting for the District meeting. The Monitor denies encouraging creditors one way or the other with respect to when to vote. It communicated to attendees the options available to creditors for voting on the District plan and the deadlines associated with each option. It also communicated at meetings that creditors who wished to do so could provide the Monitor with any paperwork they had brought with them. It is a stretch to impute any kind of bad faith to the Monitor in conveying this information.

96 The class action plaintiffs and their counsel had the ability to attend all of the information meetings. They were in attendance and actively participated in the information meeting in Langley, BC, at the Sherwood Park Meeting, the Red Deer Meeting and the District Meeting. Both counsel were in attendance and participated in the District Meeting. The Monitor notes that it is aware of at least two emails that were widely circulated by a relative of one of the class action plaintiffs outlining the views of the class action plaintiffs on the District Plan. I am satisfied that the opposing Depositors had a more than adequate opportunity to communicate their views to other Depositors and to attempt to garner support for their opposition, and that they were not impeded by the Monitor.

97 I must address one more disturbing allegation. Two opposing Depositors submit that the Monitor's non-disclosure of the MSDP and the Conrich ASP in the context of what they allege is the Depositor's false and misleading communications with CEF Depositors might lead a reasonable and informed person to believe that "the Monitor is prepared to condone and facilitate the District's dishonest conduct". This is a disingenuous attack on the Monitor's professional reputation, made without evidence or any reasonable foundation. There is no air of reality to this allegation. There is no evidence that the Monitor was aware of misleading statements, if any, made by the District or its employees or agents before or during the *CCAA* proceedings.

98 The Monitor has prepared 22 regular reports during the approximately 18 months of these proceedings, plus five confidential supplements and three special reports providing creditors with specific information relating to their respective plans of compromise and arrangement. The Monitor also prepared hand-outs tailored to provided information to specific groups of creditors, and five QFAs with information on multiple topics, including NewCo, the potential outcomes of the *CCAA* proceedings, estates, trust accounts, the assignment of NewCo shares by creditors and the potential future subdivision of the Prince of Peace properties.

99 The Monitor attended five regional information meetings in Alberta and British Columbia between April 19 and April 28, 2016 to review the contents of the District plan and respond to any inquiries by District Depositors related to the plan. The Information Meetings were each between approximately two and a half and four hours long. It is clear that the information provided to creditors during these CCAA proceedings was far more extensive than that which would normally be provided.

100 Monitors, being under a duty to the Court as the Court officer and to the parties involved in a CCAA proceeding under statute, must sometimes make recommendations that are unpopular with some creditors. The Court expects a Monitor's honest and candid advice, and relies on it. The Monitor in this case went to great lengths to inform the great number of Depositors of ongoing proceedings, and to give its well-reasoned and measured opinion on the myriad of issues in this complex proceeding. In retrospect, it may have been prudent for the Monitor to reference the MSDP and Conrich ASP earlier, in substantially the way it was later referenced in the Monitor's QFA on development, but that is a hindsight observation, and unlikely to resolve other than one of the opposing Depositors' many complaints in support of their application.

4. Cost and Delay

101 The Monitor and the District Group submit that the timing of this application to remove the Monitor is suspect: that the alleged conflicts complained of have been disclosed for months. The opposing Depositors say that they were awaiting the outcome of the District vote, and that it was not until the May 14, 2016 District meeting that they knew that the Monitor knew about and had failed to disclose the MSDP and the Cornich ASP.

102 It is clear that the timing of the application is strategic: a clear majority of the DIL and District creditors have voted in favour of the plans despite the efforts of the relatively few opposing Depositors to convince others to join in their opposition. They must now rely on other grounds to frustrate, delay or defeat the Court's sanction of the plans. That is their prerogative as creditors who oppose the plan, and the Court must, and does, consider their objections seriously, whatever the underlying motivation. However, relief on a motion of this kind should only be granted where the evidence indicates "a genuine concern with respect to the merits of the alleged conflict": *Moffat v. Wetstein*, [1996] O.J. No. 1966 (Ont. Gen. Div.) at para 131.

103 While the timing of this application to replace the Monitor does not preclude the opposing Depositors from bringing the application, the Court must balance the potential risk to creditors and the District Group arising from the alleged potential conflict of interest against the prejudice to creditors and the District Group arising from the inevitable delay, duplication of effort and high costs involved with replacing the Monitor at this very late stage of the proceedings.

104 I have found that the Monitor does not have any legitimate conflict of interest, real or perceived, and that it has not breached any fiduciary duty. Even if I am wrong in this determination, the damage caused by such conflict or breach of duty has been mitigated by full disclosure of potential conflicts and disclosure of the information that the opposing Depositors submit should have been disclosed prior to the vote on the District Plan.

105 Compared to this, appointing a replacement Monitor would involve costs in excess of \$150,000, taking into account that the replacement Monitor would need to retain counsel. The process would cause substantial delay in already lengthy proceedings while the replacement Monitor reviews the events of the last eighteen months.

106 I also take into account that the key issue that the opposing Depositors want a replacement Monitor to review is whether the Representative Action provisions of the plans are within the jurisdiction of a CCAA court to sanction. This is a question of law, on which a replacement Monitor would have to rely on counsel.

107 At this point in the proceedings, in addition to being reviewed by the Monitor's legal counsel, the provisions of the plans related to the Representative Action have been reviewed by the creditors' committees for the District and DIL, who act in a fiduciary capacity with respect to the creditors of those respective entities and by each committee's independent legal counsel. The jurisdictional issue related to the Representative Action provisions is a legal matter rather than a business issue. As such, this Court is qualified to opine on it independently, without the assistance of a new Monitor.

108 I note that the creditors' committees who represent the majority of Depositors are strongly opposed to a replacement Monitor. They pointed out that the plans have been approved by the requisite majorities, and delay and additional cost does not serve the interests of the general body of creditors, particularly without what they consider to be any justifiable reason.

109 The assistance of a further limited purpose Monitor would likely be of little to no further assistance to the Court and would result in increased professional costs to the detriment of creditors as a whole. This is the tail-end of a lengthy process. The introduction of another Monitor without any clear, ascertainable benefit to the body of creditors, leading to uncertainty, costs and delay, is unwarranted.

5. Conclusion

110 The anger and frustration expressed in these proceedings by a small minority of Depositors, while perhaps understandable given their losses and the trust they placed in their Church, is misplaced when it is directed against the Monitor.

111 There is no reason arising from conflict of interest or breach of fiduciary duty to replace the Monitor.

112 I therefore dismiss the application.

B. Sanctioning of the DIL and District Plans

1. Overview

113 As provided in section 6(1) of the *CCAA*, the Court has the discretion to sanction a plan of compromise or arrangement where, as here, the requisite double majority of creditors has approved the plan. The effect of the Court's approval is to bind the debtor company and its creditors.

114 The general requirements for court approval of a *CCAA* plan are well established:

- (a) there must be strict compliance with all statutory requirements;
- (b) all materials filed and procedures carried out must be examined to determine if anything has been done or purported to have been done that is not authorized by the *CCAA*; and
- (c) the plan must be fair and reasonable.

Olympia & York Developments Ltd. v. Royal Trust Co. (1993), 17 C.B.R. (3d) 1 (Ont. Gen. Div.) at para 17; *Canadian Airlines Corp., Re*, 2000 ABQB 442 (Alta. Q.B.) at para 60, leave to appeal refused 2000 ABCA 238 (Alta. C.A. [In Chambers]), affirmed 2001 ABCA 9 (Alta. C.A.), leave to appeal refused [2001] S.C.C.A. No. 60 (S.C.C.); *Canwest Global Communications Corp., Re*, 2010 ONSC 4209 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) at para 14.

115 It is clear that there has been strict compliance with all statutory requirements with respect to both the DIL and the District plans, assuming jurisdiction as a different issue. The opposing Depositors attack the plans on the basis of the second and third requirements.

116 They submit:

- (a) the plans contain provisions that are not within the scheme and purpose of the *CCAA*;
- (b) the plans compromise third party claims;
- (c) the plans provide no benefit to Depositors within the purpose of the *CCAA*;
- (d) the plans contravene section 5.1(2) of the *CCAA*;

(e) the plans have not been advanced in good faith, with due diligence and full disclosure; and

(f) the plans are not fair and reasonable.

1. Do the plans contain provisions that are not within the scheme and purpose of the CCAA?

117 The opposing Depositors submit that the Representative Action provisions of the plans do not advance the District Group's restructuring goals.

118 The District and the Creditors' Committees respond that the Representative Action provisions follow the "one proceeding" model that underpins the *CCAA* and will prevent maneuvering among Depositors for better positions in subsequent litigation, which, they say, has already commenced with the stayed class action proceedings. They submit that the provisions provide certainty to Depositors and allow the District to continue its core function without the distraction of a myriad of claims, consuming its limited resources and having the potential to compromise its insurance coverage.

119 The opposing Depositors submit that procedural rules can be used to limit proceedings in the absence of the Representative Action provisions, and that if more than one class proceeding is brought within a jurisdiction, carriage motions can be brought to determine which action can proceed to certification. Thus, they argue, there is little likelihood that the District will be overwhelmed by litigation in the event that the plans are not approved. Rather, there will be one class proceeding in each of British Columbia and Alberta, and potentially a number of independent claims advanced by those who choose to opt out of those actions or whose claims are of an individual nature not suited to determination in a class proceeding. It is open to the District to apply to have those individual claims consolidated if it is appropriate to do so.

120 This argument contains its own contradictions. It anticipates multiple actions that may have to be resolved through court application and carriage motions, the very multiplicity of actions that the Representative Action provisions are proposed to alleviate.

121 The opposing Depositors cite *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.* (2008), 240 O.A.C. 245, 2008 ONCA 587 (Ont. C.A.) (CanLii); leave dismissed [2008] SCC No. 32765 [2008 CarswellOnt 5432 (S.C.C.)] for the proposition that the Court does not have the jurisdiction to approve a plan that contains terms that fall outside the purpose, objects and scheme of the *CCAA*. The *Metcalfe* decision dealt with a unique situation involving the Court's jurisdiction to approve a plan that involved wide-ranging releases. In the result, the Court approved the plan including the releases. The DIL and District plans do not involve third-party releases except in a limited sense that is not at issue. It is true that Blair, J.A. noted in the *Metcalfe* decision that 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 a third party release. However, he also noted at para 51 that, since its enactment:

Courts have recognized that the [*CCAA*] has a broader dimension than simply the direct relations between the debtor company and creditors and that this broader public dimension must be weighed in the balance together with the interests of those most directly affected.

122 The opposing creditors in *Metcalfe* raised many of the same arguments that the opposing Depositors raise in this case, and the Court noted that they "reflect a view of the purpose and objects of the *CCAA* that is too narrow": para 55.

123 The opposing Depositors also argue that any provision of a plan that may benefit the District is improper. They submit that the District's arguments "anticipate that it will be the beneficiary of [the Subcommittee's] goodwill", and that this betrays the District's improper motive. There is nothing improper or contrary to the scheme and purpose of the *CCAA* for a debtor company to attempt to be able to continue its business more efficiently and effectively post-*CCAA*. That is the very core and purpose of the *Act*. This argument assumes that the Subcommittees would betray their fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the creditors they will represent by favouring DIL or the District. There is no evidence that this would happen; on the contrary, the

Creditors' Committees have ably represented the interests of creditors as a whole in this restructuring, and there is no reason that the Subcommittees would do otherwise.

124 Finally, the opposing Depositors submit, referencing the results of a survey conducted by the Lutheran Church — Canada, that there is little likelihood of the District remaining in operation in the future without being subsumed into a single administrative structure. At this point, this is only a possibility that would not be implemented for more than a year, if it is implemented at all.

125 There is a nexus between the Representative Action provisions of the plans and the restructuring in that these provisions are designed to allow the District to continue in the operation of its core function without the distraction of multiple litigation, while preserving the rights of Depositors to assert actions against third parties involved in the events that led to this insolvency. This Court does not lack jurisdiction to sanction the plans for this reason.

2. Do the Representative Action provisions of the plans compromise third party claims?

126 The basis for this submission is that the Subcommittees will have absolute discretion to commence and compromise third party claims (including derivative claims), to instruct counsel, and to determine the litigation budget to be shouldered by the Depositors. Under the terms of the plans, a Depositor whose third-party claim is denied by the Subcommittee has no right to proceed independently.

127 The plans impose fiduciary duties on the Subcommittee members to act in the best interest of Depositors who do not opt-out. No claims are *prima facie* released, other than the partial releases that are unopposed. Thus, it must be assumed that a claim against a third party will not be advanced by a Subcommittee only if not doing so is consistent with its fiduciary duties for whatever reason (for example, advice from representative counsel that a claim has no basis for success).

128 The opposing Depositors put forward a hypothetical situation in which an individual may have a meritorious claim that he or she wishes to pursue, but the Subcommittee doesn't wish to proceed due to lack of funding. The District and the Monitor point out, and I accept, that the definition of Representative Action permits more than one action. There is no provision of the plans that prevents this hypothetical individual from funding the Subcommittee to pursue such an action on his or her behalf as a Representative Plaintiff. The individual would become part of the Subcommittee and the action would be advanced by the Subcommittee using representative counsel. The hypothetical action would be treated like any other representative action claim under the plans. The Subcommittee would have carriage and control of such litigation, subject to its fiduciary obligations.

129 If any issues arose from such a hypothetical situation, the advice and direction of the Court is available.

130 It is important to note that the Representative Action provisions of the plans do not deprive any Depositors of the right to pursue claims as described against third-parties. They merely funnel the process through independent Subcommittees of creditors chosen from among the Depositors who have claims remaining after the Convenience Payments and who will have the fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the body of such creditors to maximize recovery of their investments.

131 While third-party claims could be pursued in another fashion, through uncoordinated action by individual Depositors, that does not mean that the Representative Action provisions constitute a compromise of such claims. There is no jurisdictional impediment to sanction arising from this inaccurate characterization of the plan provisions.

3. Do the Representative Action provisions provide any benefit to Depositors within the purpose of the CCAA?

132 The Monitor identified the benefits of the Representative Action provisions in its reports to Depositors as follows:

- (a) they provide a streamlined process for the establishment of the Representative Action class and the funding of the Representative Action;
- (b) they prevent a situation where Depositors are being contacted by multiple groups seeking to represent them in a class action or otherwise;

(c) they may result in increased recoveries through settlement of the Representative Action claims on a group basis; and

(d) as certain Depositors have indicated that they view any involvement in litigation as inconsistent with their personal religious beliefs, the Representative Action process allows them to opt-out before litigation is even commenced, should that be their preference.

133 The opposing Depositors suggest that none of these benefits fall within the "express purposes" of the *CCAA*. As noted by the Supreme Court in *Ted Leroy Trucking Ltd., Re*, 2010 SCC 60 (S.C.C.) [hereinafter Century Services], the *CCAA* has a broad remedial purpose, and permits a company to continue its business through various methods, with a view to becoming viable once again, including compromises or arrangements between an insolvent company and its creditors, and a going-forward strategy.

134 The *Act* is aimed at avoiding, where possible, the devastating social and economic consequences of the cessation of business operations, and at allowing the debtor to carry on business in a manner that causes the least possible harm to employees and the communities in which it operates. I accept that this is what the District Group is attempting to do with the plans, including the Representative Action provisions. While these provisions are of benefit to the District in allowing it to deal with claims affecting its officers, directors and employees from a single source, they also have a rationale and reasonable purpose in protecting the community of mostly older Depositors that the District will continue to serve in a religious capacity, and in attempting to maximize recovery through the possibility of focused negotiations with a limited number of parties. This does not mean that these types of provisions will always be an appropriate way to deal with third party claims, but, in the circumstances of this rather unique restructuring, the benefits are reasonable, rationale and connected with the overall restructuring.

135 The DIL and District plans are part of a four component conceptual plan of arrangement and compromise that is designed to permit the District to continue to carry out its core operations as a church entity without the CEF and DIL functions that it has previously carried out and without the senior's care ministry component it had carried out through ECHS and EMSS. The opposing Depositors take an overly narrow view of the *CCAA's* purpose, and ignore the real benefits identified by the Monitor to the large group of Depositors who are interested in recovering as much of their investment as possible. This Court does not lack jurisdiction to sanction the plans on this ground.

4. Do the plans contravene section 5.1(2) of the CCAA?

136 Claims that may be included in the Representative Action provisions include claims that cannot be compromised pursuant to section 5.1(2) of the *CCAA* as they are claims against directors that relate to a contractual right of one or more creditors or are based on allegations of misrepresentations made by directors to creditors or wrongful or oppressive conduct by a director.

137 As noted previously, the plans do not release or compromise any claims that can be pursued in the Representative Action. Accordingly, the plans permit the directors to be pursued in a Representative Action in accordance with s. 5.1(2) of the *CCAA*.

5. Have the plans been advanced in good faith, with diligence and full disclosure?

138 As noted with respect to the application to replace the Monitor, it was not necessary for the District to disclose the MSDP and the Conrich ASP in the context of the District plan. However, these documents were disclosed to Depositors before the reconvened District meeting, and Depositors had the ability to change their vote on the District plan with this information in hand. The District was not guilty of bad faith arising from these circumstances.

139 The opposing Depositors also submit that counsel for the District Group, by acting as counsel and advancing the plans, has "intentionally sought to misuse the *CCAA* proceedings to shield himself and his law firm from liability". First, neither counsel nor his firm is released by the plans from any liability, other than the limited release provisions that are not contentious. The opposing creditors have made a number of allegations against counsel and his firm; none of these allegations have been tested or established and undoubtedly the Subcommittees will have to consider whether to bring proceedings against these parties for advice that may have been provided to the District Group prior to the *CCAA* filing. This situation does not give rise to bad faith by the District Group.

140 The opposing Depositors also allege that counsel for the District Group has been unjustly enriched as a result of the legal fees they have been paid while acting as counsel in these proceedings. Counsel has not been able to respond to this allegation of dubious merit. Again, this is irrelevant to the issue of the District Group's good faith.

141 Similar allegations have been made about the Monitor, which have been addressed in the decision relating to the replacement of Monitor.

6. Are the Plans Fair and Reasonable?

a. Overview

142 Farley, J. in *Sammi Atlas Inc., Re*, [1998] O.J. No. 1089 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]) at para 4 provided a useful description of the Court's duty in determining whether a proposed plan is fair and reasonable:

... is the Plan fair and reasonable? A Plan under the *CCAA* is a compromise; it cannot be expected to be perfect. It should be approved if it is fair, reasonable and equitable. Equitable treatment is not necessarily equal treatment. Equal treatment may be contrary to equitable treatment. One must look at the creditors as a whole (i.e. generally) and to the objecting creditors (specifically) and see if rights are compromised in an attempt to balance interests (and have the pain of the compromise equitably shared) as opposed to a confiscation of rights. It is recognized that the *CCAA* contemplates that a minority of creditors is bound by the Plan which a majority have approved — subject only to the court determining that the Plan is fair and reasonable: see *Northland Properties Ltd.* at p.201; *Olympia & York Developments Ltd.* at p.509.

In an earlier case, he commented:

In the give and take of a *CCAA* plan negotiation, it is clear that equitable treatment need not necessarily involve equal treatment. There is some give and some get in trying to come up with an overall plan which Blair J. in *Olympia & York* likened to a sharing of the pain. Simply put, any *CCAA* arrangement will involve pain — if for nothing else than the realization that one has made a bad investment/loan: *Re: Central Guarantee Trust Ltd.*, [1993] O.J. No. 1479.

143 The objection of the opposing Depositors to these plans focus mainly on whether the different treatment of some creditors results in inequitable treatment, whether the plans are flawed in any respect and how much weight I should accord to the approval of the majority.

b. Deference to the Majority

144 Dealing with the important factor of the approval of the plans by the requisite double majority of creditors, the Court in *Muscletech Research & Development Inc., Re*, [2007] O.J. No. 695 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) at para 18 commented:

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.

145 The opposing Depositors, however, invite me to do just that. They refer to a remark by McLachlen, J. (as she then was), in *Gold Texas Resources Ltd., Re*, [1989] B.C.J. No. 167 (B.C. S.C. [In Chambers]) at page 4, to the effect that the court should determine whether "there is not within an apparent majority some undisclosed or unwarranted coercion of the minority.... (i)t must be satisfied that the majority is acting *bona fide* and in good faith".

146 The opposing Depositors submit that, in considering the voting results, I should keep in mind that the many of the Depositors "are not businessmen" and that 60% of them are senior citizens over 60 years of age. I note that some of the opposing creditors are also "not businessmen" and are over 60, but the Court is not asked to discount their opposing votes for that reason.

147 I have read the considerable disclosure about the plans prepared and distributed by the Monitor, and note the extraordinary efforts of the Monitor and the District Group to ensure that Depositors had the opportunity to ask questions at the information meetings. The Depositors have had months to inform themselves of the plans. Even if the disputed development disclosure had been necessary, there were roughly 1 1/2 months from the Monitor's disclosure of the documents to the vote on the District Plan. It would be patronizing for the Court to assume anything other than the Depositors were capable of reading the materials, asking relevant questions and exercising judgment in their own best interest. Business sophistication is not a necessity in making an informed choice.

148 The opposing Depositors also submit that there is evidence of efforts by Church officials to influence the outcome of the vote in favour of the plans. This evidence consists of affidavits from the opposing Depositors or their supporters that accuse various Church pastors of efforts to intimidate or silence those who oppose the plans. These allegations have been made against individuals who are not direct parties in these proceedings, at such a time and in such circumstances that it was not possible for them to respond.

149 As seen from the allegations against the Monitor, to which the Monitor had an opportunity to respond, there may be very different perceptions about what actually occurred during the incidents described in the allegations. I appreciate that it must be uncomfortable to be at odds with your religious community on an important issue. However, these allegations would bear greater weight if the terms of the plans were prejudicial to the Depositors as a whole, or the allegations were supported by the Creditor's Committees but they are not. It is not unreasonable or irrational for Depositors to have voted in favour of the plans.

150 I am unable to accept on the evidence before me that the Depositors who voted in favour of the plans did so because they were coerced by church officials. This does a disservice to those who exercised their right to vote and to have an opinion on the plans, no matter what their level of sophistication, their age or their religious persuasion.

c. The Convenience Payments

151 The opposing Depositors also submit that the votes in favour of the District plan were unfairly skewed by the fact that creditors with claims of less than \$5,000 are to be paid in full (the "Convenience Creditors"). The Monitor reports that, of the 1,616 Convenience Creditors, 500 or 31% in number holding 54% in value of total claims under \$5,000 voted on the District plan.

152 Of the 500 Convenience Creditors who voted on the District plan, 450 or 90% voted in favour of the District plan and 50 or 10% voted against the District plan. The Convenience Creditors who voted in favour of the District plan had claims of approximately \$641,300 (91% of the total claims of voting Convenience Creditors), and the Convenience Creditors who voted against the District plan had claims of approximately \$66,500 (9% of the total claims of voting Convenience Creditors).

153 Approximately 1,294 Eligible Affected Creditors with total claims of approximately \$85.1 million voted on the District plan. The Convenience Creditors therefore represented approximately 39% in number and approximately 1% in dollar value of the total eligible affected creditors. In order for the District plan to be approved, both a majority in number and two-thirds in dollar value of voting creditors must have voted in favour of the plan. As such, while the Convenience Payments increased the likelihood that a majority in number of Creditors would vote in favour of the plan, they had little impact on the likelihood that two-thirds in dollar value of voting creditors would vote in favour of the plan.

154 Excluding the Convenience Creditors, a total of 794 creditors voted on the District plan, of which 626, or approximately 79% voted in favour and 168 voted against. Therefore the plan still would have passed by a majority in number of voting creditors had the Convenience Creditors not voted.

155 The District Group and the Monitor note that the Convenience Creditor payments have the effect of limiting the number of NewCo shareholders to about 1,000, rather than 2,600, thus creating a more manageable corporate governance structure for NewCo and ensuring that only Depositors with a significant financial interest in NewCo will be shareholders. This is a reasonable and persuasive rationale for paying out the Convenience Creditors. While each case must be reviewed in its unique circumstances, this type of payout of creditors with smaller claims is not uncommon in CCAA restructurings: *Contech Enterprises Inc., Re*, 2015 BCSC 129 (B.C. S.C.); *Target Canada Co., Re*, 2016 CarswellOnt 8815 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]); *Nelson Financial Group Ltd., Re*, 2011 ONSC 2750 (Ont. S.C.J.).

156 As noted previously, equitable treatment is not necessary equal treatment, and the elimination of potential shareholders with little financial interest from NewCo is a benefit to remaining Depositors in the context of the District plan. They may not have had any significant financial influence in the corporation, but their interests would have had to be taken into account in deciding on the future of NewCo.

d. The NewCo provisions

157 The opposing Depositors submit that, as the future of the Prince of Peace properties cannot be known until after the first meeting of NewCo shareholders six months after the effective date of the plan, the plan deprives the Court of the ability to ensure the plan is fair and reasonable and therefore appropriate to impose on the minority.

158 This is incorrect. What is relevant to the Court in reviewing the plan is the value of the shares of NewCo that are part of the consideration that will be distributed to some of the District Depositors. As noted in *Century Services* at para 77:

Because the alternative to reorganization is often bankruptcy, participants will measure the impact of a reorganization against the position they would enjoy in liquidation.

159 The Monitor notes that the value of the NewCo shares is intended to be based principally on the independent appraisals, which reflect a range of forced sale values. The Monitor has consulted with the Deloitte' Valuations Group, which has indicated that in valuing shares such as those of NewCo, it would be more common to value assets such as the Prince of Peace properties based on appraised market values as opposed to forced sale values. The Monitor reports that it has attempted to balance this consideration against other practical considerations, such as that fact that, depending on the mandate that is chosen for NewCo, the Prince of Peace properties may still be liquidated in the near-term, and that therefore, there is the need to accurately reflect the shortfall to some of the Depositors, which will represent the amount they would ultimately be able to pursue in the Representative Action. I accept the Monitor's opinion that it is unlikely that the values attributed to the Prince of Peace properties in calculating the value of the NewCo shares will reflect the lowest forced sale values reflected in the appraisals.

160 The District Plan contemplates a debt-to equity conversion, which is common in CCAA proceedings. The Court does not have to make a determination of the value of the equity offered, as long as it is satisfied, as I am, that the value of the package to be distributed to the Depositors will likely exceed a current forced-sale liquidation recovery in this depressed real estate market, which is the alternative proposed by the opposing Depositors. The plan provides the NewCo shareholders with flexibility to optimize recovery at the time of the first shareholder's meeting, with the advantage of recommendations from an experienced management team. While there is no guarantee that the market will improve, it is a realistic possibility. At any rate, the sale of the Prince of Peace properties will not be the only option available to NewCo shareholders. Again, I must take into account that this appears to be the view of the Depositors who voted in favour of the plan.

161 The opposing Depositors submit that the NewCo shares are not a suitable investment for District Depositors over the age of 70. It is unrealistic to believe that any CCAA plan of compromise and arrangement would be supported by all of a debtor company's creditors or that the compromise effected would be ideally suited to every creditor's personal situation. The NewCo articles attempt to address the concerns of those who don't want to hold shares by building in provisions that would allow the possibility that shareholders are able to sell to other shareholders or have their shares redeemed.

162 This is not a perfect solution, but plans do not have to be perfect to be found to be fair and reasonable. I find that the NewCo provisions of the District plan, in the context of the plan, as a whole, are fair and reasonable.

e. The Representative Action provisions

163 In addition to submissions previously discussed with respect to these provisions, the opposing Depositors submit that "(n)o honest and intelligent District Depositors acting in their own best interests would give up these fundamental rights of [full and unfettered access to the courts] where the law already provides perfectly satisfactory processes for advancing legal claims against third parties on a class basis. These provisions are neither fair nor reasonable, and accordingly must not receive the sanction of this Court".

164 The short answer to this is that a majority of the honest and intelligent Depositors have voted in favour of the plans, including the Representative Action provisions. It is not the place of this Court to second guess their decision without good and persuasive reasons: *Central Guaranty Trustco Ltd., Re* [1993 CarswellOnt 228 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List])] at paras 3&4; *Muscletech* at para 18.

165 The opposing Depositors also submit that the Representative Action provisions of the plans are flawed in that they do not provide for information about causes of action the Subcommittee intends to advance, and against whom prior to the opt-out deadline.

166 However, Depositors are able to opt-out at any time prior to the last business day preceeding the date of commencement of the Representative Action. It is not unreasonable to anticipate that Depositors will have further information with respect to the proposed Representative Actions prior to their commencement.

167 It is also true that participating Depositors will not know their own proportionate share of the Representative Action Holdback until after the opt-out deadline has passed and the size of the Representative Action class is known. However, the Monitor has committed to provide a range of what individual shares may be.

168 The opposing Depositors submit that in the absence of reliable information about the extent of their financial commitment to the Representative Action, it can reasonably be expected that many District Depositors will be content to receive their distribution under the plan and forgo the balance of their claims by electing to opt out the Representative Action. This is not a reasonable assumption. Representative counsel will likely be retained on a contingency fee basis, and therefore Depositors will be unlikely to be at risk for a substantial retainer to advance the Representative Action.

169 Finally, on this issue, the opposing Depositors submit there is an irreconcilable conflict of interest between the Subcommittee and a Representative Plaintiff that can be expected to mar the Representative Action. Unlike the Subcommittee tasked with instructing counsel, the Representative Plaintiff bears the sole financial responsibility for paying an adverse costs award. The opposing Depositors submit that it is reasonable to expect that there may be a divergence of views between the Subcommittee and the Representative Plaintiff as to the conduct of the Representative Action.

170 As would be the case in class action proceedings when the interests of representative plaintiffs come into conflicts with the interests of the class, advice and direction can be sought from the Court in the event that this situation materializes.

171 The opposing Depositors submit that the Representative Action provisions interfere with a citizen's constitutional right of access to the courts. These provisions do not deprive the Depositors from their right to take action against third parties; they are able to do so through a Subcommittee chosen from their members with fiduciary duties to the whole. This issue was considered in the context of third-party releases, which do eliminate the right to pursue an action against third parties, in *Metcalfe*, and Blair, J.A. commented at para 104 as follows:

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.

7. Conclusion

172 As noted at para 18 of *Metcalf*:

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 votes 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.

173 In this case, the requisite double majority, after significant disclosure and opportunities to review and question the plans, have voted in favour of the plans. The Creditors' Committees of DIL and the District, who have the duty to act in the best interests of the body of creditors, support the plans.

174 The Monitor supports the plans, and there is no reason in this case to give the Monitor's opinion less than the usual deference and weight.

175 Measuring the plans against available commercial alternatives leads me to the conclusion that they provide greater benefits to Depositors and other creditors than a forced liquidation in a depressed real estate market.

176 The plans preserve the District's core operations. I accept that the Representative Action provisions are appropriate and reasonable in the circumstances of this restructuring, that, in addition to the benefits identified by the Monitor of stream-lined proceedings, the avoidance of multiple communications and the potential of increased recovery, Depositors will benefit from the oversight of the Subcommittees and the Representative Action process will be able to incorporate cause of action, such as derivative actions, that are normally outside the scope of class actions.

177 The insolvency of the District Group has caused heartbreak and hardship for many people, as is the case in any insolvency. In the end, the majority of affected creditors have accepted plans that resolve their collective problems to the extent possible in difficult circumstances. As noted in *Metcalf* "in insolvency restructuring proceedings almost everyone loses something": para 117. That is certainly the case here, and the best that can be done is to try to ensure that the plans are a reasonable "balancing of prejudices". It is not possible to please all stakeholders.

178 The balance of interests clearly favours approval. I am satisfied that the DIL and District plans are fair and reasonable and should be sanctioned.

Application dismissed.

TAB 13

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])

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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.

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 ABCP 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.

- * 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.

TAB 14

2012 ONSC 234
Ontario Superior Court of Justice [Commercial List]

Kitchener Frame Ltd., Re

2012 CarswellOnt 1347, 2012 ONSC 234, 212 A.C.W.S. (3d) 631, 86 C.B.R. (5th) 274

**In the Matter of the Bankruptcy and
Insolvency Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3, as Amended**

In the Matter of the Consolidated Proposal of Kitchener Frame
Limited and Thyssenkrupp Budd Canada, Inc. (Applicants)

Morawetz J.

Judgment: February 3, 2012
Docket: CV-11-9298-00CL

Counsel: Edward A. Sellers, Jeremy E. Dacks for Applicants
Hugh O'Reilly — Non-Union Representative Counsel
L.N. Gottheil — Union Representative Counsel
John Porter for Proposal Trustee, Ernst & Young Inc.
Michael McGraw for CIBC Mellon Trust Company
Deborah McPhail for Financial Services Commission of Ontario

Morawetz J.:

1 At the conclusion of this unopposed motion, the requested relief was granted. Counsel indicated that it would be helpful if the court could provide reasons in due course, specifically on the issue of a third-party release in the context of a proposal under Part III of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* ("*BIA*").

2 Kitchener Frame Limited ("KFL") and Thyssenkrupp Budd Canada Inc. ("Budd Canada"), and together with KFL, (the "Applicants"), brought this motion for an order (the "Sanction Order") to sanction the amended consolidated proposal involving the Applicants dated August 31, 2011 (the "Consolidated Proposal") pursuant to the provisions of the *BIA*. Relief was also sought authorizing the Applicants and Ernst & Young Inc., in its capacity as proposal trustee of each of the Applicants (the "Proposal Trustee") to take all steps necessary to implement the Consolidated Proposal in accordance with its terms.

3 The Applicants submit that the requested relief is reasonable, that it benefits the general body of the Applicants' creditors and meets all other statutory requirements. Further, the Applicants submit that the court should also consider that the voting affected creditors (the "Affected Creditors") unanimously supported the Consolidated Proposal. As such, the Applicants submit that they have met the test as set out in s. 59(2) of the *BIA* with respect to approval of the Consolidated Proposal.

4 The motion of the Applicants was supported by the Proposal Trustee. The Proposal Trustee filed its report recommending approval of the Consolidated Proposal and indicated that the Consolidated Proposal was in the best interests of the Affected Creditors.

5 KFL and Budd Canada are inactive entities with no operating assets and no material liquid assets (other than the Escrow Funds). They do have significant and mounting obligations including pension and other non-pension post-employment benefit ("OPEB") obligations to the Applicants' former employees and certain former employees of Budcan Holdings Inc. or the surviving spouses of such former employees or others who may be entitled to claim through such persons in the *BIA* proceedings, including the OPEB creditors.

6 The background facts with respect to this motion are fully set out in the affidavit of Mr. William E. Aziz, sworn on September 13, 2011.

7 Affiliates of Budd Canada have provided up to date funding to Budd Canada to enable Budd Canada to fund, on behalf of KFL, such pension and OPEB obligations. However, given that KFL and Budd Canada have no active operations, the *status quo* is unsustainable.

8 The Applicants have acknowledged that they are insolvent and, in connection with the *BIA* proposal, proceedings were commenced on July 4, 2011.

9 On July 7, 2011, Wilton-Siegel J. granted Procedural Consolidation Orders in respect of KFL and Budd Canada which authorized the procedural consolidation of the Applicants and permitted them to file a single consolidated proposal to their creditors.

10 The Orders of Wilton-Siegel J. also appointed separate representative counsel to represent the interests of the Union and Non-Union OPEB creditors and further authorized the Applicants to continue making payments to Blue Cross in respect of the OPEB Claims during the *BIA* proposal proceedings.

11 On August 2, 2011, an order was granted extending the time to file a proposal to August 19, 2011.

12 The parties proceeded to negotiate the terms of the Consolidated Proposal, which meetings involved the Applicants, the Proposal Trustee, senior members of the CAW, Union Representative Counsel and Non-Union Representative Counsel.

13 An agreement in principle was reached which essentially provided for the monetization and compromise of the OPEB claims of the OPEB creditors resulting in a one-time, lump-sum payment to each OPEB creditor term upon implementation of the Consolidated Proposal. The Consolidated Proposal also provides that the Applicants and their affiliates will forego any recoveries on account of their secured and unsecured inter-company claims, which total approximately \$120 million. A condition precedent was the payment of sufficient funds to the Pension Fund Trustee such that when such funds are combined with the value of the assets held in the Pension Plans, the Pension Fund Trustee will be able to fully annuitize the Applicants' pension obligations and pay the commuted values to those creditors with pension claims who so elected so as to provide for the satisfaction of the Applicants' pension obligations in full.

14 On August 19, 2011, the Applicants filed the Consolidated Proposal. Subsequent amendments were made on August 31, 2011 in advance of the creditors' meeting to reflect certain amendments to the proposal.

15 The creditors' meeting was held on September 1, 2011 and, at the meeting, the Consolidated Proposal, as amended, was accepted by the required majority of creditors. Over 99.9% in number and over 99.8% in dollar value of the Affected Creditors' Class voted to accept the Consolidated Proposal. The Proposal Trustee noted that all creditors voted in favour of the Consolidated Proposal, with the exception of one creditor, Canada Revenue Agency (with 0.1% of the number of votes representing 0.2% of the value of the vote) who attended the meeting but abstained from voting. Therefore, the Consolidated Proposal was unanimously approved by the Affected Creditors. The Applicants thus satisfied the required "double majority" voting threshold required by the *BIA*.

16 The issue on the motion was whether the court should sanction the Consolidated Proposal, including the substantive consolidation and releases contained therein.

17 Pursuant to s. 54(2)(d) of the *BIA*, a proposal is deemed to be accepted by the creditors if it has achieved the requisite "double majority" voting threshold at a duly constituted meeting of creditors.

18 The *BIA* requires the proposal trustee to apply to court to sanction the proposal. At such hearing, s. 59(2) of the *BIA* requires that the court refuse to approve the proposal where its terms are not reasonable or not calculated to benefit the general body of creditors.

19 In order to satisfy s. 59(2) test, the courts have held that the following three-pronged test must be satisfied:

(a) the proposal is reasonable;

(b) the proposal is calculated to benefit the general body of creditors; and

(c) the proposal is made in good faith.

See *Mayer, Re* (1994), 25 C.B.R. (3d) 113 (Ont. Bkcty.); *Steeves, Re* (2001), 25 C.B.R. (4th) 317 (Sask. Q.B.); *Magnus One Energy Corp., Re* (2009), 53 C.B.R. (5th) 243 (Alta. Q.B.).

20 The first two factors are set out in s. 59(2) of the *BIA* while the last factor has been implied by the court as an exercise of its equitable jurisdiction. The courts have generally taken into account the interests of the debtor, the interests of the creditors and the interests of the public at large in the integrity of the bankruptcy system. See *Farrell, Re* (2003), 40 C.B.R. (4th) 53 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]).

21 The courts have also accorded substantial deference to the majority vote of creditors at a meeting of creditors; see *Lofchik, Re*, [1998] O.J. No. 332 (Ont. Bkcty.). Similarly, the courts have also accorded deference to the recommendation of the proposal trustee. See *Magnus One, supra*.

22 With respect to the first branch of the test for sanctioning a proposal, the debtor must satisfy the court that the proposal is reasonable. The court is authorized to only approve proposals which are reasonable and calculated to benefit the general body of creditors. The court should also consider the payment terms of the proposal and whether the distributions provided for are adequate to meet the requirements of commercial morality and maintaining the integrity of the bankruptcy system. For a discussion on this point, see *Lofchik, supra*, and *Farrell, supra*.

23 In this case, the Applicants submit that, if the Consolidated Proposal is sanctioned, they would be in a position to satisfy all other conditions precedent to closing on or prior to the date of the proposal ("Proposal Implementation Date").

24 With respect to the treatment of the Collective Bargaining Agreements, the Applicants and the CAW brought a joint application before the Ontario Labour Relations Board ("OLRB") on an expedited basis seeking the OLRB's consent to an early termination of the Collective Bargaining Agreements. Further, the CAW has agreed to abandon its collective bargaining rights in connection with the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

25 With respect to the terms and conditions of a Senior Secured Loan Agreement between Budd Canada and TK Finance dated as of December 22, 2010, TK Finance provided a secured creditor facility to the Applicants to fund certain working capital requirements before and during the *BIA* proposal proceedings. As a result of the approval of the Consolidated Proposal at the meeting of creditors, TK Finance agreed to provide additional credit facilities to Budd Canada such that the Applicants would be in a position to pay all amounts required to be paid by or on behalf of the Applicants in connection with the Consolidated Proposal.

26 On the issue as to whether creditors will receive greater recovery under the Consolidated Proposal than they would receive in the bankruptcy, it is noted that creditors with Pension Claims are unaffected by the Consolidated Proposal. The Consolidated Proposal provides for the satisfaction of Pension Claims in full as a condition precedent to implementation.

27 With respect to Affected Creditors, the Applicants submit that they will receive far greater recovery from distributions under the Consolidated Proposal than the Affected Creditors would receive in the event of the bankruptcies of the Applicants. (See Sanction Affidavit of Mr. Aziz at para. 61.)

28 The Proposal Trustee has stated that the Consolidated Proposal is advantageous to creditors for the reasons outlined in its Report and, in particular:

(a) the recoveries to creditors with claims in respect of OPEBs are considerably greater under the Amended Proposal than in a bankruptcy;

(b) payments under the Amended Proposal are expected in a timely manner shortly after the implementation of the Amended Proposal;

(c) the timing and quantum of distributions pursuant to the Amended Proposal are certain while distributions under a bankruptcy are dependent on the results of litigation, which cannot be predicted with certainty; and

(d) the Pension Plans (as described in the Proposal Trustee's Report) will be fully funded with funds from the Pension Escrow (as described in the Proposal Trustee's Report) and, if necessary, additional funding from an affiliate of the Companies if the funds in the Pension Escrow are not sufficient. In a bankruptcy, the Pension Plans may not be fully funded.

29 The Applicants take the position that the Consolidated Proposal meets the requirements of commercial morality and maintains the integrity of the bankruptcy system, in light of the superior coverage to be afforded to the Applicants' creditors under the Consolidated Proposal than in the event of bankruptcy.

30 The Applicants also submit that substantive consolidation inherent in the proposal will not prejudice any of the Affected Creditors and is appropriate in the circumstances. Although not expressly contemplated under the *BIA*, the Applicants submit that the court may look to its incidental, ancillary and auxiliary jurisdiction under s. 183 of the *BIA* and its equitable jurisdiction to grant an order for substantive consolidation. See *Ashley v. Marlow Group Private Portfolio Management Inc.* (2006), 22 C.B.R. (5th) 126 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]). In deciding whether to grant substantive consolidation, courts have held that it should not be done at the expense of, or possible prejudice of, any particular creditor. See *Ashley*, *supra*. However, counsel submits that this court should take into account practical business considerations in applying the *BIA*. See *A. & F. Baillargeon Express Inc., Re* (1993), 27 C.B.R. (3d) 36 (C.S. Que.).

31 In this case, the Applicants submit that substantive consolidation inherent in the Consolidated Proposal is appropriate in the circumstances due to, among other things, the intertwined nature of the Applicants' assets and liabilities. Each Applicant had substantially the same creditor base and known liabilities (other than certain Excluded Claims). In addition, KFL had no cash or cash equivalents and the Applicants are each dependant on the Escrow Funds and borrowings under the Restated Senior Secured Loan Agreement to fund the same underlying pension and OPEB obligations and costs relating to the Proposal Proceedings.

32 The Applicants submit that creditors in neither estate will be materially prejudiced by substantive consolidation and based on the fact that no creditor objected to the substantial consolidation, counsel submits the Consolidated Proposal ought to be approved.

33 With respect to whether the Consolidated Proposal is calculated to benefit the general body of creditors, TK Finance would be entitled to priority distributions out of the estate in a bankruptcy scenario. However, the Applicants and their affiliates have agreed to forego recoveries under the Consolidated Proposal on account of their secured and unsecured intercompany claims in the amount of approximately \$120 million, thus enhancing the level of recovery for the Affected Creditors, virtually all of whom are OPEB creditors. It is also noted that TK Finance will be contributing over \$35 million to fund the Consolidated Proposal.

34 On this basis, the Applicants submit that the Consolidated Proposal is calculated to benefit the general body of creditors.

35 With respect to the requirement of the proposal being made in good faith, the debtor must satisfy the court that it has provided full disclosure to its creditors of its assets and encumbrances against such assets.

36 In this case, the Applicants and the Proposal Trustee have involved the creditors pursuant to the Representative Counsel Order, and through negotiations with the Union Representative Counsel and Non-Union Representative Counsel.

37 There is also evidence that the Applicants have widely disseminated information regarding their *BIA* proposal proceedings through the media and through postings on the Proposal Trustee's website. Information packages have also prepared by the Proposal Trustee for the creditors.

38 Finally, the Proposal Trustee has noted that the Applicants' conduct, both prior to and subsequent to the commencement of the *BIA* proposal proceedings, is not subject to censure in any respect and that the Applicants' have acted in good faith.

39 There is also evidence that the Consolidated Proposal continues requisite statutory terms. The Consolidated Proposal provides for the payment of preferred claims under s. 136(1) of the *BIA*.

40 Section 7.1 of the Consolidated Proposal contains a broad release in favour of the Applicants and in favour of certain third parties (the "Release"). In particular, the Release benefits the Proposal Trustee, Martinrea, the CAW, Union Representative Counsel, Non-Union Representative Counsel, Blue Cross, the Escrow Agent, the present and former shareholders and affiliates of the Applicants (including Thyssenkrupp USA, Inc. ("TK USA"), TK Finance, Thyssenkrupp Canada Inc. ("TK Canada") and Thyssenkrupp Budd Company), as well as their subsidiaries, directors, officers, members, partners, employees, auditors, financial advisors, legal counsel and agents of any of these parties and any person liable jointly or derivatively through any or all of the beneficiaries of the of the release (referred to individually as a "Released Party").

41 The Release covers all Affected Claims, Pension Claims and Escrow Fund Claims existing on or prior to the later of the Proposal Implementation Date and the date on which actions are taken to implement the Consolidated Proposal.

42 The Release provides that all such claims are released and waived (other than the right to enforce the Applicants' or Proposal Trustee's obligations under the Consolidated Proposal) to the full extent permitted by applicable law. However, nothing in the Consolidated Proposal releases or discharges any Released Party for any criminal or other wilful misconduct or any present or former directors of the Applicants with respect to any matters set out in s. 50(14) of the *BIA*. Unaffected Claims are specifically carved out of the Release.

43 The Applicants submit that the Release is both permissible under the *BIA* and appropriately granted in the context of the *BIA* proposal proceedings. Further, counsel submits, to the extent that the Release benefits third parties other than the Applicants, the Release is not prohibited by the *BIA* and it satisfies the criteria that has been established in granting third-party releases under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("*CCAA*"). Moreover, counsel submits that the scope of the Release is no broader than necessary to give effect to the purpose of the Consolidated Proposal and the contributions made by the third parties to the success of the Consolidated Proposal.

44 No creditors or stakeholders objected to the scope of the Release which was fully disclosed in the negotiations, including the fact that the inclusion of the third-party releases was required to be part of the Consolidated Proposal. Counsel advises that the scope of the Release was referred to in the materials sent by the Proposal Trustee to the Affected Creditors prior to the meeting, specifically discussed at the meeting and adopted by the unanimous vote of the voting Affected Creditors.

45 Counsel also submits that there is no provision in the *BIA* that clearly and expressly precludes the Applicants from including the Release in the Consolidated Proposal as long as the court is satisfied that the Consolidated Proposal is reasonable and for the general benefit of creditors.

46 In this respect, it seems to me, that the governing statutes should not be technically or stringently interpreted in the insolvency context but, rather, should be interpreted in a manner that is flexible rather than technical and literal, in order to deal with the numerous situations and variations which arise from time to time. Further, taking a technical approach to the interpretation of the *BIA* would defeat the purpose of the legislation. See *N.T.W. Management Group Ltd., Re* (1994), 29 C.B.R. (3d) 139 (Ont. Bkcty.); *Olympia & York Developments Ltd., Re* (1995), 34 C.B.R. (3d) 93 (Ont. Gen. Div. [Commercial List]); *Olympia & York Developments Ltd., Re* (1997), 45 C.B.R. (3d) 85 (Ont. Bkcty.).

47 Moreover, the statutes which deal with the same subject matter are to be interpreted with the presumption of harmony, coherence and consistency. See *NAV Canada c. Wilmington Trust Co.*, 2006 SCC 24 (S.C.C.). This principle militates in favour of adopting an interpretation of the *BIA* that is harmonious, to the greatest extent possible, with the interpretation that has been given to the *CCAA*.

48 Counsel points out that historically, some case law has taken the position that s. 62(3) of the *BIA* precludes a proposal from containing a release that benefits third parties. Counsel submits that this result is not supported by a plain meaning of s. 62(3) and its interaction with other key sections in the *BIA*.

49 Subsection 62(3) of the *BIA* reads as follows:

(3) The acceptance of a proposal by a creditor does not release any person who would not be released under this Act by the discharge of the debtor.

50 Counsel submits that there are two possible interpretations of this subsection:

(a) It prohibits third party releases — in other words, the phrase "does not release any person" is interpreted to mean "cannot release any person"; or

(b) It simply states that acceptance of a proposal does not automatically release any party other than the debtor — in other words, the phrase "does not release any person" is interpreted to mean "does not release any person without more"; it is protective not prohibitive.

51 I agree with counsel's submission that the latter interpretation of s. 62(3) of the *BIA* conforms with the grammatical and ordinary sense of the words used. If Parliament had intended that only the debtor could be released, s. 62(3) would have been drafted more simply to say exactly that.

52 Counsel further submits that the narrow interpretation would be a stringent and inflexible interpretation of the *BIA*, contrary to accepted wisdom that the *BIA* should be interpreted in a flexible, purposive manner.

53 The *BIA* proposal provisions are designed to offer debtors an opportunity to carry out a going concern or value maximizing restructuring in order to avoid a bankruptcy and related liquidation and that these purposes justify taking a broad, flexible and purposive approach to the interpretation of the relevant provisions. This interpretation is supported by *Ted Leroy Trucking Ltd., Re*, 2010 SCC 60 (S.C.C.).

54 Further, I agree with counsel's submissions that a more flexible purposive interpretation is in keeping with modern statutory principles and the need to give purposive interpretation to insolvency legislation must start from the proposition that there is no express prohibition in the *BIA* against including third-party releases in a proposal. At most, there are certain limited constraints on the scope of such releases, such as in s. 179 of the *BIA*, and the provision dealing specifically with the release of directors.

55 In the absence of an express prohibition against including third-party releases in a proposal, counsel submits that it must be presumed that such releases are permitted (subject to compliance with any limited express restrictions, such as in the case of a release of directors). By extension, counsel submits that the court is entitled to approve a proposal containing a third-party release if the court is able to satisfy itself that the proposal (including the third-party release) is reasonable and for the general benefit for creditors such that all creditors (including the minority who did not vote in favour of the proposal) can be required to forego their claims against parties other than the debtors.

56 The Applicants also submit that s. 62(3) of the *BIA* can only be properly understood when read together with other key sections of the *BIA*, particularly s. 179 which concerns the effect of an order of discharge:

179. An order of discharge does not release a person who at the time of the bankruptcy was a partner or co-trustee with the bankrupt or was jointly bound or had made a joint contract with the bankrupt, or a person who was surety or in the nature of a surety for the bankrupt.

57 The order of discharge of a bankrupt has the effect of releasing the bankrupt from all claims provable in bankruptcy (section 178(2) *BIA*). In the absence of s. 179, this release could result in the automatic release at law of certain types of claims that are identified in s. 179. For example, under guarantee law, the discharge of the principal debt results in the automatic discharge of a guarantor. Similarly, counsel points out the settlement or satisfaction of a debt by one joint obligor generally results in the automatic release of both joint obligors. Section 179 therefore serves the limited purpose of altering the result that would incur at law, indicating that the rule that the *BIA* generally is that there is no automatic release of third-party guarantors of co-obligors when a bankrupt is discharged.

58 Counsel submits that s. 62(3), which confirms that s. 179 applies to a proposal, was clearly intended to fulfil a very limited role — namely, to confirm that there is no automatic release of the specific types of co-obligors identified in s. 179 when a proposal is approved by the creditors and by the court. Counsel submits that it does not go further and preclude the creditors and the court from approving a proposal which contains the third-party release of the types of co-obligors set out in s. 179. I am in agreement with these submissions.

59 Specific considerations also apply when releasing directors of a debtor company. The *BIA* contains specific limitations on the permissible scope of such releases as set out in s. 50(14). For this reason, there is a specific section in the *BIA* proposal provisions outlining the principles governing such a release. However, counsel argues, the presence of the provisions outlining the circumstances in which a proposal can contain a release of claims against the debtor's directors does not give rise to an inference that the directors are the only third parties that can be released in a proposal. Rather, the inference is that there are considerations applicable to a release or compromise of claims against directors that do not apply generally to other third parties. Hence, it is necessary to deal with this particular type of compromise and release expressly.

60 I am also in agreement with the alternative submissions made by counsel in this area to the effect that if s. 62(3) of the *BIA* operates as a prohibition it refers only to those limitations that are expressly identified in the *BIA*, such as in s. 179 of the *BIA* and the specific limitations on the scope of releases that can benefit directors of the debtor.

61 Counsel submits that the Applicants' position regarding the proper interpretation of s. 62(3) of the *BIA* and its place in the scheme of the *BIA* is consistent with the generally accepted principle that a proposal under the *BIA* is a contract. See *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.*, 2008 ONCA 587 (Ont. C.A.); *Employers' Liability Assurance Corp. v. Ideal Petroleum (1959) Ltd.* (1976), [1978] 1 S.C.R. 230 (S.C.C.); and *Society of Composers, Authors & Music Publishers of Canada v. Armitage* (2000), 20 C.B.R. (4th) 160 (Ont. C.A.). Consequently, counsel submits that parties are entitled to put anything into a proposal 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])) and that given that the prescribed majority creditors have the statutory right under the *BIA* to bind a minority, however, this principle is subject to any limitations that are contained in the express wording of the *BIA*.

62 On this point, it seems to me, that any provision of the *BIA* which purports to limit the ability of the debtor to contract with its creditors should be clear and explicit. To hold otherwise would result in severely limiting the debtor's ability to contract with its creditors, thereby decreasing the likelihood that a viable proposal could be reached. This would manifestly defeat the purpose of the proposal provisions of the *BIA*.

63 The Applicants further submit that creditors' interests — including the interests of the minority creditors who do not vote in favour of a proposal containing a third-party release — are sufficiently protected by the overriding ability of a court to refuse to approve a proposal with an overly broad third-party release, or where the release results in the proposal failing to demonstrate that it is for the benefit of the general body of creditors. The Applicants submit that the application of the *Metcalfe*

criteria to the release is a mechanism whereby this court can assure itself that these preconditions to approve the Consolidated Proposal contained in the Release have been satisfied.

64 The Applicants acknowledge that there are several cases in which courts have held that a *BIA* proposal that includes a third-party release cannot be approved by the court but submits that these cases are based on a mistaken premise, are readily distinguishable and do not reflect the modern approach to Canadian insolvency law. Further, they submit that none of these cases are binding on this court and should not be followed.

65 In *Kern Agencies Ltd., (No. 2), Re (1931)*, 13 C.B.R. 11 (Sask. C.A.), the court refused to approve a proposal that contained a release of the debtor's directors, officers and employees. Counsel points out that the court's refusal was based on a provision of the predecessor to the *BIA* which specifically provided that a proposal could only be binding on creditors (as far as relates to any debts due to them from the debtor). The current *BIA* does not contain equivalent general language. This case is clearly distinguishable.

66 In *Mister C's Ltd., Re (1995)*, 32 C.B.R. (3d) 242 (Ont. Bkcty.), the court refused to approve a proposal that had received creditor approval. The court cited numerous bases for its conclusion that the proposal was not reasonable or calculated to benefit the general body of creditors, one of which was the release of the principals of the debtor company. The scope of the release was only one of the issues with the proposal, which had additional significant issues (procedural irregularities, favourable terms for insiders, and inequitable treatment of creditors generally). I agree with counsel to the Applicants that this case can be distinguished.

67 *Cosmic Adventures Halifax Inc., Re (1999)*, 13 C.B.R. (4th) 22 (N.S. S.C.) relies on *Kern* and furthermore the Applicants submit that the discussion of third-party releases is technically *obiter* because the proposal was amended on consent.

68 The fourth case is *C.F.G. Construction inc., Re*, 2010 CarswellQue 10226 (C.S. Que.) where the Quebec Superior Court refused to approve a proposal containing a release of two sureties of the debtor. The case was decided on alternate grounds — either that the *BIA* did not permit a release of sureties, or in any event, the release could not be justified on the facts. I agree with the Applicants that this case is distinguishable. The case deals with the release of sureties and does not stand for any broader proposition.

69 In general, the Applicants' submission on this issue is that the court should apply the decision of the Court of Appeal for Ontario in *Metcalfe*, together with the binding principle set out by the Supreme Court in *Ted Leroy Trucking*, dictating a more liberal approach to the permissibility of third-party releases in *BIA* proposals than is taken by the Quebec court in *C.F.G. Construction Inc.* I agree.

70 The object of proposals under the *BIA* is to permit the debtor to restructure its business and, where possible, avoid the social and economic costs of liquidating its assets, which is precisely the same purpose as the *CCAA*. Although there are some differences between the two regimes and the *BIA* can generally be characterized as more "rules based", the thrust of the case law and the legislative reform has been towards harmonizing aspects of insolvency law common to the two statutory schemes to the extent possible, encouraging reorganization over liquidation. See *Ted Leroy Trucking*.

71 Recent case law has indicated that, in appropriate circumstances, third-party releases can be included in a plan of compromise and arrangement that is approved under the *CCAA*. See *Metcalfe*. The *CCAA* does not contain any express provisions permitting such third-party releases apart from certain limitations that apply to the compromise of claims against directors of the debtor company. See *CCAA* s. 5.1 and *Allen-Vanguard Corp., Re*, 2011 ONSC 733 (Ont. S.C.J.).

72 Counsel submits that although the mechanisms for dealing with the release of sureties and similar claimants are somewhat different in the *BIA* and *CCAA*, the differences are not of such significance that the presence of s. 62(3) of the *BIA* should be viewed as dictating a different approach to third-party releases generally from the approach that applies under the *CCAA*. I agree with this submission.

73 I also accept that if s. 62(3) of the *BIA* is interpreted as a prohibition against including the third-party release in the *BIA* proposal, the *BIA* and the *CCAA* would be in clear disharmony on this point. An interpretation of the *BIA* which leads to a result that is different from the *CCAA* should only be adopted pursuant to clear statutory language which, in my view, is not present in the *BIA*.

74 The most recent and persuasive example of the application of such a harmonious approach to the interpretation of the *BIA* and the *CCAA* can be found in *Ted Leroy Trucking*.

75 At issue in *Ted Leroy Trucking* was how to resolve an apparent conflict between the deemed trust provisions of the *Excise Tax Act* and the provisions of the *CCAA*. The language of the *Excise Tax Act* created a deemed trust over GST amounts collected by the debtor that was stated to apply "despite any other Act of Parliament". The *CCAA* stated that the deemed trust for GST did not apply under the *CCAA*, unless the funds otherwise specified the criteria for a "true" trust. The court was required to determine which federal provision should prevail.

76 By contrast, the same issue did not arise under the *BIA*, due to the language in the *Excise Tax Act* specifically indicating that the continued existence of the deemed trust depended on the terms of the *BIA*. The *BIA* contained a similar provision to the *CCAA* indicating that the deemed trust for GST amounts would no longer apply in a *BIA* proceeding.

77 Deschamps J., on behalf of six other members of the court, with Fish J. concurring and Abella J. dissenting, held that the proper interpretation of the statutes was that the *CCAA* provision should prevail, the deemed trust under the *Excise Tax Act* would cease to exist in a *CCAA* proceeding. In resolving the conflict between the *Excise Tax Act* and the *CCAA*, Deschamps J. noted the strange asymmetry which would arise if the *BIA* and *CCAA* were not in harmony on this issue:

Moreover, a strange asymmetry would arise if the interpretation giving the *ETA* priority over the *CCAA* urged by the Crown is adopted here: the Crown would retain priority over GST claims during *CCAA* proceedings but not in bankruptcy. As courts have reflected, this can only encourage statute shopping by secured creditors in cases such as this one where the debtor's assets cannot satisfy both the secured creditors' and the Crown's claims (*Gauntlet*, at para. 21). If creditors' claims were better protected by liquidation under the *BIA*, creditors' incentives would lie overwhelmingly with avoiding proceedings under the *CCAA* and not risking a failed reorganization. Giving a key player in any insolvency such skewed incentives against reorganizing under the *CCAA* can only undermine that statute's remedial objectives and risk inviting the very social ills that it was enacted to avert.

78 It seems to me that these principles indicate that the court should generally strive, where the language of both statutes can support it, to give both statutes a harmonious interpretation to avoid the ills that can arise from "statute-shopping". These considerations, counsel submits, militate against adopting a strained reading of s. 62(3) of the *BIA* as a prohibition against third-party releases in a *BIA* proposal. I agree. In my opinion, there is no principled basis on which the analysis and treatment of a third-party release in a *BIA* proposal proceeding should differ from a *CCAA* proceeding.

79 The Applicants submit that it logically follows that the court is entitled to approve the Consolidated Proposal, including the Release, on the basis that it is reasonable and calculated to benefit the general body of creditors. Further, in keeping with the principles of harmonious interpretation of the *BIA* and the *CCAA*, the court should satisfy itself that the *Metcalfé* criteria, which apply to the approval of a third-party release under the *CCAA*, has been satisfied in relation to the Release.

80 In *Metcalfé*, the Court of Appeal for Ontario held that the requirements that must be satisfied to justify a third-party release are:

- (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 (Proposal) and necessary for it;
- (c) the Plan (Proposal) 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 (Proposal); and

(e) the Plan (Proposal) will benefit not only the debtor companies but creditors generally.

81 These requirements have also been referenced in *Canwest Global Communications Corp., Re* (2010), 70 C.B.R. (5th) 1 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]) and *Angiotech Pharmaceuticals Inc., Re* (2011), 76 C.B.R. (5th) 210 (B.C. S.C. [In Chambers]).

82 No single requirement listed above is determinative and the analysis must take into account the facts particular to each claim.

83 The Applicants submit that the Release satisfies each of the *Metcalfe* criteria. Firstly, counsel submits that following the closing of the Asset Purchase Agreement in 2006, Budd Canada had no operating assets or income and relied on inter-company advances to fund the pension and OPEB requirements to be made by Budd Canada on behalf of KFL pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement. Such funded amounts total approximately \$112.7 million in pension payments and \$24.6 million in OPEB payments between the closing of the Asset Purchase Agreement and the Filing Date. In addition, TK Finance has been providing Budd Canada and KFL with the necessary funding to pay the professional and other costs associated with the *BIA* Proposal Proceedings and will continue to fund such amounts through the Proposal Implementation Date. Moreover, TK Canada and TK Finance have agreed to forego recoveries under the Consolidated Proposal on account of their existing secured and unsecured intercompany loans in the amount of approximately \$120 million.

84 Counsel submits that the releases provided in respect of the Applicants' affiliates are the *quid pro quo* for the sacrifices made by such affiliates to significantly enlarge recoveries for the unsecured creditors of the Applicants, particularly the OPEB creditors and reflects that the affiliates have provided over \$135 million over the last five years in respect of the pension and OPEB amounts and additional availability of approximately \$49 million to allow the Applicants to discharge their obligations to their former employees and retirees. Without the Releases, counsel submits, the Applicants' affiliates would have little or no incentive to contribute funds to the Consolidated Proposal and to waive their own rights against the Applicants.

85 The Release in favour of Martinrea is fully discussed at paragraphs 121-127 of the factum. The Applicants submit that the third-party releases set out in the Consolidated Proposal are clearly rationally related, necessary and essential to the Consolidated Proposal and are not overly broad.

86 Having reviewed the submissions in detail, I am in agreement that the Released Parties are contributing in a tangible and realistic way to the Consolidated Proposal.

87 I am also satisfied that without the Applicants' commitment to include the Release in the Consolidated Proposal to protect the Released Parties, it is unlikely that certain of such parties would have been prepared to support the Consolidated Proposal. The releases provided in respect of the Applicants' affiliates are particularly significant in this regard, since the sacrifices and monetary contributions of such affiliates are the primary reason that the Applicants have been able to make the Consolidated Proposal. Further, I am also satisfied that without the Release, the Applicants would be unable to satisfy the borrowing conditions under the Amended and Restated Senior Secured Loan Agreement with respect to the Applicants having only certain permitted liabilities after the Proposal Implementation Date. The alternative for the Applicants is bankruptcy, a scenario in which their affiliates' claims aggregating approximately \$120 million would significantly erode recoveries for the unsecured creditors of the Applicants.

88 I am also satisfied that the Releases benefit the Applicants and creditors generally. The primary non-affiliated Creditors of the Applicants are the OPEB Creditors and Creditors with Pension Claims, together with the CRA. The Consolidated Proposal, in my view, clearly benefits these Creditors by generating higher recoveries than could be obtained from the bankruptcies of the Applicants. Moreover, the timing of any such bankruptcy recoveries is uncertain. As noted by the Proposal Trustee, the amount that the Affected Creditors would receive in the event of the bankruptcies of the Applicants is uncertain both in terms

of quantum and timing, with the Applicants' funding of OPEB Claims terminating on bankruptcy, but distributions to the OPEB Creditors and other Creditors delayed for at least a year or two but perhaps much longer.

89 The Applicants and their affiliates also benefit from the Release as an affiliate of the Applicants may become enabled to use the net operating losses (NOL) following a series of transactions that are expected to occur immediately following the Proposal Implementation Date.

90 I am also satisfied that the Applicants have provided full and adequate disclosure of the Releases and their effect. Full disclosure was made in the proposal term sheet circulated to both Representative Counsel in early August 2011. The Release was negotiated as part of the Consolidated Proposal and the scope of the Release was disclosed by the Proposal Trustee in its Report to the creditors on the terms of the Consolidated Proposal, which Report was circulated by the Proposal Trustee to the Applicants' known creditors in advance of the creditors' meeting.

91 I am satisfied that the Applicants, with the assistance of the Proposal Trustee, took appropriate steps to ensure that the Affected Creditors were aware of the existence of the release provisions prior to the creditors' meeting.

92 For the foregoing reasons, I have concluded that the Release contained in the Consolidated Proposal meets the *Metcalfe* criteria and should be approved.

93 In the result, I am satisfied that the section 59(2) *BIA* test has been met and that it is appropriate to grant the Sanction Order in the form of the draft order attached to the Motion Record. An order has been signed to give effect to the foregoing.

Motion granted.

TAB 15

2015 ONSC 622
Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Cline Mining Corp., Re

2015 CarswellOnt 3285, 2015 ONSC 622, 23 C.B.R. (6th) 194, 252 A.C.W.S. (3d) 8

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

In the Matter of a Plan of Compromise and Arrangement of Cline Mining
Corporation, New ELK Coal Company LLC and North Central Energy Company

G.B. Morawetz R.S.J.

Heard: January 27, 2015
Judgment: January 30, 2015
Docket: CV-14-10781-00CL

Counsel: Robert J. Chadwick, Logan Willis for Applicants, Cline Mining Corporation et al.
Michael DeLellis, David Rosenblatt for FTI Consulting Canada Inc., Monitor of the Applicants
Jay Swartz for Secured Noteholders

G.B. Morawetz R.S.J.:

1 Cline Mining Corporation, New Elk Coal Company LLC and North Central Energy Company (collectively, the "Applicants") seek an order (the "Sanction Order"), among other things:

- a. sanctioning the Applicants' Amended and Restated Plan of Compromise and Arrangement dated January 20, 2015 (the "Plan") pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "CCAA"); and
- b. extending the stay, as defined in the Initial Order granted December 3, 2014 (the "Initial Order"), to and including April 1, 2015.

2 Counsel to the Applicants submits that the Recapitalization is the result of significant efforts by the Applicants to achieve a resolution of their financial challenges and, if implemented, the Recapitalization will maintain the Applicants as a unified corporate enterprise and result in an improved capital structure that will enable the Applicants to better withstand prolonged weakness in the global market for metallurgical coal.

3 Counsel submits that the Applicants believe that the Recapitalization achieves the best available outcome for the Applicants and their stakeholders in the circumstances and achieves results that are not attainable under any other bankruptcy, sale or debt enforcement scenario.

4 The position of the Applicants is supported by the Monitor, and by Marret, on behalf of the Secured Noteholders.

5 The Plan has the unanimous support from the creditors of the Applicants. The Plan was approved by 100% in number and 100% in value of creditors voting in each of the Secured Noteholders Class, the Affected Unsecured Creditors Class and the WARN Act Plaintiffs Class.

6 The background giving rise to (i) the insolvency of the Applicants; (ii) the decision to file under the CCAA; (iii) the finding made that the court had the jurisdiction under the CCAA to accept the filing; (iv) the finding of insolvency; and (v) the basis for granting the Initial Order and the Claims Procedure Order was addressed in *Cline Mining Corp., Re, 2014 ONSC 6998* (Ont. S.C.J.) and need not be repeated.

7 The Applicants report that counsel to the WARN Act Plaintiffs in the class action proceedings (the "Class Action Counsel") submitted a class proof of claim on behalf of the 307 WARN Act Plaintiffs in the aggregate amount of U.S. \$3.7 million. Class Action Counsel indicated that the WARN Act Plaintiffs were not prepared to vote in favour of the Plan dated December 3, 2014 (the "Original Plan") without an enhancement of the recovery. The Applicants report that after further discussions, agreement was reached with Class Action Counsel on the form of a resolution that provides for an enhanced recovery for the WARN Act Plaintiffs Class of \$210,000 (with \$90,000 paid on the Plan implementation date) as opposed to the recovery offered in the Original Plan of \$100,000 payable in eight years from the Plan implementation date.

8 As a result of reaching this resolution, the Original Plan was amended to reflect the terms of the WARN Act resolution.

9 The Applicants served the Amended Plan on the Service List on January 20, 2015.

10 The Plan provides for a full and final release and discharge of the Affected Claims and Released Claims, a settlement of, and consideration for, all Allowed Affected Claims and a recapitalization of the Applicants.

11 Equity claimants will not receive any consideration or distributions under the Plan.

12 The Plan provides for the release of certain parties (the "Released Parties"), including:

(i) the Applicants, the Directors and Officers and employees of contractors of the Applicants; and

(ii) the Monitor, the Indenture Trustee and Marret and their respective legal counsel, the financial and legal advisors to the Applicants and other parties employed by or associated with the parties listed in sub-paragraph (ii), in each case in respect of claims that constitute or relate to, *inter alia*, any Claims, any Directors/Officer Claims and any claims arising from or connected to the Plan, the Recapitalization, the CCAA Proceedings, the Chapter 15 Proceedings, the business or affairs of the Applicants or certain other related matter (collectively, the "Released Claims").

13 The Plan does not release:

(i) the right to enforce the Applicants' obligations under the Plan;

(ii) the Applicants from or in respect of any Unaffected Claim or any Claim that is not permitted to be released pursuant to section 19(2) of the CCAA; or

(iii) any Director or Officer from any Director/Officer Claim that is not permitted to be released pursuant to section 5.1(2) of the CCAA.

14 The Plan does not release Insured Claims, provided that any recourse in respect of such claims is limited to proceeds, if any, of the Applicants' applicable Insurance Policies.

15 The Meetings Order authorized the Applicants to convene a meeting of the Secured Noteholders, a meeting of Affected Unsecured Creditors and a meeting of WARN Act Plaintiffs to consider and vote on the Plan.

16 The Meetings were held on January 21, 2015. At the Meetings, the resolution to approve the Plan was passed unanimously in each of the three classes of creditors.

17 None of the persons with Disputed Claims voted at the Meetings, in person or by proxy. Consequently, the results of the votes taken would not change based on the inclusion or exclusion of the Disputed Claims in the voting results.

18 Pursuant to section 6(1) of the CCAA, the court has the discretion to sanction a plan of compromise or arrangement where the requisite double-majority of creditors has approved the plan. The effect of the court's approval is to bind the company and its creditors.

19 The general requirements for court approval of the CCAA Plan are well established:

- a. there must be strict compliance with all statutory requirements;
- b. all materials filed and procedures carried out must be examined to determine if anything has been done or purported to have been done, which is not authorized by the CCAA; and
- c. the plan must be fair and reasonable.

(see *SkyLink Aviation Inc., Re*, 2013 ONSC 2519 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]))

20 Having reviewed the record and hearing submissions, I am satisfied that the foregoing test for approval has been met in this case.

21 In arriving at my conclusion that the Plan is fair and reasonable in the circumstances, I have taken into account the following:

- a. the Plan represents a compromise among the Applicants and the Affected Creditors resulting from discussions among the Applicants and their creditors, with the support of the Monitor;
- b. the classification of the Applicants' creditors into three voting classes was previously approved by the court and the classification was not opposed at any time;
- c. the results of the Sale Process indicate that the Secured Noteholders would suffer a significant shortfall and there would be no residual value for subordinate interests;
- d. the Recapitalization provides a limited recovery for unsecured creditors and the WARN Act Plaintiffs;
- e. all Affected Creditors that voted on the Plan voted for its approval;
- f. the Plan treats Affected Creditors fairly and provides for the same distribution among the creditors within each of the Secured Noteholders Class, the Affected Unsecured Creditors Class and the WARN Act Plaintiffs Class;
- g. Unaffected Claims, which include, *inter alia*, government and employee priority claims, claims not permitted to be compromised pursuant to sections 19(2) and 5.1(2) of the CCAA and prior ranking secured claims, will not be affected by the Plan;
- h. the treatment of Equity Claims under the Plan is consistent with the provisions of the CCAA; and
- i. the Plan is supported by the Applicants (Marret, on behalf of the Secured Noteholders), the Monitor and the creditors who voted in favor of the Plan at the Meetings.

22 The CCAA permits the inclusion of third party releases in a plan of compromise or arrangement where those releases are reasonably connected to the proposed restructuring (see: *ATB Financial v. Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp.*, 2008 ONCA 587 (Ont. C.A.) ("*ATB Financial*"); *SkyLink*, *supra*; and *Sino-Forest Corp., Re*, 2012 ONSC 7050 (Ont. S.C.J. [Commercial List]), leave to appeal denied, 2013 ONCA 456 (Ont. C.A.)).

23 The court has the jurisdiction to sanction a plan containing third party releases where the factual circumstances indicate that the third party releases are appropriate. In this case, the record establishes that the releases were negotiated as part of the

overall framework of the compromises in the Plan, and these releases facilitate a successful completion of the Plan and the Recapitalization. The releases cover parties that could have claims of indemnification or contribution against the Applicants in relation to the Recapitalization, the Plan and other related matters, whose rights against the Applicants have been discharged in the Plan.

24 I am satisfied that the releases are therefore rationally related to the purpose of the Plan and are necessary for the successful restructuring of the Applicants.

25 Further, the releases provided for in the Plan were contained in the Original Plan filed with the court on December 3, 2014 and attached to the Meetings Order. Counsel to the Applicants submits that the Applicants are not aware of any objections to the releases provided for in the Plan.

26 The Applicants also contend that the releases of the released Directors/Officers are appropriate in the circumstances, given that the released Directors and Officers, in the absence of the Plan releases, could have claims for indemnification or contribution against the Applicants and the release avoids contingent claims for such indemnification or contribution against the Applicants. Further, the releases were negotiated as part of the overall framework of compromises in the Plan. I also note that no Director/Officer Claims were asserted in the Claims Procedure.

27 The Monitor supports the Applicants' request for the sanction of the Plan, including the releases contained therein.

28 I am satisfied that in these circumstances, it is appropriate to grant the releases.

29 The Plan provides for certain alterations to the Cline Articles in order to effectuate certain corporate steps required to implement the Plan, including the consolidation of shares and the cancellation of fractional interests of the Cline Common Shares. I am satisfied that these amendments are necessary in order to effect the provisions of the Plan and that it is appropriate to grant the amendments as part of the approval of the Plan.

30 The Applicants also request an extension of the stay until April 1, 2015. This request is made pursuant to section 11.02(2) of the CCAA. The court must be satisfied that:

(i) circumstances exist that make the order appropriate; and

(ii) the applicant has acted, and is acting in good faith and with due diligence.

31 The record establishes that the Applicants have made substantial progress toward the completion of the Recapitalization, but further time is required to implement same. I am satisfied that the test pursuant to section 11.02(2) has been met and it is appropriate to extend the stay until April 1, 2015.

32 Finally, the Monitor requests approval of its activities and conduct to date and also approval of its Pre-Filing Report, the First Report dated December 16, 2014 and the Second Report together with the activities described therein. No objection was raised with respect to the Monitor's request, which is granted.

33 For the foregoing reasons, the motion is granted and an order shall issue in the form requested, approving the Plan and providing certain ancillary relief.

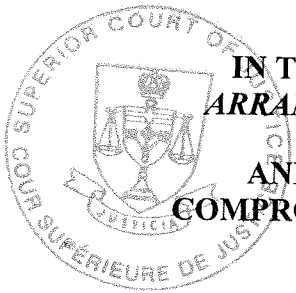
Motion granted.

TAB 16

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
(COMMERCIAL LIST)

THE HONOURABLE REGIONAL SENIOR)
JUSTICE MORAWETZ)

MONDAY, THE 12TH
DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016



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

**AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED PLAN OF
COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF GUESTLOGIX INC.
AND GUESTLOGIX IRELAND LIMITED**

PLAN SANCTION ORDER

THIS MOTION made by GuestLogix Inc. ("**GuestLogix**") for an Order (the "**Plan Sanction Order**"), pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "**CCAA**"), sanctioning the Plan of Compromise and Arrangement dated July 29, 2016, which is attached as Schedule "A" hereto (and as it may be further amended, varied or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof, the "**Plan**"), was heard on September 12, 2016 at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

ON READING the Notice of Motion, the Affidavit of John Gillberry sworn September 7, 2016, filed, the eighth report (the "**Eighth Report**") and the ninth report (the "**Ninth Report**") of PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., in its capacity as monitor of GuestLogix (the "**Monitor**"), filed, and on hearing the submissions of counsel for each of GuestLogix, the Monitor, the Sponsor, and such other counsel as were present and wished to be heard, no one else appearing although duly served as appears from the affidavit of service, filed.

DEFINED TERMS

1. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Plan Sanction Order shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Plan or the Meeting

Order granted by this Court on August 3, 2016 (the “**Meeting Order**”), as applicable, and that any capitalized terms not otherwise defined in paragraph 19 of this Plan Sanction Order shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Claims Procedure Order.

SERVICE, NOTICE AND MEETING

2. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the time for service of the Notice of Motion, the Motion Record in support of this motion and the Ninth Report be and are hereby abridged and validated so that the motion is properly returnable today and service upon any interested party other than those parties served is hereby dispensed with.
3. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the Meeting was duly convened and held on September 2, 2016 in conformity with the CCAA and the Meeting Order.

SANCTION OF THE PLAN

4. **THIS COURT DECLARES** that:
 - (a) the Plan has been approved by the Required Majority of Affected Unsecured Creditors, as required by the Meeting Order and in conformity with the CCAA;
 - (b) the activities of GuestLogix have been in compliance with the provisions of the CCAA and the Orders of this Court granted in these CCAA proceedings (the “**Orders**”);
 - (c) the Court is satisfied that GuestLogix has not done or purported to do anything that is not authorized by the CCAA; and
 - (d) the Plan and the transactions contemplated thereby are fair and reasonable.
5. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the Plan is hereby sanctioned and approved pursuant to section 6 of the CCAA.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

6. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that each of GuestLogix and the Monitor are authorized and directed to take all steps and actions, and do all things, necessary or appropriate to implement the Plan in accordance with its terms and to enter into, execute, deliver, complete, implement and consummate all of the steps, transactions, distributions, deliveries, allocations and agreements contemplated by the Plan. All payments and distributions to be made on behalf of GuestLogix to the Affected Unsecured Creditors pursuant to the Plan shall be made by the Monitor, and the Monitor shall allocate and distribute such payments in accordance with the Plan. Neither GuestLogix nor the Monitor shall incur any liability as a result of acting in accordance with the terms of the Plan and the Plan Sanction Order.

7. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that, on the Plan Implementation Date, the Plan and all associated steps, compromises, transactions, arrangements, releases and reorganizations effected thereby shall be deemed to be implemented, binding and effective in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, and the steps required to implement the Plan, including, without limitation, the release of all Affected Claims, Released Director/Officer Claims and Released Claims in accordance with the terms of the Plan, shall be deemed to occur and to take effect in the sequential order and at the times contemplated in the Plan, without any further act or formality, beginning at the Effective Time on the Plan Implementation Date.

8. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that TSX Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee, shall be and is hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to facilitate the implementation of the Plan in accordance with its terms, and such steps are hereby authorized, ratified and approved, including, without limitation:
 - (a) the receipt of all amounts distributed from the Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool on account of the Proven Distribution Claims of holders of the Debentures (the "**Debentureholder Distribution**");

- (b) the conversion of the Debentureholder Distribution into Canadian currency at the exchange rate available to the Indenture Trustee; and
 - (c) the delivery of the Debentureholder Distribution, as the same may be converted into Canadian currency in accordance with (b) above, to the registered holders of the Debentures, for further distribution to beneficial holders of such Debentures as of a record date to be determined by AssetCo in consultation with the Monitor.
- 9. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor is hereby authorized and directed to incorporate a new corporation (“**AssetCo**”) pursuant to and in accordance with the Plan and shall hold the share of AssetCo in trust for the Affected Unsecured Creditors.
- 10. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that on the Plan Implementation Date, all Transferred Assets shall be transferred from GuestLogix to AssetCo together with any and all Encumbrances in respect of such Transferred Assets and any and all Affected Claims in respect of the Transferred Assets shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever released, waived, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date as against GuestLogix and the Directors and Officers pursuant to and in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Plan, provided that any litigation or enforcement process against GuestLogix for a non-monetary remedy in respect of any such Transferred Assets may be continued against (and in the name of) AssetCo (and, for greater certainty, not against GuestLogix). The style of cause of any such litigation or enforcement process in respect of such Transferred Assets shall be amended such that AssetCo, not GuestLogix, is the party named in the applicable litigation or enforcement process. GuestLogix, with the consent of the Monitor, shall be permitted to and shall transfer to AssetCo on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date an amount sufficient to provide for the costs associated with the liquidation and dissolution of AssetCo.
- 11. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, from and after the Plan Implementation Date:
 - (a) AssetCo is a company to which the CCAA applies;
 - (b) AssetCo shall be added as an Applicant in these CCAA proceedings and any reference in any Order of this Court in respect of these CCAA proceedings to an

“Applicant” or the “Applicants” shall refer to AssetCo, *mutatis mutandis*, and for greater certainty, each of the Charges shall constitute a charge on the Property (as defined in the Initial Order) of AssetCo; and

(c) the name “GuestLogix Inc.” shall be deleted from the within title of proceedings and replaced with the legal name of AssetCo.

12. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor and the directors of AssetCo shall have no liability in connection with: (i) the incorporation of AssetCo; (ii) the holding of the share of AssetCo; (iii) any actions of AssetCo taken pursuant to, or in connection with the implementation of, the Plan; or (iv) any assignment into bankruptcy by AssetCo pursuant to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3, as amended.
13. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, pursuant to section 6(2) of the CCAA, the Articles of GuestLogix shall be amended on the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with the provisions of, and as required to implement, the Plan. Any fractional Common Shares held by any holder of Common Shares immediately following the consolidation of the Common Shares referred to in section 5.5(f) of the Plan shall be cancelled without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof and all Equity Interests (for greater certainty, not including any Common Shares that remain issued and outstanding immediately following the cancellation of fractional interests pursuant to section 5.5(g) of the Plan) shall be cancelled without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof.
14. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that upon the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions precedent set out in Article 8 of the Plan in accordance with the terms of the Plan, as confirmed by the Company Advisors and the Sponsor Advisors in writing, and upon the Monitor being satisfied that adequate provision has been made for all Restructuring Costs, the Monitor is authorized and directed to deliver to counsel to GuestLogix and the Sponsor a certificate substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule “B” (the “**Monitor’s Certificate**”) signed by the Monitor, certifying that the Plan Implementation Date has occurred and that the Plan is effective in accordance with its terms and the terms

of the Plan Sanction Order. The Monitor shall file the Monitor's Certificate with this Court as soon as practicable following the Plan Implementation Date.

15. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, each of the Charges shall be terminated, discharged and released on the Plan Implementation Date as against GuestLogix and all of its current and future assets, undertakings and properties of every nature and kind whatsoever and wherever situated, including all proceeds thereof.
16. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that upon the delivery of the Monitor's Certificate by the Monitor pursuant to paragraph 14 of this Plan Sanction Order: (i) this proceeding under the CCAA shall be and is hereby terminated in respect of GuestLogix and GuestLogix shall cease to be an Applicant in, or subject to, these CCAA proceedings; and (ii) for greater certainty, the stay of proceedings set out in paragraphs 15, 16 and 20 of the Initial Order in favour of GuestLogix and the Directors and Officers, as such stay of proceedings has been amended and extended in these CCAA proceedings, is hereby terminated.
17. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that sections 95 to 101 of the BIA and any other federal or provincial law relating to preferences, fraudulent conveyances or transfers at undervalue, shall not apply to the Plan or to any transactions and distributions implemented pursuant to the Plan.

EFFECT OF PLAN AND CCAA ORDERS

18. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, from and after the Plan Implementation Date, the Plan shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon GuestLogix, the Released Parties, the Affected Creditors, the Directors and Officers, any Person with a Director/Officer Claim or a Released Claim, and all other Persons and parties named or referred to in or affected by the Plan, including, without limitation, their respective heirs, administrators, executors, legal representatives, successors, and assigns.
19. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, save and except for any Claim that the Applicants, in consultation with the Monitor, have allowed in these CCAA proceedings, without limiting the provisions of the Claims Procedure Order, any Person that did not file a

Proof of Claim or a Notice of Dispute, as applicable, by the Prefiling Claims Bar Date, the Restructuring Claims Bar Date or such other bar date provided for in the Claims Procedure Order, as applicable, whether or not such Person received direct notice of the claims process established by the Claims Procedure Order, shall be and is hereby forever barred from making any Claim or any Director/Officer Claim and shall not be entitled to any consideration under the Plan, and such Person's Claim, as applicable, shall be and is hereby forever barred and extinguished.

20. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that, subject to the performance by GuestLogix of its obligations under the Plan and except as provided in the Plan, all obligations, agreements, contracts or arrangements to which GuestLogix is a party on the Plan Implementation Date shall be and remain in full force and effect, unamended, as at the Plan Implementation Date, and no Person, including any party thereto, shall on or following the Plan Implementation Date, accelerate, terminate, refuse to renew, rescind, refuse to perform or otherwise disclaim or resiliate its obligations or the interests of GuestLogix thereunder, or enforce or exercise (or purport to enforce or exercise) any right or remedy (including any right to receive any change of control, assignment or similar payment) under or in respect thereof by reason: (i) of any event that occurred prior to the Plan Implementation Date; (ii) that GuestLogix was insolvent, or that GuestLogix sought or obtained relief or took steps as part of the Plan or under the CCAA; (iii) of any default, event of default or circumstance of non-compliance arising as a result of the financial condition or insolvency of GuestLogix on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date or these CCAA proceedings; (iv) of the effect upon GuestLogix of the completion of any of the transactions approved in these CCAA proceedings or contemplated by the Plan, including, without limitation, as a result of a change of control of GuestLogix, or (v) of any compromises, settlements, restructurings, recapitalizations or reorganizations effected pursuant to the Plan, including, without limitation, the compromise of the Claim of any Person with respect to a Retained Agreement.

THE MONITOR

21. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor, in addition to its prescribed rights and obligations under the CCAA and the powers provided to the Monitor herein and in the Orders and the Plan, shall be and is hereby authorized, directed and empowered to perform its functions and fulfill its obligations under the Plan to facilitate the implementation of the Plan.

22. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor has satisfied all of its obligations up to and including the date of this Plan Sanction Order, and that: (i) in carrying out the terms of this Plan Sanction Order and the Plan including the obligations, duties and responsibilities (if any) described in this Plan Sanction Order, the Monitor shall have all the protections given to it by the CCAA, the Orders, and as an officer of the Court, including the stay of proceedings in its favour; (ii) the Monitor shall incur no liability or obligation as a result of carrying out the provisions of this Plan Sanction Order and/or the Plan and in performing its duties as Monitor in these CCAA proceedings including the obligations, duties and responsibilities (if any) described in this Plan Sanction Order, save and except for any gross negligence or wilful misconduct on its part; (iii) the Monitor shall be entitled to rely on the books and records of GuestLogix and any information provided by GuestLogix without independent investigation; (iv) the Monitor shall not be liable for any claims or damages resulting from any errors or omissions in such books, records or information, or with respect to any such information disclosed to or provided by the Monitor, including with respect to reliance thereon by any Person; and (v) the distributions delivered by the Monitor pursuant to the Plan are not delivered by the Monitor in its personal or corporate capacity and are delivered without personal or corporate liability of the Monitor, and, without limiting the foregoing, the Monitor shall have no obligations or liability in connection with any withholdings or deductions that any Person may assert should or should not have been made in connection with such distributions.

23. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that upon the delivery of the Monitor's Certificate by the Monitor pursuant to paragraph 14 of this Plan Sanction Order, the Monitor shall be

discharged and released from its duties in respect of GuestLogix other than those obligations, duties and responsibilities: (i) necessary or required to give effect to the terms of the Plan and this Plan Sanction Order, (ii) in relation to the claims procedure and all matters relating thereto as set out in the Claims Procedure Order, and (iii) in connection with the completion by the Monitor of all other matters for which it is responsible in connection with the Plan or pursuant to the Orders of this Court made in these CCAA proceedings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GUESTLOGIX

24. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that those persons listed on a certificate to be filed with the Court by GuestLogix on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date shall be deemed to be appointed as the board of directors of GuestLogix on the Plan Implementation Date, provided that such certificate and the Persons listed thereon shall be subject to the prior written consent of the Sponsor. Concurrently with the appointment of such directors, all directors serving immediately prior to the Plan Implementation Date shall be deemed to resign (unless they are re-appointed in accordance with this paragraph).

EFFECT, RECOGNITION AND ASSISTANCE

25. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that GuestLogix and the Monitor may apply to this Court for advice and direction with respect to any matter arising from or under the Plan or this Plan Sanction Order.
26. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that this Plan Sanction Order shall have full force and effect in all provinces and territories of Canada and abroad as against all Persons and parties against whom it may otherwise be enforced.
27. **THIS COURT REQUESTS** the aid and recognition of any court, tribunal, regulatory or administrative body having jurisdiction in Canada, the United States, or in any other foreign jurisdiction, to give effect to this Plan Sanction Order and the Plan or to assist GuestLogix, the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Plan Sanction Order and the Plan. All courts, tribunals, regulatory and administrative bodies

are hereby respectfully requested to make such orders and to provide such assistance to GuestLogix and to the Monitor, as an officer of this Court, as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Plan Sanction Order and the Plan, to grant representative status to the Monitor in any foreign proceeding, or to assist GuestLogix or the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Plan Sanction Order and the Plan.

GENERAL

28. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that this Plan Sanction Order shall be posted on the Monitor's Website at <http://www.pwc.com/ca/en/services/insolvency-assignments/guestlogix.html> and is only required to be served upon the parties on the Service List and those parties who appeared at the hearing of the motion for this Plan Sanction Order.



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LE / DANS LE REGISTRE NO:

SEP 14 2016

PER / PAR:



**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
GUESTLOGIX INC. AND GUESTLOGIX IRELAND LIMITED**

Applicants

**PLAN OF COMPROMISE AND ARRANGEMENT
pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*
concerning, affecting and involving**

GUESTLOGIX INC.

July 29, 2016

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PLAN OF COMPROMISE AND ARRANGEMENT

WHEREAS GuestLogix Inc. (the “**Company**”) is a debtor company under the *Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the “**CCAA**”);

AND WHEREAS the Company obtained protection under the CCAA pursuant to the First Amended and Restated Initial Order (the “**Initial Order**”) of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) (the “**Court**”) dated as of February 9, 2016 (the “**Filing Date**”);

AND WHEREAS the Company files this plan of compromise and arrangement with the Court pursuant to the CCAA and hereby proposes and presents this plan of compromise and arrangement to the Unsecured Creditors Class (as defined below) under and pursuant to the CCAA.

ARTICLE 1 INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In the Plan, unless otherwise stated or unless the subject matter or context otherwise requires:

“**Affected Claim**” means any Claim that is not an Unaffected Claim and, for greater certainty includes any Affected Unsecured Claim and any Equity Claim.

“**Agreed Number**” means, with respect to the New Common Shares, that number of New Common Shares to be issued to the Sponsor on the Plan Implementation Date pursuant to the Plan as agreed to by the Company and the Sponsor.

“**Affected Creditor**” means any Creditor with an Affected Claim, but only with respect to and to the extent of such Affected Claim.

“**Affected Unsecured Claim**” means any Affected Claim against the Company that is not secured by a valid security interest over assets or property of the Company and is not an Equity Claim.

“**Affected Unsecured Creditor**” means any Creditor with an Affected Unsecured Claim against the Company.

“**Applicable Law**” means any law, statute, order, decree, judgment, rule, regulation, ordinance or other pronouncement having the effect of law whether in Canada or any other country, or any domestic or foreign state, county, province, city or other political subdivision of any Governmental Entity.

“**Articles**” means the articles of the Company.

“**Articles of Reorganization**” means the articles of reorganization of the Company to be filed pursuant to section 186 of the OBCA in accordance with section 5.5 hereof.

“**Assessments**” means Claims of her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada or of any province, territory or municipality thereof or any other taxation authority in any Canadian or foreign jurisdiction, including, without limitation, amounts that have arisen or that may arise under any notice of assessment, notice of reassessment, notice of appeal, audit, adjustment, investigation, demand or similar request from any taxation authority and for greater certainty Assessments does not include any Government Priority Claim.

“**AssetCo**” means a new corporation to be incorporated pursuant to section 5.2 hereof.

“**Business Day**” means a day, other than Saturday and Sunday, on which banks are generally open for business in Toronto, Ontario.

“**CCAA**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“**CCAA Proceeding**” means the proceeding commenced by the Company pursuant to the CCAA, identified by Court File No.CV-16-11281-00CL.

“**Charges**” means, collectively, the Administration Charge (as defined in the Initial Order), the Directors’ Charge, the KERP Charge (as defined in the KERP Approval Order of the Court dated March 21, 2016), the KEIP Charge (as defined in the KEIP Approval Order of the Court dated March 21, 2016), and any other charges or security interests in respect of the assets, property or undertaking of the Company ordered or created by the Court in the CCAA Proceeding.

“**Certificate of Amendment**” means the certificate of amendment to be issued pursuant to section 186 of the OBCA in respect of the Articles of Reorganization.

“**Claim**” means:

- (a) any right or claim of any Person against the Company or its assets, property or undertaking, whether or not asserted, in connection with any indebtedness, liability or obligation of any kind whatsoever in existence on the Filing Date, and any interest accrued thereon or costs payable in respect thereof, whether or not such right or claim is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, unsecured, perfected, unperfected, present, future, known, unknown, by guarantee, by surety or otherwise, and whether or not such right is executory or anticipatory in nature, including any Assessment or CRA Claim and any right or ability of any Person to advance a claim for contribution or indemnity or otherwise against the Company with respect to any matter, action, cause or chose in action, but subject to any counterclaim, set-off or right of compensation in favour of the Company which may exist, whether existing at present or commenced in the future, which indebtedness, liability or obligation is based in whole or in part on facts that existed prior to the Filing Date and any other claims that would have been claims provable in bankruptcy had the Company become bankrupt on the Filing Date, including for greater certainty any Equity Claim and any claim against the Company for indemnification by any Director or Officer in respect of a Director/Officer Claim (but excluding any such claim for indemnification that is covered by the Directors’ Charge);

- (b) any right or claim of any Person against the Company in connection with any indebtedness, liability or obligation of any kind whatsoever owed by the Company to such Person arising out of (A) the restructuring, disclaimer, rescission, termination or breach by the Company on or after the Filing Date of any contract, lease, agreement (including an employee agreement) or arrangement whether written or oral, or (B) any other action taken by or omission of the Company on or after the Filing Date and includes, without limitation, any Assessment or CRA Claim; and
- (c) any right or claim of any Person against one or more of the Directors and/or Officers howsoever arising, whether or not such right or claim is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, unsecured, perfected, unperfected, present, future, known, or unknown, by guarantee, surety or otherwise, and whether or not such right is executory or anticipatory in nature, including any Assessment or CRA Claim and any right or ability of any Person to advance a claim for contribution or indemnity or otherwise with respect to any matter, action, cause or chose in action, whether existing at present or commenced in the future, for which any Director or Officer is alleged to be, by statute or otherwise by law or equity, liable to pay in his or her capacity as a Director or Officer (each a “**Director/Officer Claim**”, and collectively, the “**Director/Officer Claims**”).

“**Claims Bar Date**” means the Prefiling Claims Bar Date or the Restructuring Claims Bar Date, as applicable, as defined in the Claims Procedure Order.

“**Claims Procedure Order**” means the Order by the Court under the CCAA granted April 29, 2016 establishing a claims procedure in respect of the Company, as same may be further amended, restated or varied from time to time.

“**Closing Payments**” means the amounts to be paid by the Company pursuant to the Plan or the Transaction Agreement on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date and includes, without limitation, any:

- (a) Claim secured by any of the Charges;
- (b) Post-Filing Claims;
- (c) Transition Costs;
- (d) all amounts in respect of Personnel pursuant to section 4.3(2) of the Transaction Agreement, to the extent that such amounts do not constitute Affected Claims, and for greater certainty all obligations to Personnel in respect of termination and severance pay as at the Closing Time shall constitute Affected Claims;
- (e) without duplication, all Employee Priority Claims; and
- (f) Government Priority Claims.

“**Common Shares**” means the common shares in the capital of the Company designated as common shares in the Articles of the Company.

“**Company Advisors**” means Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP, Wildeboer Dellelce LLP and Canaccord Genuity Corp.

“**Consolidation Ratio**” means, with respect to the Common Shares, the ratio by which Common Shares outstanding on the Plan Implementation Date at the relevant time (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Common Shares that are Existing Shares and any Common Shares that are New Common Shares issued pursuant to the Plan) are consolidated pursuant to the Plan, as agreed by the Company and the Sponsor.

“**Court**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“**CRA Claim**” means any Claim of the Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, the Canada Revenue Agency or any other Person relating in any manner whatsoever to any failure by the Company and/or any Director or Officer to (i) comply with the *Excise Tax Act* or any Assessment, or (ii) charge, collect or remit goods and services tax and/or harmonized sales tax in accordance with the *Excise Tax Act* or any other Applicable Law with respect to goods and services tax or harmonized sales tax, including any Claim for interest, penalties, fines, charges, return of refunds or input tax credit or other amounts of any nature whatsoever and for greater certainty CRA Claim does not include any Government Priority Claim.

“**Creditor**” means any Person having a Claim, but only with respect to and to the extent of such Claim, including the transferee or assignee of a transferred Claim that is recognized as a Person having a Claim in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order or a trustee, executor, liquidator, receiver, receiver and manager or other Person acting on behalf of or through such Person.

“**Customer Prepayments**” has the meaning ascribed to it in the Transaction Agreement.

“**Debentureholders**” means the holders of the Debentures.

“**Debenture Obligations**” means all obligations, liabilities, indebtedness of, or Claims against, the Company under, arising out of or in connection with the Indenture or the Debentures.

“**Debentures**” means the 7% extendible convertible unsecured subordinated debentures due December 31, 2019 issued pursuant to the Indenture.

“**Director/Officer Claim**” has the meaning ascribed thereto within the definition of “**Claim**” above.

“**Directors**” means all current and former directors of the Company, in such capacity, and any person deemed to be a director or former director of the Company, and “**Director**” means any one of them.

“**Directors’ Advisors**” means Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.

“**Directors’ Charge**” has the meaning ascribed to it in the Initial Order.

“**Distribution Date**” means the date or dates from time to time set by the Monitor to effect distributions in respect of the Proven Distribution Claims, which date or dates may be on or after the Plan Implementation Date.

“**Effective Time**” means 12:01 a.m. (Toronto Time) on the Plan Implementation Date or such other time on such date as the Company may determine.

“**Employees**” means the present and former employees of the Company.

“**Employee Priority Claims**” means the following Claims of Employees of the Company:

- (a) Claims equal to the amounts that such Employees would have been entitled to receive under paragraph 136(l)(d) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada) if the Company had become bankrupt on the Filing Date; and
- (b) Claims for wages, salaries, commissions or compensation for services rendered by such Employees after the Filing Date and on or before the Court sanctions this Plan together with, in the case of travelling salespersons, disbursements properly incurred by them in and about the Company’s business during the same period.

“**Encumbrance**” means any charge, mortgage, lien, pledge, hypothec, security interest or other encumbrance whether created or arising by agreement, statute or otherwise at law, attaching to property, interests or rights and shall be construed in the widest possible terms and principles known under the law applicable to such property, interests or rights and whether or not they constitute specific or floating charges as those terms are understood under the laws of the Province of Ontario.

“**Equity Claim**” means a Claim that meets the definition of “equity claim” in section 2(1) of the CCAA and includes, without limitation, any Claim relating to the alleged failure of the Company to comply with revenue recognition or other accounting policies applicable to the Company prior to the Filing Date, including without limitation any Claim asserted in the class action lawsuit commenced in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, bearing court file number CV-16-545118-00CP, by Morganti Legal or any Proof of Claim filed in respect of such matters.

“**Equity Claimants**” means any Person with an Equity Claim, but only in such capacity.

“**Equity Interests**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 2(1) of the CCAA and includes the Existing Shares, any shareholder agreement in respect of the Existing Shares, the Existing Options and any other interest in or entitlement to shares in the capital of the Company, but, for greater certainty, does not include the New Common Shares issued on the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with the Plan.

“**Existing Options**” means any options, warrants, conversion privileges, puts, calls, subscriptions, exchangeable securities, restricted share units, share purchase programs or other rights, entitlements, agreements, arrangements or commitments (pre-emptive, contingent or otherwise) obligating the Company to issue, acquire or sell shares or units in the capital of the Company or to purchase any shares, units, securities, options or warrants, or any securities or obligations of any kind convertible into or exchangeable for shares or units in the capital of the Company, in each case that are existing or issued and outstanding immediately prior to the

Effective Time, including any options to acquire shares, units or other equity securities of the Company issued under the Stock Option Plans, any warrants exercisable for common shares, units or other equity securities of the Company, any put rights exercisable against the Company in respect of any shares, units, options, warrants or other securities, and any rights, entitlements or other claims of any kind to receive any other form of consideration in respect of any prior or future exercise of any of the foregoing.

“Existing Shareholder” means any Person who holds, is entitled to or has any rights in or to the Existing Shares or any shares in the authorized capital of the Company immediately prior to the Effective Time, but only in such capacity, and for greater certainty does not include any Person that is issued New Common Shares on the Plan Implementation Date.

“Existing Shares” means all shares in the capital of the Company that are issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time and, for greater certainty, does not include any New Common Shares issued on the Plan Implementation Date.

“Filing Date” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“Final Order” means any order, ruling or judgment of the Court, or any other court of competent jurisdiction, (i) that is in full force and effect; (ii) that has not been reversed, modified or vacated and is not subject to any stay; and (iii) in respect of which all applicable appeal periods have expired and any appeals therefrom have been finally disposed of, leaving such order, ruling or judgment wholly operable.

“Government Priority Claim” means all Claims of Governmental Entities against the Company in respect of amounts that are outstanding and that are of a kind that could be subject to a demand under:

- (a) subsection 224(1.2) of the Tax Act;
- (b) any provision of the *Canada Pension Plan* or the *Employment Insurance Act* that refers to subsection 224(1.2) of the Tax Act and provides for the collection of a contribution, as defined in the *Canada Pension Plan*, an employee’s premium or employer’s premium, as defined in the *Employment Insurance Act*, or a premium under Part VII. I of that Act, and of any related interest, penalties or other amounts; or
- (c) any provision of provincial legislation that has a similar purpose to subsection 224(1.2) of the Tax Act, or that refers to that subsection, to the extent that it provides for the collection of a sum, and of any related interest, penalties or other amounts, where the sum:
 - (i) has been withheld or deducted by a person from a payment to another person and is in respect of a tax similar in nature to the income tax imposed on individuals under the Tax Act; or
 - (ii) is of the same nature as a contribution under the *Canada Pension Plan* if the province is a “province providing a comprehensive pension plan” as defined in subsection 3(1) of the *Canada Pension Plan* and the provincial

legislation establishes a “provincial pension plan” as defined in that subsection.

“**Governmental Entity**” means any government, regulatory authority, governmental department, agency, commission, bureau, official, minister, Crown corporation, court, board, tribunal or dispute settlement panel or other law, rule or regulation-making organization or entity: (a) having or purporting to have jurisdiction on behalf of any nation, province, territory or state or any other geographic or political subdivision of any of them; or (b) exercising, or entitled or purporting to exercise, any administrative, executive, judicial, legislative, policy, regulatory or taxing authority or power.

“**Indenture**” means the indenture dated December 22, 2014 between the Company and the Indenture Trustee in connection with the issuance of the Debentures.

“**Indenture Trustee**” means Equity Financial Trust Company, as trustee in respect of the Debentures under the Indenture.

“**Individual Plan Entitlement**” means, with respect to each Affected Unsecured Creditor with a Proven Distribution Claim, its entitlement to receive its respective individual portion of the Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool, the quantum of which entitlement shall be calculated as follows at the relevant time:

(A) the Proven Distribution Claim of such Affected Unsecured Creditor

divided by

(B) the total amount of all Proven Distribution Claims and Unresolved Claims of Affected Unsecured Creditors,

multiplied by

(C) the amount of the Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool.

“**Initial Order**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“**Insurance Policy**” means any insurance policy maintained by the Company pursuant to which the Company or any Director or Officer is insured.

“**Insured Claim**” means all or that portion of a Claim arising from a cause of action for which the applicable insurer or a court of competent jurisdiction has confirmed or may hereafter confirm that the Company or a Director or Officer is insured under an Insurance Policy, to the extent that such Claim, or portion thereof, is so insured.

“**Meeting Date**” means the date on which the Meeting is held in accordance with the Meeting Order.

“**Meeting**” means the meeting of Affected Unsecured Creditors having Proven Voting Claims or Unresolved Claims called for the purpose of considering and voting on this Plan in accordance with the terms of the CCAA and the Meeting Order.

“**Meeting Order**” means the Order of the Court pursuant to the CCAA that, among other things, authorizes the Company to hold the Meeting, as such Order may be amended, restated or varied from time to time.

“**Monitor**” means PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., in its capacity as the Court-appointed monitor of the Company in the CCAA Proceeding.

“**New Common Shares**” means the new Common Shares to be issued pursuant to section 5.3 hereof.

“**OBCA**” means the *Business Corporations Act* (Ontario), R.S.O. 1990, c. B.16, as amended.

“**Officers**” means all current and former officers of the Company, in such capacity, and “**Officer**” means any one of them.

“**Order**” means any order of the Court made in connection with the CCAA Proceeding.

“**Person**” means any individual, partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, trust, corporation, unincorporated organization, government or agency or instrumentality thereof, or any other corporate, executive, legislative, judicial, regulatory or administrative entity howsoever designated or constituted, including, without limitation, any present or former shareholder, supplier, customer, employee, agent, client, contractor, lender, lessor, landlord, sub-landlord, tenant, sub-tenant, licensor, licensee, partner or advisor.

“**Personnel**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the Transaction Agreement.

“**Plan**” means this Plan of Compromise and Arrangement filed by the Company pursuant to the CCAA, as it may be amended, supplemented or restated from time to time in accordance with the its terms.

“**Plan Implementation Date**” means the Business Day on which the Plan becomes effective, which shall be the Business Day on which the Monitor delivers the certificate pursuant to section 8.4 hereof stating that the Plan Implementation Date has occurred.

“**Post-Filing Claims**” means obligations, claims or indebtedness that were incurred by the Company after the Filing Date but before the Plan Implementation Date.

“**Proof of Claim**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the Claims Procedure Order.

“**Proven Distribution Claim**” means an Affected Unsecured Claim finally determined, settled or accepted for distribution purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Claims Procedure Order, the Meeting Order and this Plan, as applicable.

“**Proven Voting Claim**” means an Affected Unsecured Claim finally determined, settled or accepted for voting purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Claims Procedure Order, the Meeting Order and this Plan, as applicable.

“**Released Claims**” means any and all demands, claims, actions, causes of action, counterclaims, suits, debts, sums of money, accounts, covenants, damages, judgments, orders, including for

injunctive relief or specific performance and compliance orders, expenses, executions, Encumbrances and other recoveries on account of any liability, obligation, demand or cause of action of whatever nature, including claims for contribution or indemnity, whether known or unknown, matured or unmatured, direct, indirect or derivative, foreseen or unforeseen, existing or hereafter arising, based in whole or in part on any act, omission, transaction, duty, responsibility, indebtedness, liability, obligation, dealing or other occurrence: (i) existing or taking place on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date that constitute or are in any way relating to, arising out of or in connection with any Claims, any Director/Officer Claims and any indemnification obligations with respect thereto, any Equity Claims, the Debentures, the Indenture, the Debenture Obligations, the Equity Interests, the Stock Option Plans, the New Common Shares, the Individual Plan Entitlement, the business and affairs of the Company whenever or however conducted, the administration and/or management of the Company, the Restructuring, the Plan, the CCAA Proceeding, or any document, instrument, matter or transaction involving the Company taking place in connection with the Restructuring or the Plan; or (ii) existing or taking place on or prior to the date on which actions are taken to implement the Plan and that arise out of those actions taken to implement the Plan,

“Released Director/Officer Claim” means any Director/Officer Claim that is released pursuant to section 6.1.

“Released Party” and **“Released Parties”** have the meaning ascribed thereto in section 6.1.

“Required Majority” means with respect to the Unsecured Creditors Class, a majority in number of Affected Unsecured Creditors with Proven Voting Claims representing at least two thirds in value of the Proven Voting Claims of Affected Unsecured Creditors, in each case who are entitled to vote at the Meeting in accordance with the Meeting Order and who are present and voting in person or by proxy on the resolution approving the Plan at the Meeting.

“Restructuring” means the transactions contemplated by the Plan and the Transaction Agreement.

“Restructuring Costs” means the administrative costs incurred in connection with the implementation and completion of the Restructuring, the Plan and the CCAA Proceeding whether payable prior to, on or after the Plan Implementation Date, including, without limitation, any amount that is reserved to address the reasonable fees and expenses of the Company Advisors, the Directors’ Advisors, the Monitor and the Monitor’s counsel following the Plan Implementation Date.

“Sanction Order” means the Order of the Court sanctioning and approving the Plan.

“Sponsor” means GXI Acquisition Corp.

“Sponsor Advisors” means Goodmans LLP.

“Stock Option Plans” means any options plans, stock-based compensation plans or other obligations of the Company in respect of shares, options or warrants for equity in the Company, in each case as such plans or other obligations may be amended, restated or varied from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof.

“**Tax Act**” means the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), as amended.

“**Total Proceeds**” means the aggregate amount of cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities held by the Company on the Plan Implementation Date, but excluding all Customer Prepayments.

“**Transaction Agreement**” means the agreement dated as of June 30, 2016 between the Company and the Sponsor and approved by the Court pursuant to the Transaction Approval and Vesting Order dated July 13, 2016, as such agreement may be or has been amended or modified from time to time.

“**Transferred Assets**” means all right, title and interest of the Company in and to the assets, property and undertaking listed on Schedule A hereto.

“**Transition Costs**” means, collectively, the Cure Costs, Assignment Fees and Consent Fees (each as defined in the Transaction Agreement) payable by the Company on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date pursuant to the terms of the Transaction Agreement.

“**Unaffected Claim**” means any:

- (g) Claim secured by any of the Charges;
- (h) Insured Claim;
- (i) Claim in respect of Customer Prepayments;
- (j) Post-Filing Claims;
- (k) Transition Costs;
- (l) Employee Priority Claims;
- (m) Government Priority Claims; and
- (n) Claim that is not permitted to be compromised pursuant to section 19(2) or 5.1(2) of the CCAA.

“**Unaffected Creditor**” means a Creditor who has an Unaffected Claim, but only in respect of and to the extent of such Unaffected Claim.

“**Undeliverable Distribution**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 4.6 hereof.

“**Unresolved Claim**” means any Affected Unsecured Claim or any Proof of Claim that is, at the relevant time, in dispute for voting and/or distribution purposes pursuant to the Claims Procedure Order.

“**Unresolved Claims Reserve**” means cash reserved from the Total Proceeds and held in one or more separate non-interest bearing accounts, in the aggregate amount sufficient to pay each holder of an Unresolved Claim the lesser of: (a) the amount of cash that such holder would have

been entitled to receive under this Plan if such Unresolved Claim had been a Proven Distribution Claim on the Plan Implementation Date; and (b) such amount as the Court may otherwise determine.

“Unsecured Creditors Class” means a class of Persons consisting of those Affected Unsecured Creditors having Proven Voting Claims established in accordance with Article 3 hereof.

“Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool” means, collectively, the Total Proceeds, less:

- (a) Restructuring Costs as determined by the Monitor; and
- (b) without duplication, all amounts required to pay the Closing Payments and to discharge all Claims with respect thereto.

1.2 Certain Rules of Interpretation

For the purposes of the Plan:

- (a) any reference in the Plan to a contract, instrument, release, indenture or other agreement or document being in a particular form or on particular terms and conditions means that such document shall be substantially in such form or substantially on such terms and conditions;
- (b) any reference in the Plan to an Order or an existing document or exhibit filed or to be filed means such Order, document or exhibit as it may have been or may be amended, modified, or supplemented;
- (c) unless otherwise specified, all references to currency are in United States dollars;
- (d) the division of the Plan into “articles” and “sections” and the insertion of a table of contents are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the construction or interpretation of the Plan, nor are the descriptive headings of “articles” and “sections” intended as complete or accurate descriptions of the content thereof;
- (e) the use of words in the singular or plural, or with a particular gender, including a definition, shall not limit the scope or exclude the application of any provision of the Plan or a schedule hereto to such Person (or Persons) or circumstances as the context otherwise permits;
- (f) the words “includes” and “including” and similar terms of inclusion shall not, unless expressly modified by the words “only” or “solely”, be construed as terms of limitation, but rather shall mean “includes but is not limited to” and “including but not limited to”, so that references to included matters shall be regarded as illustrative without being either characterizing or exhaustive;
- (g) unless otherwise specified, all references to time herein and in any document issued pursuant hereto mean Eastern Time and any reference to an event

occurring on a Business Day shall mean prior to 5:00 p.m. (Toronto Time) on such Business Day;

- (h) unless otherwise specified, time periods within or following which any payment is to be made or act is to be done shall be calculated by excluding the day on which the period commences and including the day on which the period ends and by extending the period to the next succeeding Business Day if the last day of the period is not a Business Day;
- (i) unless otherwise provided, any reference to a statute or other enactment of parliament or a legislature includes all regulations made thereunder, all amendments to or re-enactments of such statute or regulations in force from time to time, and, if applicable, any statute or regulation that supplements or supersedes such statute or regulation; and
- (j) references to a specified "article" or "section" shall, unless something in the subject matter or context is inconsistent therewith, be construed as references to that specified article or section of the Plan, whereas the terms "the Plan", "hereof", "herein", "hereto", "hereunder" and similar expressions shall be deemed to refer generally to the Plan and not to any particular "article", "section" or other portion of the Plan and include any documents supplemental hereto.

1.3 Successors and Assigns

The Plan shall be binding upon and shall enure to the benefit of the heirs, administrators, executors, legal personal representatives, successors and assigns of any Person or party directly or directly named or referred to in or subject to the Plan.

1.4 Governing Law

The Plan shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein. All questions as to the interpretation of or application of the Plan and all proceedings taken in connection with the Plan and its provisions shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.

1.5 Schedules

The following are the Schedules to the Plan, which are incorporated by reference into the Plan and form a part of it:

Schedule A	Transferred Assets
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ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE PLAN

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is:

- (a) to implement a recapitalization of the Company;
- (b) to provide for a settlement of, and consideration for, all Affected Claims;
- (c) to effect a release and discharge of all Affected Claims and other Released Claims; and
- (d) to ensure the continuation of the Company,

in the expectation that the Persons who have an economic interest in the Company will derive a greater benefit from the implementation of the Plan than they would derive from any other alternative in respect of the Company.

2.2 Persons Affected

The Plan provides for a full and final release and discharge of the Affected Claims and Released Claims, a settlement of, and consideration for, all Affected Claims and a recapitalization of the Company. The Plan will become effective at the Effective Time in accordance with its terms and in the sequence set forth in section 5.4 and shall be binding on and enure to the benefit of the Company, the Affected Creditors, the Released Parties and all other Persons directly or indirectly named or referred to in or subject to Plan.

2.3 Persons Not Affected

The Plan does not affect the Unaffected Creditors, subject to the express provisions hereof providing for the treatment of Insured Claims. Nothing in the Plan shall affect the Company's rights and defences, both legal and equitable, with respect to any Unaffected Claims including all rights with respect to legal and equitable defences or entitlements to set-offs or recoupments against such Unaffected Claims.

ARTICLE 3 CLASSIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF CREDITORS AND RELATED MATTERS

3.1 Claims Procedure

The procedure for determining the validity and quantum of the Affected Claims for voting and distribution purposes under the Plan shall be governed by the Claims Procedure Order, the Meeting Order, the CCAA, the Plan and any further Order of the Court.

3.2 Classification of Creditors

In accordance with the Meeting Order, there shall be one class of Creditors for the purpose of considering and voting on this Plan, being the Unsecured Creditors Class.

Equity Claimants shall not receive any consideration or distributions under this Plan and shall not be entitled to vote on this Plan at the Meeting.

3.3 Meeting

The Meeting shall be held in accordance with the Meeting Order and any further Order of the Court. The only Persons entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting are those specified in the Meeting Order.

3.4 Unaffected Claims

- (a) Unaffected Claims shall not be compromised, released, discharged, cancelled or barred by the Plan.
- (b) Except to the extent that an Unaffected Claim is satisfied by the payment of a Closing Payment pursuant to section 5.4(a) hereof, Unaffected Creditors will not receive any consideration or distributions under the Plan in respect of their Unaffected Claims. Unaffected Creditors shall not be entitled to vote on the Plan at the Meeting in respect of their Unaffected Claims.
- (c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Plan, Insured Claims shall not be compromised, released, discharged, cancelled or barred by the Plan, provided that from and after the Plan Implementation Date, any Person having an Insured Claim shall be irrevocably limited to recovery in respect of such Insured Claim solely from the proceeds of the applicable Insurance Policies, and Persons with any Insured Claims shall have no right to, and shall not, directly or indirectly, seek any recoveries from any Person, including the Company, the Directors or Officers or any other Released Party, other than enforcing such Person's rights to be paid by the applicable insurer(s) from the proceeds of the applicable Insurance Policies. This section 3.4(c) may be relied upon and raised or pled by the Company, a Director, an Officer or any other Released Party in defence or estoppel of or to enjoin any claim, action or proceeding brought in contravention of this section. Nothing in the Plan shall prejudice, compromise, release or otherwise affect any right or defence of any insurer in respect of an Insurance Policy or any insured in respect of an Insured Claim.

3.5 Unresolved Claims

- (a) Any Affected Unsecured Creditor with an Unresolved Claim shall not be entitled to receive any distribution hereunder with respect to such Unresolved Claim unless and until such Claim becomes a Proven Distribution Claim.
- (b) An Unresolved Claim shall be resolved in the manner set out in the Claims Procedure Order. Distributions pursuant to section 4.2 hereof shall be made in

respect of any Unresolved Claim that is finally determined to be a Proven Distribution Claim in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order.

- (c) On the date that all Unresolved Claims have been finally resolved in accordance the Claims Procedure Order, the Monitor shall release all remaining cash, if any, from the Unresolved Claims Reserve and shall distribute such cash to the Affected Unsecured Creditors with Proven Distribution Claims in accordance with section 4.2(b) hereof.

3.6 Director/Officer Claims

All Released Director/Officer Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date. Any Director/Officer Claim that is not a Released Director/Officer Claim will not be compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred. For greater certainty, any Claim of a Director or Officer against the Company for indemnification or contribution in respect of any Director/Officer Claim (other than any such claim for indemnification that is covered by the Directors' Charge) shall be treated for all purposes under the Plan as an Affected Claim that is compromised, released and discharged pursuant to the Plan.

3.7 Extinguishment of Claims

On the Plan Implementation Date, in accordance with the terms and in the sequence set forth in section 5.4 and in accordance with the provisions of the Sanction Order, the treatment of Affected Claims and Released Claims, in each case as set forth herein, shall be final and binding on the Company, all Affected Creditors and any Person having a Released Claim (and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal personal representatives, successors and assigns), and all Affected Claims and all Released Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever released, discharged, cancelled and barred, and the Company and the Released Parties shall thereupon have no further obligation whatsoever in respect of the Affected Claims or the Released Claims; *provided that* nothing herein releases the Company or any other Person from their obligations to make distributions in the manner and to the extent provided for in the Plan and *provided further* that such discharge and release of the Company shall be without prejudice to the right of a Creditor in respect of an Unresolved Claim to prove such Unresolved Claim in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order so that such Unresolved Claim may become a Proven Distribution Claim that is entitled to receive consideration under section 4.2 hereof.

3.8 Guarantees and Similar Covenants

No Person who has a Claim under any guarantee, surety, indemnity or similar covenant in respect of any Claim that is compromised and released under the Plan or who has any right to claim over in respect of or to be subrogated to the rights of any Person in respect of a Claim that is compromised under the Plan shall be entitled to any greater rights than the Person whose Claim is compromised under the Plan.

3.9 Set-Off

The law of set-off applies to all Claims.

ARTICLE 4
PROVISIONS REGARDING DISTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS

4.1 Treatment of Creditors

For purposes of this Plan, the Affected Unsecured Creditors shall receive the treatment provided in this Article 4 and, on the Plan Implementation Date, all Affected Claims will be compromised in accordance with the terms of this Plan.

4.2 Distributions to Affected Unsecured Creditors

- (a) In accordance with the steps and sequence set forth in section 5.4, under the supervision of the Monitor, each Affected Unsecured Creditor having a Proven Distribution Claim shall become entitled to its Individual Plan Entitlement on the Plan Implementation Date without any further steps or actions by the Company, such Affected Unsecured Creditor or any other Person.
- (b) On the applicable Distribution Date, the Monitor shall calculate the amount of the Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool and the Individual Plan Entitlement to be paid to each applicable Affected Unsecured Creditor with a Proven Distribution Claim. The Monitor shall also calculate the amount of Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool that is not to be distributed as a result of Unresolved Claims that remain outstanding, if any. The Monitor shall then distribute the applicable amount by way of cheque sent by prepaid ordinary mail, or in such other manner as the Monitor may determine, to each Affected Unsecured Creditor with a Proven Distribution Claim. With respect to any portion of the Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool that is reserved in respect of Unresolved Claims, the Monitor shall segregate such amounts and hold such amounts in the Unresolved Claims Reserve.

4.3 Modifications to Distribution Mechanics

The Company and the Monitor shall be entitled to make such additions and modifications to the process for making distributions pursuant to the Plan as the Company and the Monitor deem necessary or desirable in order to achieve the proper distribution and allocation of consideration to be distributed pursuant to the Plan, and such additions or modifications shall not require an amendment to the Plan or any further Order of the Court, provided that any addition or modification to the process for making distributions pursuant to the Plan that affects the rights or interests of the Sponsor shall require the prior consent of the Sponsor.

4.4 Cancellations of Certificates and Notes

Following completion of the steps in the sequence set forth in section 5.4, all Debentures, notes, certificates, invoices and other instruments evidencing Affected Claims, Debenture Obligations or Equity Interests will not entitle any holder thereof to any compensation or participation other than as expressly provided for in the Plan and will be cancelled and will be null and void. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if and to the extent the Indenture Trustee is required to transfer consideration issued pursuant to this Plan to the Debentureholders, then the Indenture shall

remain in effect solely for the purpose of and to the extent necessary to: (i) allow the Indenture Trustee to make such distributions to the Debentureholders on the initial Distribution Date and each subsequent Distribution Date (if applicable); and (ii) maintain all of the protections the Indenture Trustee enjoys pursuant to the Indenture, including its lien rights with respect to any distributions under the Plan, until all distributions are made to the Debentureholders hereunder. For greater certainty, any and all obligations of the Company under and with respect to the Debentures and the Indenture, including the Debenture Obligations, shall be extinguished on the Plan Implementation Date and shall not continue beyond the Plan Implementation Date.

4.5 Currency

Unless specifically provided for in the Plan, all monetary amounts referred to in the Plan shall be denominated in United States dollars and, for the purposes of distributions under the Plan, Claims shall be denominated in United States dollars and all payments and distributions provided for in the Plan shall be made in United States dollars. Any Claims denominated in a foreign currency shall be converted to United States dollars at the Bank of Canada noon exchange rate in effect at the Filing Date.

4.6 Treatment of Undeliverable Distributions

If any Affected Unsecured Creditor's distribution under this Article 4 is returned as undeliverable or remains uncashed six months after mailing (an "**Undeliverable Distribution**"), no further distributions to such Creditor shall be made unless and until the Company or the Monitor is notified by such Affected Unsecured Creditor of such Affected Unsecured Creditor's current address, at which time all such distributions shall be made to such Affected Unsecured Creditor. All claims for Undeliverable Distributions must be made on or before the date that is six months following the final Distribution Date, after which date any entitlement with respect to such Undeliverable Distribution shall be forever discharged and forever barred, without any compensation therefor, notwithstanding any federal, state or provincial laws to the contrary. At such time, any Undeliverable Distributions shall be aggregated and if the aggregate of such Undeliverable Distributions is: (i) equal to or greater than \$50,000, (x) such Undeliverable Distributions shall be paid to the Affected Unsecured Creditors with Proven Distribution Claims on a *pro rata* basis, provided that the Monitor shall not be required to make a distribution to an Affected Unsecured Creditor where such distribution would be less than \$50 and (y) any amount remaining after the distribution described in the previous clause (x) shall be returned to the Company; or (ii) less than \$50,000, all such Undeliverable Distributions shall be returned to the Company. Nothing contained in the Plan shall require the Company or the Monitor to attempt to locate any Person to whom a distribution is payable. No interest is payable in respect of an Undeliverable Distribution. Unless otherwise expressly agreed by the Monitor and the Company in writing, any distribution under the Plan on account of the Debentures shall be deemed made when delivered to the Indenture Trustee.

4.7 Recourse for Restructuring Costs and Closing Payments

In the event that any Restructuring Costs or Closing Payments arise or are payable following the Plan Implementation Date and sufficient funds to satisfy such amounts have not been specifically reserved pursuant to the terms of this Plan, such amounts shall be payable solely from the Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool. For greater certainty, there shall be no recourse against

the Company for any Restructuring Costs or Closing Payments from and after the Effective Time and no Person shall have any claim, right or interest against the Company or its property, assets or undertaking from and after the Effective Time with respect to Restructuring Costs or Closing Payments.

4.8 Calculations

All amounts of consideration to be received hereunder will be calculated to the nearest cent (\$0.01). All calculations and determinations made by the Monitor and/or the Company and agreed to by the Monitor for the purposes of the Plan, including, without limitation, the allocation of consideration, shall be conclusive, final and binding upon the Affected Creditors and the Company.

4.9 Taxes in respect of Distributions

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan, each Affected Unsecured Creditor that is to receive a distribution pursuant to this Plan will have sole and exclusive responsibility for the satisfaction and payment of any tax obligation imposed by any Governmental Authority (including income and other tax obligations) on account of such distribution.

To the extent that amounts are withheld or deducted from any distributions, payments or disbursements and paid over to the applicable taxing authority in accordance with Applicable Law, such withheld or deducted amounts shall be treated for all purposes of this Plan as having been paid to such Affected Unsecured Creditor. No gross-up or other adjustment will be made to any distributions to Affected Unsecured Creditors under this Plan on account of any amounts so deducted or withheld from any distribution.

ARTICLE 5 RESTRUCTURING

5.1 Corporate Actions

The adoption, execution, delivery, implementation and consummation of all matters contemplated under the Plan involving corporate actions of the Company will occur and be effective as of the Plan Implementation Date, and shall be deemed to be authorized and approved under the Plan and by the Court, where applicable, as part of the Sanction Order, in all respects and for all purposes without any requirement of further action by shareholders, directors or officers of the Company. All necessary approvals to take actions shall be deemed to have been obtained from the directors, officers or shareholders of the Company, as applicable, including the deemed passing by any class of shareholders of any resolution or special resolution and any shareholders' agreement or agreement between a shareholder and another Person limiting in any way the right to vote shares held by such shareholder or shareholders with respect to any of the steps contemplated by the Plan shall be deemed to have no force or effect.

5.1 AssetCo

AssetCo shall be incorporated prior to the Plan Implementation Date and shall not be an affiliate of the Company. At the time that AssetCo is incorporated, AssetCo shall issue one common share to a shareholder that is not an affiliate of the Company prior to the Plan Implementation

Date, as the sole shareholder of AssetCo. The Company shall have no liability whatsoever for any liability or obligation of AssetCo.

5.2 Transfer of Transferred Assets to AssetCo

- (a) On the Plan Implementation Date, immediately prior to the initiation of the sequence of steps and transactions referred to in section 5.4 hereof, all Transferred Assets shall be transferred to AssetCo together with (and, for greater certainty, not free and clear of) any and all Encumbrances in respect of such Transferred Assets. Any and all Affected Claims in respect of the Transferred Assets shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever released, waived, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date as against the Company, the Directors and the Officers, provided that any litigation or enforcement process against the Company for a non-monetary remedy in respect of any such Transferred Assets may be continued against (and in the name of) AssetCo (and, for greater certainty, not against the Company). The style of cause of any such litigation or enforcement process in respect of such Transferred Assets shall be amended such that AssetCo, not the Company, is the party named in the applicable litigation or enforcement process.
- (b) The Company, with the consent of the Monitor, shall be permitted to transfer to AssetCo prior to the Plan Implementation Date an amount sufficient to provide for the costs associated with the liquidation and dissolution of AssetCo.

5.3 New Common Shares

On the Plan Implementation Date, in the sequence set forth in section 5.4 and under the supervision of the Monitor, the Company shall issue the Agreed Number of New Common Shares to the Sponsor in exchange for the payment by the Sponsor of the Subscription Price (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) pursuant to the terms of the Transaction Agreement.

5.4 Sequence of Plan Implementation Date Transactions

The following steps, compromises and releases to be effected in the implementation of the Plan shall occur, and be deemed to have occurred, in the following order in five minute increments (unless otherwise noted), without any further act or formality on the Plan Implementation Date beginning at the Effective Time:

- (a) the Company shall pay, or cause to be paid, all Closing Payments;
- (b) all Existing Options shall be cancelled and terminated without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof;
- (c) the Stock Option Plans shall be terminated;
- (d) each Affected Unsecured Creditor with a Proven Distribution Claim shall become entitled to its Individual Plan Entitlement (as it may be adjusted based on the final determination of Unresolved Claims in the manner set forth herein) in full consideration for the irrevocable, final and full compromise, satisfaction and

release of such Affected Unsecured Creditor's Affected Unsecured Claim, and each such Affected Unsecured Creditor shall be entitled to receive a distribution from the Unsecured Creditors Distribution Pool for its Individual Plan Entitlement in accordance with this Plan on the Distribution Date;

- (e) upon receipt by the Monitor of the Closing Cash Payment (as defined in the Transaction Agreement), the Company shall issue to the Sponsor the Agreed Number of New Common Shares;
- (f) the Articles shall be altered to, among other things, (i) consolidate the issued and outstanding Common Shares (including, for the avoidance of doubt, Common Shares that are Existing Shares and New Common Shares issued pursuant to section 5.4(e)) on the basis of the Consolidation Ratio; and (ii) provide for such additional changes to the rights and conditions attached to the Common Shares as may be agreed to by the Company and the Sponsor;
- (g) any fractional Common Shares held by any holder of Common Shares immediately following the consolidation of the Common Shares referred to in section 5.4(f) shall be cancelled without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof, and the Articles shall be altered as necessary to achieve such cancellation;
- (h) all Equity Interests (for greater certainty, not including any New Common Shares that remain issued and outstanding immediately following the cancellation of fractional interests in section 5.4(g)) shall be cancelled and extinguished without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof and all Equity Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof;
- (i) subject only to section 4.4 hereof, the Debentures, the Indenture and all Debenture Obligations shall be deemed to be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred;
- (j) all Affected Claims remaining after the step referred to in section 5.4(i) shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof;
- (k) any right of indemnity or contribution of a Director, Officer or Employee against the Company of any nature whatsoever (whether pursuant to a written contract or agreement or otherwise, and whether present or future or known or unknown) shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever terminated, extinguished, compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred without any liability, payment or other compensation in respect thereof and each Director, Officer or Employee shall be permanently barred, estopped, stayed and enjoined, on and after the Plan Implementation Date, from asserting any such right of indemnity or contribution against the Company;

- (l) all current Directors shall be deemed to have resigned from the board of directors of the Company, and the Persons named on a certificate to be filed with the Court by the Company on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date shall be appointed to the board of directors of the Company; and
- (m) the releases set forth in Article 6 shall become effective.

5.5 Application of Sections 95 to 101 of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*

Sections 95 to 101 of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada) shall not apply to any of the transactions implemented pursuant to this Plan.

5.6 Amendment of the Articles

The steps described in sub-sections (f), (g) and (l) of section 5.4 will be implemented pursuant to section 6(2) of the CCAA and shall constitute a valid amendment of the Articles pursuant to the OBCA, including pursuant to section 186 of the OBCA. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Company shall file, prior to the Plan Implementation Date, Articles of Reorganization on terms providing that the Articles will become effective, and the Certificate of Amendment will be issued, on the Plan Implementation Date.

5.7 Issuances Free and Clear

Any issuance of any consideration pursuant to the Plan will be free and clear of any Encumbrances.

5.8 Stated Capital

For purposes of the OBCA, the aggregate stated capital of the New Common Shares issued pursuant to the Plan shall be determined by the new board of directors of the Company appointed pursuant to the Plan Sanction Order.

5.9 No Exercise of Right or Remedy

Subject to the performance by the Company of its obligations under the Plan and except as provided in the Plan, all obligations, agreements, contracts or arrangements to which the Company is a party on the Plan Implementation Date shall be and remain in full force and effect, unamended, as at the Plan Implementation Date and no Person, including any party thereto, shall on or following the Plan Implementation Date, accelerate, terminate, refuse to renew, rescind, refuse to perform, cancel or otherwise disclaim or resiliate its obligations or the Company's interests thereunder, or enforce or exercise (or purport to enforce or exercise) any right or remedy (including any right to receive any change of control, assignment or similar payment) under or in respect thereof by reason:

- (a) of any event that occurred prior to the Plan Implementation Date;
- (b) that the Company is or was insolvent, or that the Company sought or obtained relief or took steps as part of the Plan or under the CCAA;

- (c) of any default, event of default or circumstance of non-compliance arising as a result of the financial condition or insolvency of the Company or the CCAA Proceeding;
- (d) of the effect upon the Company of the completion of any of the transactions approved in the CCAA Proceeding or contemplated by the Plan, including, without limitation, as a result of a change of control of the Company; or
- (e) of any compromises, settlements, restructurings, recapitalizations or reorganizations effected pursuant to the Plan, including, without limitation, the compromise of the Claim of any Person with respect to a Retained Agreement (as defined in the Transaction Agreement).

ARTICLE 6 RELEASES

6.1 Plan Releases

On the Plan Implementation Date, in accordance with the sequence set forth in section 5.4, the Company, the Company's present and former employees and contractors, the Directors and Officers, the Company Advisors, the Directors' Advisors, the Monitor, the Monitor's counsel, the Sponsor and the Sponsor Advisors and each and every present and former shareholder, affiliate, subsidiary, director, officer, partner, employee, auditor, financial advisor, legal counsel and agent of any of the foregoing Persons referred to in this section 6.1 (each of such Persons referred to in this section 6.1, in their capacity as such, being herein referred to individually as a "**Released Party**" and all referred to collectively as "**Released Parties**") shall be released and discharged from any and all Released Claims, and all Released Claims shall be deemed to be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever waived, discharged, released, cancelled and barred as against the Released Parties, all to the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Law, provided that nothing herein will waive, discharge, release, cancel or bar (a) the right to enforce the Company's obligations under the Plan, (b) the Company from or in respect of any Unaffected Claim or any Claim that is not permitted to be released pursuant to section 19(2) of the CCAA or (c) any Director or Officer from any Director/Officer Claim that is not permitted to be released pursuant to section 5.1(2) of the CCAA.

6.2 Limitation on Insured Claims

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 6.1 and 6.3, Insured Claims shall not be compromised, released, discharged, cancelled or barred by the Plan, provided that from and after the Plan Implementation Date, any Person having an Insured Claim shall be irrevocably limited to recovery in respect of such Insured Claim solely from the proceeds of the applicable Insurance Policies, and Persons with an Insured Claim shall have no right to, and shall not, directly or indirectly, seek any recoveries in respect thereof from the Company, any Director or Officer or any other Released Party, other than enforcing such Person's rights to be paid by the applicable insurer(s) from the proceeds of the applicable Insurance Policies.

6.3 Injunctions

All Persons are permanently and forever barred, estopped, stayed and enjoined, on and after the Effective Time, with respect to any and all Released Claims, from (i) commencing, conducting or continuing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any action, suits, demands or other proceedings of any nature or kind whatsoever (including, without limitation, any proceeding in a judicial, arbitral, administrative or other forum) against any of the Released Parties; (ii) enforcing, levying, attaching, collecting or otherwise recovering or enforcing by any manner or means, directly or indirectly, any judgment, award, decree or order against any of the Released Parties or their property; (iii) creating, perfecting, asserting or otherwise enforcing, directly or indirectly, any lien or encumbrance of any kind against the Released Parties or their property; or (iv) taking any actions to interfere with the implementation or consummation of the Plan; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to the enforcement of any obligations under the Plan.

For greater certainty, the provisions of this section 6.3 shall apply to Insured Claims in the same manner as Released Claims, except to the extent that the rights of such Persons to pursue such Insured Claims against an insurer in respect of an Insurance Policy are expressly preserved pursuant to section 3.4(c) and section 6.2, and provided further that, notwithstanding the restrictions on making a claim that are set forth in sections 3.4(c) and 6.2, any claimant in respect of an Insured Claim that was duly filed with the Monitor by the Claims Bar Date shall be permitted to pursue the litigation in respect thereof to the extent necessary solely for the purpose of preserving such claimant's ability to pursue such Insured Claim against an insurer in respect of an Insurance Policy in the manner authorized pursuant to section 3.4(c) and section 6.2.

ARTICLE 7 COURT SANCTION

7.1 Application for Sanction Order

If the Required Majority of the Affected Unsecured Creditors in the Unsecured Creditors Class approves the Plan, the Company shall apply for the Sanction Order on or before the date required pursuant to the Transaction Agreement.

7.2 Sanction Order

Subject to Section 7.1 hereof, the Company shall seek a Sanction Order that, among other things:

- (a) declares that (i) the Plan has been approved by the Required Majority of Affected Unsecured Creditors in the Unsecured Creditors Class in conformity with the CCAA; (ii) the activities of the Company have been in reasonable compliance with the provisions of the CCAA and the Orders of the Court made in this CCAA Proceeding in all respects; (iii) the Court is satisfied that the Company has not done or purported to do anything that is not authorized by the CCAA; and (iv) the Plan, the Restructuring and the transactions contemplated thereby are fair and reasonable;
- (b) declares that as of the Effective Time, the Plan and all associated steps, compromises, transactions, arrangements, releases and reorganizations effected

thereby are approved pursuant to section 6 of the CCAA, and are binding and effective as herein set out upon and with respect to the Company, all Affected Creditors, the Directors and Officers, any Person with a Director/Officer Claim, any Person with an Equity Claim, the Released Parties and all other Persons named or referred to in or subject to Plan;

- (c) declares that the steps to be taken and the compromises and releases to be effective on the Plan Implementation Date are deemed to occur and be effected in the sequential order contemplated by section 5.4 on the Plan Implementation Date, beginning at the Effective Time;
- (d) declares that all obligations, agreements, contracts or arrangements to which the Company is a party on the Plan Implementation Date shall be and remain in full force and effect, unamended, as at the Plan Implementation Date and prohibits the exercise by any Person of any right or remedy that is prohibited pursuant to section 5.9;
- (e) authorizes and gives effect to the transfer of the Transferred Assets to AssetCo pursuant to section 5.2;
- (f) authorizes the Monitor to perform its functions and fulfil its obligations under the Plan to facilitate the implementation of the Plan;
- (g) subject to payment of any amounts secured thereby, declares that each of the Charges shall be terminated, discharged and released upon a filing of the Monitor of a certificate confirming the termination of the CCAA Proceedings;
- (h) declares that the Company and the Monitor may apply to the Court for advice and direction in respect of any matters arising from or under the Plan; and
- (i) declares that the Persons to be appointed to the boards of directors of the Company on the Plan Implementation Date shall be the Persons named on a certificate to be filed with the Court by the Company on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date.

ARTICLE 8 CONDITIONS PRECEDENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Conditions Precedent in Favour of the Company

The implementation of the Plan shall be conditional upon satisfaction of the following conditions prior to or at the Effective Time, each of which is for the benefit of the Company and may be waived only by the Company:

- (a) the conditions precedent in favour of the Company set forth in section 7.2 of the Transaction Agreement shall have been satisfied or waived.

8.2 Conditions Precedent in Favour of the Sponsor

The implementation of the Plan shall be conditional upon satisfaction of the following conditions prior to or at the Effective Time, each of which is for the benefit of the Sponsor and may be waived only by the Sponsor:

- (a) the conditions precedent in favour of the Sponsor set forth in section 7.1 of the Transaction Agreement shall have been satisfied or waived;
- (b) any and all court-imposed charges on any assets, property or undertaking of the Company (including the Charges) shall have been discharged as at the Effective Time;
- (c) all of the Closing Payments shall have been paid by the Company in full;
- (d) the New Common Shares, when issued and delivered, shall be duly authorized, validly issued and fully paid and non-assessable and the issuance thereof shall be exempt from all prospectus and registration requirements of Applicable Laws;
- (e) the terms of the New Common Shares shall be satisfactory to the Sponsor;
- (f) all necessary filings in respect of the alteration of the Articles shall have been made on terms providing that they will become effective and the certificate of amendment will be issued pursuant to section 186 of the OBCA in accordance with and at the times set forth in section 5.4(f), 5.4(g) and 5.4(l); and
- (g) the Sponsor shall be satisfied the Transferred Assets have been (or will be on the Plan Implementation Date) effectively transferred to AssetCo in accordance with section 5.2 hereof.

8.3 Conditions Precedent in Favour of the Company and the Sponsor

The implementation of the Plan shall be conditional upon satisfaction of the following conditions prior to or at the Effective Time, each of which is for the mutual benefit of the Company and the Sponsor and may be waived only by mutual agreement of the Company and the Sponsor:

- (a) the conditions precedent in favour of the Company and the Sponsor in section 7.3 of the Transaction Agreement shall have been satisfied or waived;
- (b) the Plan shall have been approved by the Required Majority of the Unsecured Creditors Class;
- (c) all orders made and judgments rendered by any competent court of law, and all rulings and decrees of any competent regulatory body, agent or official in relation to the CCAA Proceeding, the Restructuring or the Plan shall be satisfactory to the Sponsor, acting reasonably, including all court orders made in relation to the Restructuring, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing;

- (i) the Sanction Order shall have been made on terms acceptable to the Sponsor, acting reasonably, and it shall have become a Final Order; and
- (ii) any other Order deemed necessary for the purpose of implementing the Restructuring shall have been made on terms acceptable to the Sponsor, acting reasonably, and any such Order shall have become a Final Order;
- (d) all definitive agreements in respect of the Restructuring and the amended Articles, by-laws and other constating documents of the Company, and all definitive legal documentation in connection with all of the foregoing shall be in a form satisfactory to the Company and the Sponsor;
- (e) all material agreements, consents and other documents relating to the Restructuring and the Plan shall be in form and in content satisfactory to the Company and the Sponsor, acting reasonably;
- (f) all material filings under Applicable Laws shall have been made and any material regulatory consents or approvals that are required in connection with the Restructuring shall have been obtained and, in the case of waiting or suspensory periods, such waiting or suspensory periods shall have expired or been terminated;
- (g) there shall not be in effect any preliminary or final decision, order or decree by a Governmental Entity, no application shall have been made to any Governmental Entity, and no action or investigation shall have been announced, threatened or commenced by any Governmental Entity, in consequence of or in connection with the Restructuring or the Plan that restrains, impedes or prohibits (or could reasonably be expected to restrain, impede or inhibit), the Restructuring or the Plan or any part thereof or requires or could reasonably be expected to require a variation of the Restructuring or the Plan; and
- (h) all fees and expenses owing to the Company Advisors, the Directors' Advisors, the Monitor and the Monitor's counsel as of the Plan Implementation Date shall have been paid, and adequate provision shall have been made for all Restructuring Costs, including any fees and expenses of the Company Advisors, the Monitor and the Monitor's counsel, due or accruing due from and after the Plan Implementation Date.

8.4 Monitor's Certificate

Upon delivery of written notice from the Company Advisors and the Sponsor Advisors of the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions set out in sections 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3, and upon the Monitor being satisfied that adequate provision has been made for all Restructuring Costs, the Monitor shall forthwith deliver to counsel to the Company and the Sponsor a certificate stating that the Plan Implementation Date has occurred and that the Plan is effective in accordance with its terms and the terms of the Sanction Order. As soon as practicable following the Plan Implementation Date, the Monitor shall file such certificate with the Court.

ARTICLE 9 GENERAL

9.1 Binding Effect

The Plan will become effective on the Plan Implementation Date. On the Plan Implementation Date:

- (a) the treatment of Affected Claims and Released Claims under the Plan shall be final and binding for all purposes and shall be binding upon and enure to the benefit of the Company, the Released Parties, all Affected Creditors, any Person having a Released Claim and all other Persons directly or indirectly named or referred to in or subject to the Plan and their respective heirs, executors, administrators and other legal representatives, successors and assigns;
- (b) all Affected Claims shall be forever discharged and released;
- (c) all Released Claims shall be forever discharged and released; and
- (d) each Affected Creditor and each Person holding a Released Claim shall be deemed to have executed and delivered to the Company and to the Released Parties, as applicable, all consents, releases, assignments and waivers, statutory or otherwise, required to implement and carry out the Plan in its entirety.

9.2 Waiver of Defaults

From and after the Plan Implementation Date, all Persons shall be deemed to have waived any and all defaults of the Company then existing or previously committed by the Company, or caused by the Company, by any of the provisions in the Plan or steps or transactions contemplated in the Plan or the Restructuring, or any non-compliance with any covenant, warranty, representation, term, provision, condition or obligation, expressed or implied, in any contract, instrument, by-law, article, credit document, indenture, note, lease, guarantee or agreement, written or oral, and any and all amendments or supplements thereto, existing between such Person and the Company, and any and all notices of default and demands for payment or any step or proceeding taken or commenced in connection therewith shall be deemed to have been rescinded and of no further force or effect, provided that nothing shall be deemed to excuse the Company from performing its obligations under the Plan or be a waiver of defaults by the Company under the Plan and the related documents.

9.3 Deeming Provisions

In the Plan, the deeming provisions are not rebuttable and are conclusive and irrevocable.

9.4 Non-Consummation

Notwithstanding a prior approval given at the Meeting or the granting of the Sanction Order, at any time prior to the Effective Time, if the Transaction Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms prior to the Plan Implementation Date, then: (a) the Plan shall be null and void in all respects, (b) any settlement or compromise embodied in the Plan and any document or

agreement executed pursuant to the Plan shall be deemed null and void, and (c) nothing contained in the Plan, and no acts taken in preparation for consummation of the Plan, shall (i) constitute or be deemed to constitute a waiver or release of any Claims by or against the Company or any other Person; (ii) prejudice in any manner the rights of the Company or any other Person in any further proceedings involving the Company; or (iii) constitute an admission of any sort by the Company or any other Person. For greater certainty, nothing in this section abrogates, derogates from or otherwise affects the terms of the Transaction Agreement.

9.5 Modification of the Plan

- (a) The Company and the Sponsor reserve the right, at any time and from time to time, to amend, modify and/or supplement the Plan, provided that any such amendment, restatement, modification or supplement must be contained in a written document and (i) if made prior to or at the Meeting, is communicated to the Affected Unsecured Creditors attending the Meeting in person or by proxy by notice to the CCAA service list and the posting of the written document on the Monitor's website in respect of the CCAA Proceeding, and (ii) if made following the Meeting, is approved by the Court following notice to the Affected Creditors.
- (b) Notwithstanding section 9.5(a), any amendment, restatement, modification or supplement may be made by the Company with the consent of the Sponsor and the Monitor and without further Court Order or approval, provided that it concerns a matter which, in the opinion of the Company, acting reasonably, is of an administrative nature required to better give effect to the implementation of the Plan and the Sanction Order or to cure any errors, omissions or ambiguities and is not materially adverse to the financial or economic interests of the Affected Creditors.
- (c) Any amended, restated, modified or supplementary plan or plans of compromise or arrangement filed with the Court and, if required by this section, approved by the Court, shall, for all purposes, be and be deemed to constitute the Plan.

9.6 Paramountcy

From and after the Effective Time on the Plan Implementation Date, any conflict between:

- (a) the Plan or any Order in the CCAA Proceeding; and
- (b) the covenants, warranties, representations, terms, conditions, provisions or obligations, expressed or implied, of any contract, mortgage, security agreement, indenture, trust indenture, note, loan agreement, by-law, article, commitment letter, agreement for sale, lease or other agreement, written or oral and any and all amendments or supplements thereto existing between one or more of the Affected Creditors and the Company as at the Plan Implementation Date or the notice of articles, articles or bylaws of the Company at the Plan Implementation Date,

will be deemed, subject to Section 9.4, to be governed by the terms, conditions and provisions of the Plan and the applicable Order, which shall take precedence and priority. Notwithstanding

anything to the contrary herein, the Plan shall not alter, modify, supersede or have paramountcy with respect to the Transaction Agreement.

9.7 Severability of Plan Provisions

If, prior to the Sanction Date, any term or provision of the Plan is held by the Court to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the Court, at the request of the Company and with the consent of the Monitor, shall have the power to either (a) sever such term or provision from the balance of the Plan and provide the Company with the option to proceed with the implementation of the balance of the Plan; (b) alter and interpret such term or provision to make it valid or enforceable to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with the original purpose of the term or provision held to be invalid, void or unenforceable, and such term or provision shall then be applicable as altered or interpreted; or (c) cause the Company to withdraw the Plan. Provided that the Company proceed with the implementation of the Plan, then notwithstanding any such holding, alteration or interpretation, the remainder of the terms and provisions of the Plan shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated by such holding, alteration or interpretation.

9.8 Responsibilities of the Monitor

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. is acting in its capacity as Monitor in the CCAA Proceeding with respect to the Company, the CCAA Proceedings and this Plan and not in its personal or corporate capacity, and will not be responsible or liable for any obligations of the Company under the Plan or otherwise.

9.9 Different Capacities

Persons who are affected by the Plan may be affected in more than one capacity. Unless expressly provided to the contrary herein, a Person will be entitled to participate hereunder in each such capacity. Any action taken by a Person in one capacity will not affect such Person in any other capacity, unless expressly agreed by the Company and the Person in writing or unless its Claims overlap or are otherwise duplicative.

9.10 Notices

Any notice or other communication to be delivered hereunder must be in writing and reference the Plan and may, subject as hereinafter provided, be made or given by personal delivery, ordinary mail or by electronic transmission addressed to the respective parties as follows:

If to the Company:

GuestLogix Inc.
111 Peter Street, Suite 406
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2H1

Attention: John Gillberry
Email: jgillberry@guestlogix.com

with a copy to:

Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP
100 Wellington Street West, Suite 3200
Toronto, Ontario M5K 1K7

Attention: Robert Thornton and Rebecca Kennedy
Email: rthornton@tgf.ca / rkennedy@tgf.ca

If to an Affected Creditor, to the mailing address, facsimile address or email address provided on such Affected Creditor's Proof of Claim.

If to the Monitor:

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.
18 York Street, Suite 2600
Toronto, ON M5J 0B2

Attention: Greg Prince
Email: gregory.n.prince@ca.pwc.com

with a copy to:

Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
200 Bay Street, P.O. Box 84
Toronto, ON M5J 2Z4

Attention: Evan Cobb
Email: evan.cobb@nortonrosefulbright.com

If to the Sponsor:

Stornoway Portfolio Management Inc.
30 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4V 3A1

Attention: Scott Reid
Email: sreid@stornowayportfolio.com

with a copy to:

Goodmans LLP
333 Bay Street, Suite 3400
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2S7

Attention: Robert J. Chadwick / Bradley Wiffen
Email: rchadwick@goodmans.ca / bwiffen@goodmans.ca

or to such other address as any party may from time to time notify the others in accordance with this section. Any such communication so given or made shall be deemed to have been given or made and to have been received on the day of delivery if delivered, or on the day of faxing or sending by other means of recorded electronic communication, provided that such day in either event is a Business Day and the communication is so delivered, faxed or sent before 5:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on such day; otherwise, such communication shall be deemed to have been given and made and to have been received on the next following Business Day.

9.11 Further Assurances

Each of the Persons directly or indirectly named or referred to in or subject to Plan will execute and deliver all such documents and instruments and do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the full intent and meaning of the Plan and to give effect to the transactions contemplated herein.

DATED as of the 29th day of July, 2016.

SCHEDULE A

TRANSFERRED ASSETS

1. Any and all shares or equity interests, contingent or otherwise, owned or held by the Company in any subsidiary or affiliate, including, without limitation, all shares or equity interests owned by held by the Company in GuestLogix Asia Pacific Limited, GuestLogix Technologies Limited, GuestLogix USA Inc., and GuestLogix Ireland Limited.
2. Any and all Intercompany Claims (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) that constitute an asset of the Company in existence immediately prior to the Plan Implementation Date.
3. All Benefit Plans and Employee Plans and all assets attributed thereto, to the extent not treated as Retained Assets (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) for purposes of the Transaction Agreement.
4. Any other asset of the Company deemed to be an Excluded Asset (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) in existence immediately prior to the Plan Implementation Date.

Schedule “B”

Monitor’s Certificate of Plan Implementation

Court File No. CV-16-11281-00CL

**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 PROPOSED PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR
ARRANGEMENT OF GUESTLOGIX INC. AND
GUESTLOGIX IRELAND LIMITED**

**CERTIFICATE OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS INC.
AS THE COURT-APPOINTED MONITOR OF GUESTLOGIX INC. AND
GUESTLOGIX IRELAND LIMITED**

(Plan Implementation)

All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Plan of Compromise and Arrangement concerning, affecting and involving GuestLogix Inc. (“**GuestLogix**”) dated July 29, 2016 (the “**Plan**”), which is attached as Schedule “A” to the Plan Sanction Order of the Honourable Regional Senior Justice Morawetz made in these proceedings on September 12, 2016 (the “**Plan Sanction Order**”), as the Plan may be further amended, varied or supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms.

Pursuant to Article 8.4 of the Plan and paragraph 14 of the Plan Sanction Order, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., in its capacity as the Court-appointed monitor of GuestLogix (the “**Monitor**”), delivers this certificate to counsel to GuestLogix (on behalf of GuestLogix) and to counsel to the Sponsor and hereby certifies, in reliance upon the written confirmation from the Company Advisors and the Sponsor Advisor and without independent investigation, that:

1. The Monitor has received written confirmation from the Company Advisors and the Sponsor Advisors that the conditions precedent set out in Article 8 of the Plan have been satisfied or waived, as applicable.

2. The Plan Implementation Date has occurred.

3. The Plan is effective in accordance with its terms and the terms of the Plan Sanction Order.

DATED at the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, this _____ day of September, 2016.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS INC., in its capacity
as Court-appointed Monitor of GuestLogix Inc.

By:

Name:

Title:

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED
AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF GUESTLOGIX INC. and
GUESTLOGIX IRELAND LIMITED

Court File No.: CV-16-11281-00CL

ONTARIO
**SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
(COMMERCIAL LIST)**

Proceedings commenced at Toronto

**PLAN SANCTION ORDER
(Returnable September 12, 2016)**

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TAB 17

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL LIST

THE HONOURABLE MR.
JUSTICE MORAWETZ

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MONDAY, THE 10th DAY
OF DECEMBER, 2012



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 SINO-FOREST CORPORATION

PLAN SANCTION ORDER

THIS MOTION, made by Sino-Forest Corporation ("**SFC**"), for an order (i) pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "**CCAA**"), sanctioning the plan of compromise and reorganization dated December 3, 2012 (including all schedules thereto), which Plan is attached as Schedule "A" hereto, as supplemented by the plan supplement dated November 21, 2012 previously filed with the Court, as the Plan may be further amended, varied or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof (the "**Plan**"), and (ii) pursuant to the section 191 of the *Canada Business Corporations Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44, as amended (the "**CBCA**"), approving the Plan and amending the articles of SFC and giving effect to the changes and transactions arising therefrom, was heard on December 7, 2012 at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

ON READING the Notice of Motion, the Affidavit of W. Judson Martin sworn November 29, 2012 (the "**Martin Affidavit**"), the Thirteenth Report of FTI Consulting Canada Inc. in its capacity as monitor of SFC (the "**Monitor**") dated November 22, 2012 (the "**Monitor's Thirteenth Report**"), the supplemental report to the Monitor's Thirteenth Report (the "**Supplemental Report**"), and the second supplemental report to the Monitor's Thirteenth Report (the "**Second Supplemental Report**") and on hearing the submissions of counsel for

SFC, the Monitor, the *ad hoc* committee of Noteholders (the "**Ad Hoc Noteholders**"), and such other counsel as were present, no one else appearing for any other party, although duly served with the Motion Record as appears from the Affidavit of Service, filed.

DEFINED TERMS

1. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Plan Sanction Order shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Plan and/or the Plan Filing and Meeting Order granted by the Court on August 31, 2012 (the "**Plan Filing and Meeting Order**"), as the case may be.

SERVICE, NOTICE AND MEETING

2. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the time for service of the Notice of Motion, the Motion Record in support of this motion, the Monitor's Thirteenth Report, the Supplemental Report and the Second Supplemental Report be and are hereby abridged and validated so that the motion is properly returnable today and service upon any interested party other than those parties served is hereby dispensed with.

3. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that there has been good and sufficient notice, service and delivery of the Plan Filing and Meeting Order and the Meeting Materials (including, without limitation, the Plan) to all Persons upon which notice, service and delivery was required.

4. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the Meeting was duly convened and held, all in conformity with the CCAA and the Orders of this Court made in the CCAA Proceeding, including, without limitation, the Plan Filing and Meeting Order.

5. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that: (i) the hearing of the Plan Sanction Order was open to all of the Affected Creditors and all other Persons with an interest in SFC and that such Affected Creditors and other Persons were permitted to be heard at the hearing in respect of the Plan Sanction Order; and (ii) prior to the hearing, all of the Affected Creditors and all other Persons on the Service List in respect of the CCAA Proceeding were given adequate notice thereof.

SANCTION OF THE PLAN

6. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the relevant class of Affected Creditors of SFC for the purposes of voting to approve the Plan is the Affected Creditors Class.

7. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the Plan, and all the terms and conditions thereof, and matters and transactions contemplated thereby, are fair and reasonable.

8. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Plan is hereby sanctioned and approved pursuant to section 6 of the CCAA.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

9. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the Plan and all associated steps, compromises, releases, discharges, cancellations, transactions, arrangements and reorganizations effected thereby are approved and shall be deemed to be implemented, binding and effective in accordance with the provisions of the Plan as of the Plan Implementation Date at the Effective Time, or at such other time, times or manner as may be set forth in the Plan, and shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon SFC, the other Released Parties, the Affected Creditors and all other Persons and parties named or referred to in, affected by, or subject to the Plan, including, without limitation, their respective heirs, administrators, executors, legal representatives, successors, and assigns.

10. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that each of SFC and the Monitor are authorized and directed to take all steps and actions, and to do all things, necessary or appropriate to implement the Plan in accordance with its terms and to enter into, execute, deliver, complete, implement and consummate all of the steps, transactions, distributions, deliveries, allocations, instruments and agreements contemplated pursuant to the Plan, and such steps and actions are hereby authorized, ratified and approved. Furthermore, neither SFC nor the Monitor shall incur any liability as a result of acting in accordance with terms of the Plan and the Plan Sanction Order.

11. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that SFC, the Monitor, Newco, the Litigation Trustee, the Trustees, DTC, the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, all Transfer Agents and any other Person required to make any distributions, deliveries or allocations or take any steps or actions related

thereto pursuant to the Plan are hereby directed to complete such distributions, deliveries or allocations and to take any such related steps and/or actions in accordance with the terms of the Plan, and such distributions, deliveries and allocations, and steps and actions related thereto, are hereby approved.

12. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that upon the satisfaction or waiver, as applicable, of the conditions precedent set out in section 9.1 of the Plan in accordance with the terms of the Plan, as confirmed by SFC and Goodmans LLP to the Monitor in writing, the Monitor is authorized and directed to deliver to SFC and Goodmans LLP a certificate substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule “B” (the “**Monitor’s Certificate**”) signed by the Monitor, certifying that the Plan Implementation Date has occurred and that the Plan and this Plan Sanction Order are effective in accordance with their terms. Following the Plan Implementation Date, the Monitor shall file the Monitor's Certificate with this Court.

13. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the steps, compromises, releases, discharges, cancellations, transactions, arrangements and reorganizations to be effected on the Plan Implementation Date are deemed to occur and be effected in the sequential order contemplated in the Plan, without any further act or formality, beginning at the Effective Time.

14. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders are hereby authorized and empowered to exercise all such consent and approval rights in the manner set forth in the Plan, whether prior to or after implementation of the Plan.

15. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that from and after the Plan Implementation Date, and for the purposes of the Plan only, (i) if SFC does not have the ability or the capacity pursuant to Applicable Law to provide its agreement, waiver, consent or approval to any matter requiring SFC’s agreement, waiver, consent or approval under this Plan, such agreement, waiver consent or approval may be provided by the Monitor; and (ii) if SFC does not have the ability or the capacity pursuant to Applicable Law to provide its agreement, waiver, consent or approval to any matter requiring SFC’s agreement, waiver, consent or approval under this Plan, and the Monitor has been discharged pursuant to an Order, such agreement, waiver consent or approval shall be deemed not to be necessary.

COMPROMISE OF CLAIMS AND EFFECT OF PLAN

16. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that, pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Plan, on the Plan Implementation Date, any and all Affected Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred, subject only to the right of the applicable Persons to receive the distributions and interests to which they are entitled pursuant to the Plan.
17. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that, pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Plan, on the Plan Implementation Date and at the time specified in Section 6.4 of the Plan, all accrued and unpaid interest owing on, or in respect of, or as part of, Affected Creditor Claims (including any Accrued Interest on the Notes and any interest accruing on the Notes or any Ordinary Affected Creditor Claim after the Filing Date) shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred for no consideration and no Person shall have any entitlement to any such accrued and unpaid interest.
18. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that, on the Plan Implementation Date, the ability of any Person to proceed against SFC or the Subsidiaries in respect of any Released Claims shall be forever discharged, barred and restrained, and all proceedings with respect to, in connection with, or relating to any such matter shall be permanently stayed.
19. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that each Affected Creditor is hereby deemed to have consented to all of the provisions of the Plan, in its entirety, and each Affected Creditor is hereby deemed to have executed and delivered to SFC all consents, releases, assignments and waivers, statutory or otherwise, required to implement and carry out the Plan in its entirety.
20. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, on the Plan Implementation Date and at the time specified in Section 6.4 of the Plan, the SFC Assets (including for greater certainty the Direct Subsidiary Shares, the SFC Intercompany Claims and all other SFC Assets assigned, transferred and conveyed to Newco and/or Newco II pursuant to section 6.4 of the Plan) shall vest in the Person to whom such assets are being assigned, transferred and conveyed, in accordance with the terms of the Plan, free and clear of and from any and all Charges, Claims (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claims), D&O Claims, D&O Indemnity Claims, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims, Continuing Other D&O

Claims, Non-Released D&O Claims, Affected Claims, Class Action Claims, Class Action Indemnity Claims, claims or rights of any kind in respect of the Notes or the Note Indentures, and any right or claim that is based in whole or in part on facts, underlying transactions, Causes of Action or events relating to the Restructuring Transaction, the CCAA Proceedings or any of the foregoing, and any guarantees or indemnities with respect to any of the foregoing. Any Encumbrances or claims affecting, attaching to or relating to the SFC Assets in respect of the foregoing are and shall be deemed to be irrevocably expunged and discharged as against the SFC Assets, and no such Encumbrances or claims shall be pursued or enforceable as against Newco, Newco II or any other Person.

21. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any securities, interests, rights or claims pursuant to the Plan, including the Newco Shares, the Newco Notes and the Litigation Trust Interests, issued, assigned, transferred or conveyed pursuant to the Plan will be free and clear of and from any and all Charges, Claims (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claims), D&O Claims, D&O Indemnity Claims, Affected Claims, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims, Continuing Other D&O Claims, Non-Released D&O Claims, Class Action Claims, Class Action Indemnity Claims, claims or rights of any kind in respect of the Notes or the Note Indentures, and any right or claim that is based in whole or in part on facts, underlying transactions, causes of action or events relating to the Restructuring Transaction, the CCAA Proceedings or any of the foregoing, and any guarantees or indemnities with respect to any of the foregoing.

22. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Litigation Trust Agreement is hereby approved and deemed effective as of the Plan Implementation Date, including with respect to the transfer, assignment and delivery of the Litigation Trust Claims to the Litigation Trustee which shall, and are hereby deemed to, occur on and as of the Plan Implementation Date. For greater certainty, the Litigation Trust Claims transferred, assigned and delivered to the Litigation Trustee shall not include any Excluded Litigation Trust Claims and all Affected Creditors shall be deemed to have consented to the release of any such Excluded Litigation Trust Claims pursuant to the Plan.

23. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that section 36.1 of the CCAA, sections 95 to 101 of the BIA and any other federal or provincial Law relating to preferences, fraudulent conveyances or transfers at undervalue, shall not apply to the Plan or to any payments, distributions, transfers,

allocations or transactions made or completed in connection with the restructuring and recapitalization of SFC, whether before or after the Filing Date, including, without limitation, to any and all of the payments, distributions, transfers, allocations or transactions contemplated by and to be implemented pursuant to the Plan.

24. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the articles of reorganization to be filed by SFC pursuant to section 191 of the CBCA, substantially in the form attached as Schedule “C” hereto, are hereby approved, and SFC is hereby authorized to file the articles of reorganization with the Director (as defined in the CBCA).

25. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that on the Equity Cancellation Date, or such other date as agreed to by the Monitor, SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, all Existing Shares and other Equity Interests shall be fully, finally and irrevocably cancelled.

26. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the Newco Shares shall be and are hereby deemed to have been validly authorized, created, issued and outstanding as fully-paid and non-assessable shares in the capital of Newco as of the Effective Time.

27. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that upon the Plan Implementation Date the initial Newco Share in the capital of Newco held by the Initial Newco Shareholder shall be deemed to have been redeemed and cancelled for no consideration.

28. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that it was advised prior to the hearing in respect of the Plan Sanction Order that the Plan Sanction Order will be relied upon by SFC and Newco as an approval of the Plan for the purpose of relying on the exemption from the registration requirements of the *United States Securities Act of 1933*, as amended, pursuant to section 3(a)(10) thereof for the issuance of the Newco Shares, Newco Notes and, to the extent they may be deemed to be securities, the Litigation Trust Interests, and any other securities to be issued pursuant to the Plan.

STAY OF PROCEEDINGS

29. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that all obligations, agreements or leases to which (i) SFC remains a party on the Plan Implementation Date, or (ii) Newco and/or Newco II becomes a party as a result of the conveyance of the SFC Assets to Newco and the further conveyance of

the SFC Assets to Newco II on the Plan Implementation Date, shall be and remain in full force and effect, unamended, as at the Plan Implementation Date and no party to any such obligation, agreement or lease shall on or following the Plan Implementation Date, accelerate, terminate, refuse to renew, rescind, refuse to perform or otherwise disclaim or resiliate its obligations thereunder, or enforce or exercise (or purport to enforce or exercise) any right or remedy under or in respect of any such obligation, agreement or lease, (including any right of set-off, dilution or other remedy), or make any demand against SFC, Newco, Newco II, any Subsidiary or any other Person under or in respect of any such agreement with Newco, Newco II or any Subsidiary, by reason:

- (a) of any event which occurred prior to, and not continuing after, the Plan Implementation Date, or which is or continues to be suspended or waived under the Plan, which would have entitled any other party thereto to enforce those rights or remedies;
- (b) that SFC sought or obtained relief under the CCAA or by reason of any steps or actions taken as part of the CCAA Proceeding or this Plan Sanction Order or prior orders of this Court;
- (c) of any default or event of default arising as a result of the financial condition or insolvency of SFC;
- (d) of the completion of any of the steps, actions or transactions contemplated under the Plan, including, without limitation, the transfer, conveyance and assignment of the SFC Assets to Newco and the further transfer, conveyance and assignment of the SFC Assets by Newco to Newco II; or
- (e) of any steps, compromises, releases, discharges, cancellations, transactions, arrangements or reorganizations effected pursuant to the Plan.

30. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that from and after the Plan Implementation Date, any and all Persons shall be and are hereby stayed from commencing, taking, applying for or issuing or continuing any and all steps or proceedings, including without limitation, administrative hearings and orders, declarations or assessments, commenced, taken or proceeded with or that may be commenced, taken or proceed with to advance any Released Claims.

31. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that between (i) the Plan Implementation Date and (ii) the earlier of the Ernst & Young Settlement Date or such other date as may be ordered by the Court on a motion to the Court on reasonable notice to Ernst & Young, any and all Persons shall be and are hereby stayed from commencing, taking, applying for or issuing or continuing any and all steps or proceedings against Ernst & Young (other than all steps or proceedings to implement the Ernst & Young Settlement) pursuant to the terms of the Order of the Honourable Justice Morawetz dated May 8, 2012, provided that no steps or proceedings against Ernst & Young by the Ontario Securities Commission or by staff of the Ontario Securities Commission under the *Securities Act* (Ontario) shall be stayed by this Order.

RELEASES

32. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, subject to section 7.2 of the Plan, all of the following shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date at the time or times and in the manner set forth in section 6.4 of the Plan:

- (a) all Affected Claims, including, without limitation, all Affected Creditor Claims, Equity Claims, D&O Claims (other than Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims, Continuing Other D&O Claims and Non-Released D&O Claims), D&O Indemnity Claims (except as set forth in section 7.1(d) of the Plan) and Noteholder Class Action Claims (other than the Continuing Noteholder Class Action Claims);
- (b) all Claims of the Ontario Securities Commission or any other Governmental Entity that have or could give rise to a monetary liability, including, without limitation, fines, awards, penalties, costs, claims for reimbursement or other claims having a monetary value;
- (c) all Class Action Claims (including, without limitation, the Noteholder Class Action Claims) against SFC, the Subsidiaries or the Named Directors or Officers of SFC or the Subsidiaries (other than Class Action Claims that are Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims or Non-Released D&O Claims);
- (d) all Class Action Indemnity Claims (including, without limitation, related D&O Indemnity Claims), other than any Class Action Indemnity Claim by the Third Party

Defendants against SFC in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims (including, without limitation, any D&O Indemnity Claim in that respect), which shall be limited to the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit pursuant to the releases set out in section 7.1(f) of the Plan and the injunctions set out in section 7.3 of the Plan;

- (e) any portion or amount of liability of the Third Party Defendants for the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims (on a collective, aggregate basis in reference to all Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims together) that exceeds the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit;
- (f) any portion or amount of liability of the Underwriters for the Noteholder Class Action Claims (other than any Noteholder Class Action Claims against the Underwriters for fraud or criminal conduct) (on a collective, aggregate basis in reference to all such Noteholder Class Action Claims together) that exceeds the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit;
- (g) any portion or amount of, or liability of SFC for, any Class Action Indemnity Claims by the Third Party Defendants against SFC in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims (on a collective, aggregate basis in reference to all such Noteholder Class Action Claims together) to the extent that such Class Action Indemnity Claims exceed the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit;
- (h) any and all Excluded Litigation Trust Claims;
- (i) any and all Causes of Action against Newco, Newco II, the directors and officers of Newco, the directors and officers of Newco II, the Noteholders, members of the *ad hoc* committee of Noteholders, the Trustees, the Transfer Agent, the Monitor, FTI Consulting Canada Inc., FTI HK, counsel for the current Directors of SFC, counsel for the Monitor, counsel for the Trustees, the SFC Advisors, the Noteholder Advisors, and each and every member (including, without limitation, members of any committee or governance council), partner or employee of any of the foregoing, for or in connection with or in any way relating to: any Claims (including, without limitation, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claims);

Affected Claims; Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims; Conspiracy Claims; Continuing Other D&O Claims; Non-Released D&O Claims; Class Action Claims; Class Action Indemnity Claims; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Notes or the Note Indentures; any guarantees, indemnities, claims for contribution, share pledges or Encumbrances related to the Notes or the Note Indentures; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Existing Shares, Equity Interests or any other securities of SFC; any rights or claims of the Third Party Defendants relating to SFC or the Subsidiaries;

- (j) any and all Causes of Action against Newco, Newco II, the directors and officers of Newco, the directors and officers of Newco II, the Noteholders, members of the *ad hoc* committee of Noteholders, the Trustees, the Transfer Agent, the Monitor, FTI Consulting Canada Inc., FTI HK, the Named Directors and Officers, counsel for the current Directors of SFC, counsel for the Monitor, counsel for the Trustees, the SFC Advisors, the Noteholder Advisors, and each and every member (including, without limitation, members of any committee or governance council), partner or employee of any of the foregoing, based in whole or in part on any act, omission, transaction, duty, responsibility, indebtedness, liability, obligation, dealing or other occurrence existing or taking place on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date (or, with respect to actions taken pursuant to the Plan after the Plan Implementation Date, the date of such actions) in any way relating to, arising out of, leading up to, for, or in connection with the CCAA Proceeding, RSA, the Restructuring Transaction, the Plan, any proceedings commenced with respect to or in connection with the Plan, or the transactions contemplated by the RSA and the Plan, including, without limitation, the creation of Newco and/or Newco II and the creation, issuance or distribution of the Newco Shares, the Newco Notes, the Litigation Trust or the Litigation Trust Interests, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall release or discharge any of the Persons listed in this paragraph from or in respect of any obligations any of them may have under or in respect of the RSA, the Plan or under or in respect of any of Newco, Newco II, the Newco Shares, the Newco Notes, the Litigation Trust or the Litigation Trust Interests, as the case may be;

- (k) any and all Causes of Action against the Subsidiaries for or in connection with any Claim (including, without limitation, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claim); any Affected Claim (including, without limitation, any Affected Creditor Claim, Equity Claim, D&O Claim, D&O Indemnity Claim and Noteholder Class Action Claim); any Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim; any Conspiracy Claim; any Continuing Other D&O Claim; any Non-Released D&O Claim; any Class Action Claim; any Class Action Indemnity Claim; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Notes or the Note Indentures; any guarantees, indemnities, share pledges or Encumbrances relating to the Notes or the Note Indentures; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Existing Shares, Equity Interests or any other securities of SFC; any rights or claims of the Third Party Defendants relating to SFC or the Subsidiaries; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the RSA, the Plan, the CCAA Proceedings, the Restructuring Transaction, the Litigation Trust, the business and affairs of SFC and the Subsidiaries (whenever or however conducted), the administration and/or management of SFC and the Subsidiaries, or any public filings, statements, disclosures or press releases relating to SFC; any right or claim in connection with or liability for any indemnification obligation to Directors or Officers of SFC or the Subsidiaries pertaining to SFC, the Notes, the Note Indentures, the Existing Shares, the Equity Interests, any other securities of SFC or any other right, claim or liability for or in connection with the RSA, the Plan, the CCAA Proceedings, the Restructuring Transaction, the Litigation Trust, the business and affairs of SFC (whenever or however conducted), the administration and/or management of SFC, or any public filings, statements, disclosures or press releases relating to SFC; any right or claim in connection with or liability for any guaranty, indemnity or claim for contribution in respect of any of the foregoing; and any Encumbrance in respect of the foregoing;
- (l) all Subsidiary Intercompany Claims as against SFC (which are assumed by Newco and then Newco II pursuant to the Plan);
- (m) any entitlements of Ernst & Young to receive distributions of any kind (including, without limitation, Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests) under this Plan;

- (n) any entitlements of the Underwriters to receive distributions of any kind (including, without limitation, Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests) under this Plan; and
 - (o) any entitlements of the Named Third Party Defendants to receive distributions of any kind (including, without limitation, Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests) under this Plan.
33. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that nothing in the Plan nor in this Plan Sanction Order shall waive, compromise, release, discharge, cancel or bar any of the claims listed in section 7.2 of the Plan.
34. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, for greater certainty, nothing in the Plan nor in this Plan Sanction Order shall release any obligations of the Subsidiaries owed to (i) any employees, directors or officers of those Subsidiaries in respect of any wages or other compensation related arrangements, or (ii) to suppliers and trade creditors of the Subsidiaries in respect of goods or services supplied to the Subsidiaries.
35. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any guarantees, indemnities, Encumbrances or other obligations owing by or in respect of SFC relating to the Notes or the Note Indentures shall be and are hereby deemed to be released, discharged and cancelled.
36. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Trustees are hereby authorized and directed to release, discharge and cancel any guarantees, indemnities, Encumbrances or other obligations owing by or in respect of any Subsidiary relating to the Notes or the Note Indentures.
37. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any claims against the Named Directors and Officers in respect of Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims or Conspiracy Claims shall be limited to recovery from any insurance proceeds payable in respect of such Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims or Conspiracy Claims, as applicable, pursuant to the Insurance Policies, and Persons with any such Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims against Named Directors and Officers or Conspiracy Claims against Named Directors and Officers shall have no right to, and shall not, make any claim or seek any recoveries from any Person, (including SFC, any of the Subsidiaries, Newco or Newco II), other than enforcing such Persons' rights to be paid from the proceeds of an Insurance Policy by the applicable insurer(s).

38. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that all Persons are permanently and forever barred, estopped, stayed and enjoined, on and after the Effective Time, with respect to any and all Released Claims, from (i) commencing, conducting or continuing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any action, suits, demands or other proceedings of any nature or kind whatsoever (including, without limitation, any proceeding in a judicial, arbitral, administrative or other forum) against the Released Parties; (ii) enforcing, levying, attaching, collecting or otherwise recovering or enforcing by any manner or means, directly or indirectly, any judgment, award, decree or order against the Released Parties or their property; (iii) commencing, conducting or continuing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any action, suits or demands, including without limitation, by way of contribution or indemnity or other relief, in common law, or in equity, breach of trust or breach of fiduciary duty or under the provisions of any statute or regulation, or other proceedings of any nature or kind whatsoever (including, without limitation, any proceeding in a judicial, arbitral, administrative or other forum) against any Person who makes such a claim or might reasonably be expected to make such a claim, in any manner or forum, against one or more of the Released Parties; (iv) creating, perfecting, asserting or otherwise enforcing, directly or indirectly, any lien or encumbrance of any kind against the Released Parties or their property; or (v) taking any actions to interfere with the implementation or consummation of this Plan; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to the enforcement of any obligations under the Plan.

39. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that from and after the Plan Implementation Date, (i) subject to the prior consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders and the terms of the Litigation Trust Agreement, each of the Litigation Trustee and the Monitor shall have the right to seek and obtain an order from any court of competent jurisdiction, including an Order of the Court in the CCAA or otherwise, that gives effect to any releases of any Litigation Trust Claims agreed to by the Litigation Trustee in accordance with the Litigation Trust Agreement, and (ii) all Affected Creditors shall be deemed to consent to any such treatment of any Litigation Trust Claims.

40. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Ernst & Young Settlement and the release of the Ernst & Young Claims pursuant to section 11.1 of the Plan shall become effective upon the satisfaction of the following conditions precedent:

- (a) approval by this Honourable Court of the terms of the Ernst & Young Settlement, including the terms and scope of the Ernst & Young Release and the Settlement Trust Order;
- (b) issuance by this Honourable Court of the Settlement Trust Order;
- (c) the granting of orders under Chapter 15 of the United States *Bankruptcy Code* recognizing and enforcing the Sanction Order and the Settlement Trust Order and any court orders necessary in the United States to approve the Ernst & Young Settlement and any other necessary ancillary order;
- (d) any other order necessary to give effect to the Ernst & Young Settlement (the orders referenced in (c) and (d) being collectively the “**Ernst & Young Orders**”);
- (e) the fulfillment of all conditions precedent in the Ernst & Young Settlement and the fulfillment by the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs of all of their obligations thereunder;
- (f) the Sanction Order, the Settlement Trust Order and all Ernst & Young Orders being final orders and not subject to further appeal or challenge; and
- (g) the payment by Ernst & Young of the settlement amount as provided in the Ernst & Young Settlement to the trust established pursuant to the Settlement Trust Order,

Upon the foregoing conditions precedent having been satisfied and upon receipt of a certificate from Ernst & Young confirming it has paid the settlement amount to the Settlement Trust in accordance with the Ernst & Young Settlement and the trustee of the Settlement Trust confirming receipt of such settlement amount, the Monitor shall be authorized and directed to deliver to Ernst & Young the Monitor’s Ernst & Young Settlement Certificate and the Monitor shall file the Monitor’s Ernst & Young Settlement Certificate with this Honourable Court after delivery of such certificate to Ernst & Young, all as provided for in section 11.1 of the Plan.

41. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any Named Third Party Defendant Settlement, Named Third Party Defendant Settlement Order and Named Third Party Defendant Release, the terms

and scope of which remain in each case subject to future court approval in accordance with the Plan, shall only become effective after the Plan Implementation Date and upon the satisfaction of the conditions precedent to the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Settlement and the delivery of the applicable Monitor's Named Third Party Settlement Certificate to the applicable Named Third Party Defendant, all as set forth in section 11.2 of the Plan.

THE MONITOR

42. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor, in addition to its prescribed rights and obligations under the CCAA and the powers provided to the Monitor herein and in the Plan, shall be and is hereby authorized, directed and empowered to perform its functions and fulfill its obligations under the Plan to facilitate the implementation of the Plan.

43. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor shall not make any payment from the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve to any third party professional services provider (other than its counsel) that exceeds \$250,000 (alone or in a series of related payments) without the prior consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders or an Order of this Court.

44. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that: (i) in carrying out the terms of this Plan Sanction Order and the Plan, the Monitor shall have all the protections given to it by the CCAA, the Initial Order, the Order of this Court dated April 20, 2012 expanding the powers of the Monitor, and as an officer of the Court, including the stay of proceedings in its favour; (ii) the Monitor shall incur no liability or obligation as a result of carrying out the provisions of this Plan Sanction Order and/or the Plan, save and except for any gross negligence or wilful misconduct on its part; (iii) the Monitor shall be entitled to rely on the books and records of SFC and any information provided by SFC without independent investigation; and (iv) the Monitor shall not be liable for any claims or damages resulting from any errors or omissions in such books, records or information.

45. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that upon completion by the Monitor of its duties in respect of SFC pursuant to the CCAA, the Plan and the Orders, the Monitor may file with the Court a certificate stating that all of its duties in respect of SFC pursuant to the CCAA, the Plan and the Orders have been completed and thereupon, FTI Consulting Canada Inc. shall be deemed to be

discharged from its duties as Monitor and released of all claims relating to its activities as Monitor.

46. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that in no circumstances will the Monitor have any liability for any of SFC's tax liabilities, if any, regardless of how or when such liabilities may have arisen.

47. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, subject to the due performance of its obligations as set forth in the Plan and subject to its compliance with any written directions or instructions of the Monitor and/or directions of the Court in the manner set forth in the Plan, SFC Escrow Co. shall have no liabilities whatsoever arising from the performance of its obligations under the Plan.

RESERVES AND OTHER AMOUNTS

48. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the amount of each of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit, the Litigation Funding Amount, the Unaffected Claims Reserve, the Administration Charge Reserve, the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve and the Unresolved Claims Reserve, is as provided for in the Plan, the Plan Supplement or in Schedule "D" hereto, or such other amount as may be agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, as applicable, in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

49. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that Goodmans LLP, in its capacity as counsel to the Initial Consenting Noteholders, shall be permitted to apply for an Order of the Court at any time directing the Monitor to make distributions from the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve.

50. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that, on the Plan Implementation Date, at the time or times and in the manner set forth in section 6.4 of the Plan, each of the Charges shall be discharged, released and cancelled, and any obligations secured thereby shall be satisfied pursuant to section 4.2(b) of the Plan, and from and after the Plan Implementation Date the Administration Charge Reserve shall stand in place of the Administration Charge as security for the payment of any amounts secured by the Administration Charge.

51. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that any Unresolved Claims that exceed \$1 million shall not be accepted or resolved without further Order of the Court. All parties with Unresolved Claims shall have standing in any proceeding with respect to the determination or status of any other Unresolved Claim. Counsel to the Initial Consenting Noteholders, Goodmans

LLP, shall continue to have standing in any such proceeding on behalf of the Initial Consenting Noteholders, in their capacity as Affected Creditors with Proven Claims.

DOCUMENT PRESERVATION

52. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that, prior to the Effective Time, SFC shall: (i) preserve or cause to be preserved copies of any documents (as such term is defined in the *Rules of Civil Procedure* (Ontario)) that are relevant to the issues raised in the Class Actions; and (ii) make arrangements acceptable to SFC, the Monitor, the Initial Consenting Noteholders, counsel to Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs, counsel to Ernst & Young, counsel to the Underwriters and counsel to the Named Third Party Defendants to provide the parties to the Class Actions with access thereto, subject to customary commercial confidentiality, privilege or other applicable restrictions, including lawyer-client privilege, work product privilege and other privileges or immunities, and to restrictions on disclosure arising from s. 16 of the *Securities Act* (Ontario) and comparable restrictions on disclosure in other relevant jurisdictions, for purposes of prosecuting and/or defending the Class Actions, as the case may be, provided that nothing in the foregoing reduces or otherwise limits the parties' rights to production and discovery in accordance with the *Rules of Civil Procedure* (Ontario) and the *Class Proceedings Act, 1992* (Ontario).

EFFECT, RECOGNITION AND ASSISTANCE

53. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that nothing in this Plan Sanction Order or as a result of the implementation of the Plan shall affect the standing any Person has at the date of this Plan Sanction Order in respect of the CCAA Proceeding or the Litigation Trust.

54. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the transfer, assignment and delivery to the Litigation Trustee pursuant to the Litigation Trust of (i) rights, title and interests in and to the Litigation Trust Claims and (ii) all respective rights, title and interests in and to any lawyer-client privilege, work product privilege or other privilege or immunity attaching to any documents or communications (whether written or oral) associated with the Litigation Trust Claims, regardless of whether such documents or copies thereof have been requested by the Litigation Trustee pursuant to the Litigation Trust Agreement (collectively, the "**Privileges**") shall not constitute a waiver of any such Privileges, and that such Privileges are expressly maintained.

55. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the current directors of SFC shall be deemed to have resigned on the Plan Implementation Date. The current directors of SFC shall have no liability in such capacity for any and all demands, claims, actions, causes of action, counterclaims, suits, debts, sums of money, accounts, covenants, damages, judgments, orders, including, without limitation, for injunctive relief or specific performance and compliance orders, expenses, executions, Encumbrances and other recoveries on account of any liability, obligation, demand or cause of action of whatever nature which any Person may be entitled to assert, whether known or unknown, matured or unmatured, direct, indirect or derivative, foreseen or unforeseen, arising on or after the Plan Implementation Date.

56. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that SFC and the Monitor may apply to this Court for advice and direction with respect to any matter arising from or under the Plan or this Plan Sanction Order.

57. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that this Plan Sanction Order shall have full force and effect in all provinces and territories of Canada and abroad as against all persons and parties against whom it may otherwise be enforced.

58. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, from and after the Plan Implementation Date, the Monitor is hereby authorized and appointed to act as the foreign representative in respect of the within proceedings for the purposes of having these proceedings recognized in the United States pursuant to chapter 15 of title 11 of the United States Code.

59. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, as promptly as practicable following the Plan Implementation Date, but in no event later than the third Business Day following the Plan Implementation Date, the Monitor, as the foreign representative of SFC and of the within proceedings, is hereby authorized and directed to commence a proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction in the United States seeking recognition of the Plan and this Plan Sanction Order and confirming that the Plan and this Plan Sanction Order are binding and effective in the United States.

60. **THIS COURT HEREBY REQUESTS** the aid and recognition of any court or any judicial, regulatory or administrative body having jurisdiction in Canada, the United States, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of

China or in any other foreign jurisdiction, to give effect to this Plan Sanction Order and to assist SFC, the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Plan Sanction Order. All courts, tribunals, regulatory and administrative bodies are hereby respectfully requested to make such orders and to provide such assistance to SFC and to the Monitor, as an officer of this Court, as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Plan Sanction Order, to grant representative status to the Monitor in any foreign proceeding, or to assist SFC and the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Plan Sanction Order.

61. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that each of SFC and the Monitor shall, following consultation with Goodmans LLP, be at liberty, and is hereby authorized and empowered, to make such further applications, motions or proceedings to or before such other courts and judicial, regulatory and administrative bodies, and take such steps in Canada, the United States of America, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China or in any other foreign jurisdiction, as may be necessary or advisable to give effect to this Plan Sanction Order and any other Order granted by this Court, including for recognition of this Plan Sanction Order and for assistance in carrying out its terms.

62. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that this Plan Sanction Order shall be posted on the Monitor's Website at <http://cfcanda.fticonsulting.com/sfc> and only be required to be served upon the parties on the Service List and those parties who appeared at the hearing of the motion for this Plan Sanction Order.

63. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that any conflict or inconsistency between the Plan and this Plan Sanction Order shall be governed by the terms, conditions and provisions of the Plan, which shall take precedence and priority.

ENTERED AT / INSCRIT À TORONTO
ON / BOOK NO.
LE / DANS LE REGISTRE NO.:

DEC 12 2012

Schedule "A"

Court File No. CV-12-9667-00CL

**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 AND
ARRANGEMENT OF SINO-FOREST
CORPORATION**

APPLICANT

PLAN OF COMPROMISE AND REORGANIZATION

**pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*
and the *Canada Business Corporations Act*
concerning, affecting and involving**

SINO-FOREST CORPORATION

December 3, 2012

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PLAN OF COMPROMISE AND REORGANIZATION

WHEREAS Sino-Forest Corporation (“SFC”) is insolvent;

AND WHEREAS, on March 30, 2012 (the “**Filing Date**”), the Honourable Justice Morawetz of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) (the “**Court**”) granted an initial Order in respect of SFC (as such Order may be amended, restated or varied from time to time, the “**Initial Order**”) pursuant to the *Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the “**CCAA**”) and the *Canada Business Corporation Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44, as amended (the “**CBCA**”);

AND WHEREAS, on August 31, 2012, the Court granted a Plan Filing and Meeting Order (as such Order may be amended, restated or varied from time to time, the “**Meeting Order**”) pursuant to which, among other things, SFC was authorized to file this plan of compromise and reorganization and to convene a meeting of affected creditors to consider and vote on this plan of compromise and reorganization.

NOW THEREFORE, SFC hereby proposes this plan of compromise and reorganization pursuant to the CCAA and CBCA.

ARTICLE 1 INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In the Plan, unless otherwise stated or unless the subject matter or context otherwise requires:

“**2013 Note Indenture**” means the indenture dated as of July 23, 2008, by and between SFC, the entities listed as subsidiary guarantors therein, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, as amended, modified or supplemented.

“**2014 Note Indenture**” means the indenture dated as of July 27, 2009, by and between SFC, the entities listed as subsidiary guarantors therein, and Law Debenture Trust Company of New York, as trustee, as amended, modified or supplemented.

“**2016 Note Indenture**” means the indenture dated as of December 17, 2009, by and between SFC, the entities listed as subsidiary guarantors therein, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, as amended, modified or supplemented.

“**2017 Note Indenture**” means the indenture dated as of October 21, 2010, by and between SFC, the entities listed as subsidiary guarantors therein, and Law Debenture Trust Company of New York, as trustee, as amended, modified or supplemented.

“**2013 Notes**” means the aggregate principal amount of US\$345,000,000 of 5.00% Convertible Senior Notes Due 2013 issued pursuant to the 2013 Note Indenture.

"2014 Notes" means the aggregate principal amount of US\$399,517,000 of 10.25% Guaranteed Senior Notes Due 2014 issued pursuant to the 2014 Note Indenture.

"2016 Notes" means the aggregate principal amount of US\$460,000,000 of 4.25% Convertible Senior Notes Due 2016 issued pursuant to the 2016 Note Indenture.

"2017 Notes" means the aggregate principal amount of US\$600,000,000 of 6.25% Guaranteed Senior Notes Due 2017 issued pursuant to the 2017 Note Indenture.

"Accrued Interest" means, in respect of any series of Notes, all accrued and unpaid interest on such Notes, at the regular rates provided in the applicable Note Indentures, up to and including the Filing Date.

"Administration Charge" has the meaning ascribed thereto in the Initial Order.

"Administration Charge Reserve" means the cash reserve to be established by SFC on the Plan Implementation Date in the amount of \$500,000 or such other amount as agreed to by the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, which cash reserve: (i) shall be maintained and administered by the Monitor, in trust, for the purpose of paying any amounts secured by the Administration Charge; and (ii) upon the termination of the Administration Charge pursuant to the Plan, shall stand in place of the Administration Charge as security for the payment of any amounts secured by the Administration Charge.

"Affected Claim" means any Claim, D&O Claim or D&O Indemnity Claim that is not: an Unaffected Claim; a Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim; a Conspiracy Claim; a Continuing Other D&O Claim; a Non-Released D&O Claim; or a Subsidiary Intercompany Claim, and "Affected Claim" includes any Class Action Indemnity Claim. For greater certainty, all of the following are Affected Claims: Affected Creditor Claims; Equity Claims; Noteholder Class Action Claims (other than the Continuing Noteholder Class Action Claims); and Class Action Indemnity Claims.

"Affected Creditor" means a Person with an Affected Creditor Claim, but only with respect to and to the extent of such Affected Creditor Claim.

"Affected Creditor Claim" means any Ordinary Affected Creditor Claim or Noteholder Claim.

"Affected Creditors Class" has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 3.2(a) hereof.

"Affected Creditors Equity Sub-Pool" means an amount of Newco Shares representing 92.5% of the Newco Equity Pool.

"Alternative Sale Transaction" has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 10.1 hereof.

"Alternative Sale Transaction Consideration" has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 10.1 hereof.

"Applicable Law" means any applicable law, statute, order, decree, consent decree, judgment, rule, regulation, ordinance or other pronouncement having the effect of law whether in Canada,

the United States, Hong Kong, the PRC or any other country, or any domestic or foreign state, county, province, city or other political subdivision or of any Governmental Entity.

“**Auditors**” means the former auditors of SFC that are named as defendants to the Class Actions Claims, including for greater certainty Ernst & Young LLP and BDO Limited.

“**Barbados Loans**” means the aggregate amount outstanding at the date hereof pursuant to three loans made by SFC Barbados to SFC in the amounts of US\$65,997,468.10 on February 1, 2011, US\$59,000,000 on June 7, 2011 and US\$176,000,000 on June 7, 2011.

“**Barbados Property**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 6.4(j) hereof.

“**BIA**” means the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, R. S. C. 1985, c. B-3.

“**Business Day**” means a day, other than Saturday, Sunday or a statutory holiday, on which banks are generally open for business in Toronto, Ontario.

“**Canadian Tax Act**” means the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and the *Income Tax Regulations*, in each case as amended from time to time.

“**Causes of Action**” means any and all claims, actions, causes of action, demands, counterclaims, suits, rights, entitlements, litigation, arbitration, proceeding, hearing, complaint, debt, obligation, sums of money, accounts, covenants, damages, judgments, orders, including for injunctive relief or specific performance and compliance orders, expenses, executions, Encumbrances and other recoveries of whatever nature that any Person may be entitled to assert in law, equity or otherwise, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, reduced to judgment or not reduced to judgment, liquidated or unliquidated, contingent or non-contingent, matured or unmatured, disputed or undisputed, secured or unsecured, assertable directly, indirectly or derivatively, existing or hereafter arising and whether pertaining to events occurring before, on or after the Filing Date.

“**CBCA**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“**CCAA**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“**CCAA Proceeding**” means the proceeding commenced by SFC under the CCAA on the Filing Date in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) under court file number CV-12-9667-00CL.

“**Charges**” means the Administration Charge and the Directors’ Charge.

“**Claim**” means any right or claim of any Person that may be asserted or made against SFC, in whole or in part, whether or not asserted or made, in connection with any indebtedness, liability or obligation of any kind whatsoever, and any interest accrued thereon or costs payable in respect thereof, including by reason of the commission of a tort (intentional or unintentional), by reason of any breach of contract or other agreement (oral or written), by reason of any breach of duty (including any legal, statutory, equitable or fiduciary duty) or by reason of any right of ownership of or title to property or assets or right to a trust or deemed trust (statutory, express,

implied, resulting, constructive or otherwise), and whether or not any indebtedness, liability or obligation is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, unsecured, present or future, known or unknown, by guarantee, surety or otherwise, and whether or not any right or claim is executory or anticipatory in nature, including any right or ability of any Person (including any Directors or Officers of SFC or any of the Subsidiaries) to advance a claim for contribution or indemnity or otherwise with respect to any matter, action, cause or chose in action, whether existing at present or commenced in the future, which indebtedness, liability or obligation, and any interest accrued thereon or costs payable in respect thereof (A) is based in whole or in part on facts prior to the Filing Date, (B) relates to a time period prior to the Filing Date, or (C) is a right or claim of any kind that would be a claim provable against SFC in bankruptcy within the meaning of the BIA had SFC become bankrupt on the Filing Date, or is an Equity Claim, a Noteholder Class Action Claim against SFC, a Class Action Indemnity Claim against SFC, a Restructuring Claim or a Lien Claim, provided, however, that "Claim" shall not include a D&O Claim or a D&O Indemnity Claim.

"Claims Bar Date" has the meaning ascribed thereto in the Claims Procedure Order.

"Claims Procedure" means the procedure established for determining the amount and status of Claims, D&O Claims and D&O Indemnity Claims, including in each case any such claims that are Unresolved Claims, pursuant to the Claims Procedure Order.

"Claims Procedure Order" means the Order under the CCAA of the Honourable Justice Morawetz dated May 14, 2012, establishing, among other things, a claims procedure in respect of SFC and calling for claims in respect of the Subsidiaries, as such Order may be amended, restated or varied from time to time.

"Class Action Claims" means, collectively, any rights or claims of any kind advanced or which may subsequently be advanced in the Class Actions or in any other similar proceeding, whether a class action proceeding or otherwise, and for greater certainty includes any Noteholder Class Action Claims.

"Class Actions" means, collectively, the following proceedings: (i) *Trustees of the Labourers' Pension Fund of Central and Eastern Canada et al v. Sino-Forest Corporation et al.* (Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Court File No. CV-11-431153-00CP); (ii) *Guining Liu v. Sino-Forest Corporation et al.* (Quebec Superior Court, Court File No. 200-06-000132-111); (iii) *Allan Haigh v. Sino-Forest Corporation et al.* (Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench, Court File No. 2288 of 2011); and (iv) *David Leopard et al. v. Allen T.Y. Chan et al.* (District Court of the Southern District of New York, Court File No. 650258/2012).

"Class Action Court" means, with respect to the Class Action Claims, the court of competent jurisdiction that is responsible for administering the applicable Class Action Claim.

"Class Action Indemnity Claim" means any right or claim of any Person that may be asserted or made in whole or in part against SFC and/or any Subsidiary for indemnity, contribution, reimbursement or otherwise from or in connection with any Class Action Claim asserted against

such Person. For greater certainty, Class Action Indemnity Claims are distinct from and do not include Class Action Claims.

“Consent Date” means May 15, 2012.

“Conspiracy Claim” means any D&O Claim alleging that the applicable Director or Officer committed the tort of civil conspiracy, as defined under Canadian common law.

“Continuing Noteholder Class Action Claim” means any Noteholder Class Action Claim that is: (i) a Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim; (ii) a Conspiracy Claim; (iii) a Non-Released D&O Claim; (iv) a Continuing Other D&O Claim; (v) a Noteholder Class Action Claim against one or more Third Party Defendants that is not an Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claim; (vi) the portion of an Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claim that is permitted to continue against the Third Party Defendants, subject to the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit, pursuant to section 4.4(b)(i) hereof.

“Continuing Other D&O Claims” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 4.9(b) hereof.

“Court” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“D&O Claim” means (i) any right or claim of any Person that may be asserted or made in whole or in part against one or more Directors or Officers of SFC that relates to a Claim for which such Directors or Officers are by law liable to pay in their capacity as Directors or Officers of SFC, or (ii) any right or claim of any Person that may be asserted or made in whole or in part against one or more Directors or Officers of SFC, in that capacity, whether or not asserted or made, in connection with any indebtedness, liability or obligation of any kind whatsoever, and any interest accrued thereon or costs payable in respect thereof, including by reason of the commission of a tort (intentional or unintentional), by reason of any breach of contract or other agreement (oral or written), by reason of any breach of duty (including any legal, statutory, equitable or fiduciary duty and including, for greater certainty, any monetary administrative or other monetary penalty or claim for costs asserted against any Officer or Director of SFC by any Government Entity) or by reason of any right of ownership of or title to property or assets or right to a trust or deemed trust (statutory, express, implied, resulting, constructive or otherwise), and whether or not any indebtedness, liability or obligation, and any interest accrued thereon or costs payable in respect thereof, is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, unsecured, present or future, known or unknown, by guarantee, surety or otherwise, and whether or not any right or claim is executory or anticipatory in nature, including any right or ability of any Person to advance a claim for contribution or indemnity from any such Directors or Officers of SFC or otherwise with respect to any matter, action, cause or chose in action, whether existing at present or commenced in the future, which indebtedness, liability or obligation, and any interest accrued thereon or costs payable in respect thereof (A) is based in whole or in part on facts prior to the Filing Date, or (B) relates to a time period prior to the Filing Date.

“D&O Indemnity Claim” means any existing or future right of any Director or Officer of SFC against SFC that arose or arises as a result of any Person filing a D&O Proof of Claim (as

defined in the Claims Procedure Order) in respect of such Director or Officer of SFC for which such Director or Officer of SFC is entitled to be indemnified by SFC.

“Defence Costs” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 4.8 hereof.

“Director” means, with respect to SFC or any Subsidiary, anyone who is or was, or may be deemed to be or have been, whether by statute, operation of law or otherwise, a director or *de facto* director of such SFC Company.

“Directors’ Charge” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the Initial Order.

“Direct Registration Account” means, if applicable, a direct registration account administered by the Transfer Agent in which those Persons entitled to receive Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes pursuant to the Plan will hold such Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes in registered form.

“Direct Registration Transaction Advice” means, if applicable, a statement delivered by the Monitor, the Trustees, the Transfer Agent or any such Person’s agent to any Person entitled to receive Newco Shares or Newco Notes pursuant to the Plan on the Initial Distribution Date and each subsequent Distribution Date, as applicable, indicating the number of Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes registered in the name of or as directed by the applicable Person in a Direct Registration Account.

“Direct Subsidiaries” means, collectively, Sino-Panel Holdings Limited, Sino-Global Holdings Inc., Sino-Panel Corporation, Sino-Capital Global Inc., SFC Barbados, Sino-Forest Resources Inc. Sino-Wood Partners, Limited.

“Distribution Date” means the date or dates from time to time set in accordance with the provisions of the Plan to effect distributions in respect of the Proven Claims, excluding the Initial Distribution Date.

“Distribution Escrow Position” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 5.2(d) hereof.

“Distribution Record Date” means the Plan Implementation Date, or such other date as SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders may agree.

“DTC” means The Depository Trust Company, or any successor thereof.

“Early Consent Equity Sub-Pool” means an amount of Newco Shares representing 7.5% of the Newco Equity Pool.

“Early Consent Noteholder” means any Noteholder that:

- (a) (i) as confirmed by the Monitor on June 12, 2012, executed the (A) RSA, (B) a support agreement with SFC and the Direct Subsidiaries in the form of the RSA or (C) a joinder agreement in the form attached as Schedule C to the RSA; (ii) provided evidence satisfactory to the Monitor in accordance with section 2(a) of the RSA of the Notes held by such Noteholder as at the Consent Date (the **“Early Consent Notes”**), as such list of Noteholders and Notes held has been verified

and is maintained by the Monitor on a confidential basis; and (iii) continues to hold such Early Consent Notes as at the Distribution Record Date; or

- (b) (i) has acquired Early Consent Notes; (ii) has signed the necessary transfer and joinder documentation as required by the RSA and has otherwise acquired such Early Consent Notes in compliance with the RSA; and (iii) continues to hold such Early Consent Notes as at the Distribution Record Date.

“Effective Time” means 8:00 a.m. (Toronto time) on the Plan Implementation Date or such other time on such date as SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders may agree.

“Eligible Third Party Defendant” means any of the Underwriters, BDO Limited and Ernst & Young (in the event that the Ernst & Young Settlement is not completed), together with any of their respective present and former affiliates, partners, associates, employees, servants, agents, contractors, directors, officers, insurers and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns (but excluding any Director or Officer and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns of any Director or Officer in their capacity as such), and any Director or Officer together with their respective successors, administrators, heirs and assigns.

“Employee Priority Claims” means the following Claims of employees and former employees of SFC:

- (a) Claims equal to the amounts that such employees and former employees would have been qualified to receive under paragraph 136(1)(d) of the BIA if SFC had become bankrupt on the Filing Date; and
- (b) Claims for wages, salaries, commissions or compensation for services rendered by them after the Filing Date and on or before the Plan Implementation Date.

“Encumbrance” means any security interest (whether contractual, statutory, or otherwise), hypothec, mortgage, trust or deemed trust (whether contractual, statutory, or otherwise), lien, execution, levy, charge, demand, action, liability or other claim, action, demand or liability of any kind whatsoever, whether proprietary, financial or monetary, and whether or not it has attached or been perfected, registered or filed and whether secured, unsecured or otherwise, including: (i) any of the Charges; and (ii) any charge, security interest or claim evidenced by registrations pursuant to the *Personal Property Security Act* (Ontario) or any other personal property registry system.

“Equity Cancellation Date” means the date that is the first Business Day at least 31 days after the Plan Implementation Date, or such other date as may be agreed to by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“Equity Claim” means a Claim that meets the definition of “equity claim” in section 2(1) of the CCAA and, for greater certainty, includes any of the following:

- (a) any claim against SFC resulting from the ownership, purchase or sale of an equity interest in SFC, including the claims by or on behalf of current or former shareholders asserted in the Class Actions;

- (b) any indemnification claim against SFC related to or arising from the claims described in sub-paragraph (a), including any such indemnification claims against SFC by or on behalf of any and all of the Third Party Defendants (other than for Defence Costs, unless any such claims for Defence Costs have been determined to be Equity Claims subsequent to the date of the Equity Claims Order); and
- (c) any other claim that has been determined to be an Equity Claim pursuant to an Order of the Court.

“Equity Claimant” means any Person having an Equity Claim, but only with respect to and to the extent of such Equity Claim.

“Equity Claimant Class” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 3.2(b).

“Equity Claims Order” means the Order under the CCAA of the Honourable Justice Morawetz dated July 27, 2012, in respect of Shareholder Claims and Related Indemnity Claims against SFC, as such terms are defined therein.

“Equity Interest” has the meaning set forth in section 2(1) of the CCAA.

“Ernst & Young” means Ernst & Young LLP (Canada), Ernst & Young Global Limited and all other member firms thereof, and all present and former affiliates, partners, associates, employees, servants, agents, contractors, directors, officers, insurers and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns of each, but excludes any Director or Officer (in their capacity as such) and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns of any Director or Officer (in their capacity as such).

“Ernst & Young Claim” means any and all demands, claims, actions, Causes of Action, counterclaims, suits, debts, sums of money, accounts, covenants, damages, judgments, orders, including injunctive relief or specific performance and compliance orders, expenses, executions, Encumbrances and other recoveries on account of any claim, indebtedness, liability, obligation, demand or cause of action of whatever nature that any Person, including any Person who may claim contribution or indemnification against or from them and also including for greater certainty the SFC Companies, the Directors (in their capacity as such), the Officers (in their capacity as such), the Third Party Defendants, Newco, Newco II, the directors and officers of Newco and Newco II, the Noteholders or any Noteholder, any past, present or future holder of a direct or indirect equity interest in the SFC Companies, any past, present or future direct or indirect investor or security holder of the SFC Companies, any direct or indirect security holder of Newco or Newco II, the Trustees, the Transfer Agent, the Monitor, and each and every member (including members of any committee or governance council), present and former affiliate, partner, associate, employee, servant, agent, contractor, director, officer, insurer and each and every successor, administrator, heir and assign of each of any of the foregoing may or could (at any time past present or future) be entitled to assert against Ernst & Young, including any and all claims in respect of statutory liabilities of Directors (in their capacity as such), Officers (in their capacity as such) and any alleged fiduciary (in any capacity) whether known or unknown, matured or unmatured, direct or derivative, foreseen or unforeseen, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or not contingent, existing or hereafter arising, based in whole or in part

on any act or omission, transaction, dealing or other occurrence existing or taking place on, prior to or after the Ernst & Young Settlement Date relating to, arising out of or in connection with the SFC Companies, the SFC Business, any Director or Officer (in their capacity as such) and/or professional services performed by Ernst & Young or any other acts or omissions of Ernst & Young in relation to the SFC Companies, the SFC Business, any Director or Officer (in their capacity as such), including for greater certainty but not limited to any claim arising out of:

- (a) all audit, tax, advisory and other professional services provided to the SFC Companies or related to the SFC Business up to the Ernst & Young Settlement Date, including for greater certainty all audit work performed, all auditors' opinions and all consents in respect of all offering of SFC securities and all regulatory compliance delivered in respect of all fiscal periods and all work related thereto up to and including the Ernst & Young Settlement Date;
- (b) all claims advanced or which could have been advanced in any or all of the Class Actions;
- (c) all claims advanced or which could have been advanced in any or all actions commenced in all jurisdictions prior the Ernst & Young Settlement Date; or
- (d) all Noteholder Claims, Litigation Trust Claims or any claim of the SFC Companies,

provided that "Ernst & Young Claim" does not include any proceedings or remedies that may be taken against Ernst & Young by the Ontario Securities Commission or by staff of the Ontario Securities Commission, and the jurisdiction of the Ontario Securities Commission and staff of the Ontario Securities Commission in relation to Ernst & Young under the Securities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. S-5 is expressly preserved.

"Ernst & Young Orders" has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 11.1(a) hereof.

"Ernst & Young Release" means the release described in 11.1(b) hereof.

"Ernst & Young Settlement" means the settlement as reflected in the Minutes of Settlement executed on November 29, 2012 between Ernst & Young LLP, on behalf of itself and Ernst & Young Global Limited and all member firms thereof and the plaintiffs in Ontario Superior Court Action No. CV-11-4351153-00CP and in Quebec Superior Court No. 200-06-00132-111, and such other documents contemplated thereby.

"Ernst & Young Settlement Date" means the date that the Monitor's Ernst & Young Settlement Certificate is delivered to Ernst & Young.

"Excluded Litigation Trust Claims" has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 4.12(a) hereof.

"Excluded SFC Assets" means (i) the rights of SFC to be transferred to the Litigation Trust in accordance with section 6.4(o) hereof; (ii) any entitlement to insurance proceeds in respect of Insured Claims, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims and/or Conspiracy Claims; (iii) any secured property of SFC that is to be returned in satisfaction of a Lien Claim pursuant to section 4.2(c)(i)

hereof; (iv) any input tax credits or other refunds received by SFC after the Effective Time; and (v) cash in the aggregate amount of (and for the purpose of): (A) the Litigation Funding Amount; (B) the Unaffected Claims Reserve; (C) the Administration Charge Reserve; (D) the Expense Reimbursement and the other payments to be made pursuant to section 6.4(d) hereof (having regard to the application of any outstanding retainers, as applicable); (E) any amounts in respect of Lien Claims to be paid in accordance with section 4.2(c)(ii) hereof; and (F) the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve; (vi) any office space, office furniture or other office equipment owned or leased by SFC in Canada; (vii) the SFC Escrow Co. Share; (viii) Newco Promissory Note 1; and (ix) Newco Promissory Note 2.

"Existing Shares" means all existing shares in the equity of SFC issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time and all warrants, options or other rights to acquire such shares, whether or not exercised as at the Effective Time.

"Expense Reimbursement" means the aggregate amount of (i) the reasonable and documented fees and expenses of the Noteholder Advisors, pursuant to their respective engagement letters with SFC, and other advisors as may be agreed to by SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders and (ii) the reasonable fees and expenses of the Initial Consenting Noteholders incurred in connection with the negotiation and development of the RSA and this Plan, including in each case an estimated amount for any such fees and expenses expected to be incurred in connection with the implementation of the Plan, including in the case of (ii) above, an aggregate work fee of up to \$5 million (which work fee may, at the request of the Monitor, be paid by any of the Subsidiaries instead of SFC).

"Filing Date" has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

"Fractional Interests" has the meaning given in section 5.12 hereof.

"FTI HK" means FTI Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited.

"Governmental Entity" means any government, regulatory authority, governmental department, agency, commission, bureau, official, minister, Crown corporation, court, board, tribunal or dispute settlement panel or other law, rule or regulation-making organization or entity: (a) having or purporting to have jurisdiction on behalf of any nation, province, territory or state or any other geographic or political subdivision of any of them; or (b) exercising, or entitled or purporting to exercise any administrative, executive, judicial, legislative, policy, regulatory or taxing authority or power.

"Government Priority Claims" means all Claims of Governmental Entities in respect of amounts that were outstanding as of the Plan Implementation Date and that are of a kind that could be subject to a demand under:

- (a) subsections 224(1.2) of the Canadian Tax Act;
- (b) any provision of the *Canada Pension Plan* or the *Employment Insurance Act* (Canada) that refers to subsection 224(1.2) of the Canadian Tax Act and provides for the collection of a contribution, as defined in the *Canada Pension Plan*, or employee's premium or employer's premium as defined in the *Employment*

Insurance Act (Canada), or a premium under Part VII.1 of that Act, and of any related interest, penalties or other amounts; or

- (c) any provision of provincial legislation that has a similar purpose to subsection 224(1.2) of the Canadian Tax Act, or that refers to that subsection, to the extent that it provides for the collection of a sum, and of any related interest, penalties or other amounts, where the sum:
 - (i) has been withheld or deducted by a person from a payment to another person and is in respect of a tax similar in nature to the income tax imposed on individuals under the Canadian Tax Act; or
 - (ii) is of the same nature as a contribution under the *Canada Pension Plan* if the province is a “province providing a comprehensive pension plan” as defined in subsection 3(1) of the *Canada Pension Plan* and the provincial legislation establishes a “provincial pension plan” as defined in that subsection.

“**Greenheart**” means Greenheart Group Limited, a company established under the laws of Bermuda.

“**Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 4.4(b)(i) hereof.

“**Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit**” means \$150 million or such lesser amount agreed to by SFC, the Monitor, the Initial Consenting Noteholders and counsel to the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs prior to the Plan Implementation Date or agreed to by the Initial Consenting Noteholders and counsel to the Class Action Plaintiffs after the Plan Implementation Date.

“**Initial Consenting Noteholders**” means, subject to section 12.7 hereof, the Noteholders that executed the RSA on March 30, 2012.

“**Initial Distribution Date**” means a date no more than ten (10) Business Days after the Plan Implementation Date or such other date as SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders may agree.

“**Initial Newco Shareholder**” means a Person to be determined by the Initial Consenting Noteholders prior to the Effective Time, with the consent of SFC and the Monitor, to serve as the initial sole shareholder of Newco pursuant to section 6.2(a) hereof.

“**Initial Order**” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“**Insurance Policies**” means, collectively, the following insurance policies, as well as any other insurance policy pursuant to which SFC or any Director or Officer is insured: ACE INA Insurance Policy Number DO024464; Chubb Insurance Company of Canada Policy Number 8209-4449; Lloyds of London, England Policy Number XTFF0420; Lloyds of London, England

Policy Number XTFF0373; and Travelers Guarantee Company of Canada Policy Number 10181108, and **“Insurance Policy”** means any one of the Insurance Policies.

“Insured Claim” means all or that portion of any Claim for which SFC is insured and all or that portion of any D&O Claim for which the applicable Director or Officer is insured, in each case pursuant to any of the Insurance Policies.

“Intellectual Property” means: (i) patents, and applications for patents, including divisional and continuation patents; (ii) registered and unregistered trade-marks, logos and other indicia of origin, pending trade-mark registration applications, and proposed use application or similar reservations of marks, and all goodwill associated therewith; (iii) registered and unregistered copyrights, including all copyright in and to computer software programs, and applications for and registration of such copyright (including all copyright in and to the SFC Companies’ websites); (iv) world wide web addresses and internet domain names, applications and reservations for world wide web addresses and internet domain names, uniform resource locators and the corresponding internet sites; (v) industrial designs; and (vi) trade secrets and proprietary information not otherwise listed in (i) through (v) above, including all inventions (whether or not patentable), invention disclosures, moral and economic rights of authors and inventors (however denominated), confidential information, technical data, customer lists, corporate and business names, trade names, trade dress, brand names, know-how, formulae, methods (whether or not patentable), designs, processes, procedures, technology, business methods, source codes, object codes, computer software programs (in either source code or object code form), databases, data collections and other proprietary information or material of any type, and all derivatives, improvements and refinements thereof, howsoever recorded, or unrecorded.

“Letter of Instruction” means a form, to be completed by each Ordinary Affected Creditor and each Early Consent Noteholder, and that is to be delivered to the Monitor in accordance with section 5.1 hereof, which form shall set out:

- (a) the registration details for the Newco Shares and, if applicable, Newco Notes to be distributed to such Ordinary Affected Creditor or Early Consent Noteholder in accordance with the Plan; and
- (b) the address to which such Ordinary Affected Creditor’s or Early Consent Noteholder’s Direct Registration Transaction Advice or its Newco Share Certificates and Newco Note Certificates, as applicable, are to be delivered.

“Lien Claim” means any Proven Claim of a Person indicated as a secured creditor in Schedule “B” to the Initial Order (other than the Trustees) that is secured by a lien or encumbrance on any property of SFC, which lien is valid, perfected and enforceable pursuant to Applicable Law, provided that the Charges and any Claims in respect of Notes shall not constitute “Lien Claims”.

“Lien Claimant” means a Person having a Lien Claim, other than any Noteholder or Trustee in respect of any Noteholder Claim.

“Litigation Funding Amount” means the cash amount of \$1,000,000 to be advanced by SFC to the Litigation Trustee for purposes of funding the Litigation Trust on the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with section 6.4(o) hereof.

“Litigation Funding Receivable” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 6.4(o) hereof.

“Litigation Trust” means the trust to be established on the Plan Implementation Date at the time specified in section 6.4(p) in accordance with the Litigation Trust Agreement pursuant to the laws of a jurisdiction that is acceptable to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, which trust will acquire the Litigation Trust Claims and will be funded with the Litigation Funding Amount in accordance with the Plan and the Litigation Trust Agreement.

“Litigation Trust Agreement” means the trust agreement dated as of the Plan Implementation Date, between SFC and the Litigation Trustee, establishing the Litigation Trust.

“Litigation Trust Claims” means any Causes of Action that have been or may be asserted by or on behalf of: (a) SFC against any and all third parties; or (b) the Trustees (on behalf of the Noteholders) against any and all Persons in connection with the Notes issued by SFC; provided, however, that in no event shall the Litigation Trust Claims include any (i) claim, right or cause of action against any Person that is released pursuant to Article 7 hereof or (ii) any Excluded Litigation Trust Claim. For greater certainty: (x) the claims being advanced or that are subsequently advanced in the Class Actions are not being transferred to the Litigation Trust; and (y) the claims transferred to the Litigation Trust shall not be advanced in the Class Actions.

“Litigation Trust Interests” means the beneficial interests in the Litigation Trust to be created on the Plan Implementation Date.

“Litigation Trustee” means a Person to be determined by SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders prior to the Effective Time, with the consent of the Monitor, to serve as trustee of the Litigation Trust pursuant to and in accordance with the terms thereof.

“Material” means a fact, circumstance, change, effect, matter, action, condition, event, occurrence or development that, individually or in the aggregate, is, or would reasonably be expected to be, material to the business, affairs, results of operations or financial condition of the SFC Companies (taken as a whole).

“Material Adverse Effect” means a fact, event, change, occurrence, circumstance or condition that, individually or together with any other event, change or occurrence, has or would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse impact on the assets, condition (financial or otherwise), business, liabilities, obligations (whether absolute, accrued, conditional or otherwise) or operations of the SFC Companies (taken as a whole); provided, however, that a Material Adverse Effect shall not include and shall be deemed to exclude the impact of any fact, event, change, occurrence, circumstance or condition resulting from or relating to: (A) changes in Applicable Laws of general applicability or interpretations thereof by courts or Governmental Entities or regulatory authorities, which changes do not have a Material disproportionate effect on the SFC Companies (taken as a whole), (B) any change in the forestry industry generally, which does not have a Material disproportionate effect on the SFC Companies (taken as a whole) (relative to other industry participants operating primarily in the PRC), (C) actions and omissions

of any of the SFC Companies required pursuant to the RSA or this Plan or taken with the prior written consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders, (D) the effects of compliance with the RSA or this Plan, including on the operating performance of the SFC Companies, (E) the negotiation, execution, delivery, performance, consummation, potential consummation or public announcement of the RSA or this Plan or the transactions contemplated thereby or hereby, (F) any change in U.S. or Canadian interest rates or currency exchange rates unless such change has a Material disproportionate effect on the SFC Companies (taken as a whole), and (G) general political, economic or financial conditions in Canada, the United States, Hong Kong or the PRC, which changes do not have a Material disproportionate effect on the SFC Companies (taken as a whole).

“Meeting” means the meeting of Affected Creditors, and any adjournment or extension thereof, that is called and conducted in accordance with the Meeting Order for the purpose of considering and voting on the Plan.

“Meeting Order” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“Monitor” means FTI Consulting Canada Inc., in its capacity as Court-appointed Monitor of SFC in the CCAA Proceeding.

“Monitor’s Post-Implementation Reserve” means the cash reserve to be established by SFC on the Plan Implementation Date in the amount of \$5,000,000 or such other amount as may be agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, which cash reserve shall be maintained and administered by the Monitor for the purpose of administering SFC and the Claims Procedure, as necessary, from and after the Plan Implementation Date.

“Monitor’s Ernst & Young Settlement Certificate” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 11.1(a) hereof.

“Monitor’s Named Third Party Settlement Certificate” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 11.2(b) hereof.

“Named Directors and Officers” means Andrew Agnew, William E. Ardell, James Bowland, Leslie Chan, Michael Cheng, Lawrence Hon, James M.E. Hyde, Richard M. Kimel, R. John (Jack) Lawrence, Jay A. Lefton, Edmund Mak, Tom Maradin, Judson Martin, Simon Murray, James F. O’Donnell, William P. Rosenfeld, Peter Donghong Wang, Garry West and Kee Y. Wong, in their respective capacities as Directors or Officers, and **“Named Director or Officer”** means any one of them.

“Named Third Party Defendant Settlement” means a binding settlement between any applicable Named Third Party Defendant and one or more of: (i) the plaintiffs in any of the Class Actions; and (ii) the Litigation Trustee (on behalf of the Litigation Trust) (if after the Plan Implementation Date), provided that, in each case, such settlement must be acceptable to SFC (if on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date), the Monitor, the Initial Consenting Noteholders (if on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date) and the Litigation Trustee (if after the Plan Implementation Date), and provided further that such settlement shall not affect the plaintiffs in the Class Actions without the consent of counsel to the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs.

“Named Third Party Defendant Settlement Order” means a court order approving a Named Third Party Defendant Settlement in form and in substance satisfactory to the applicable Named Third Party Defendant, SFC (if occurring on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date), the Monitor, the Initial Consenting Noteholders (if on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date), the Litigation Trustee (if after the Plan Implementation Date) and counsel to the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs (if the plaintiffs in any of the Class Actions are affected by the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Settlement).

“Named Third Party Defendant Release” means a release of any applicable Named Third Party Defendant agreed to pursuant to a Named Third Party Defendant Settlement and approved pursuant to a Named Third Party Defendant Settlement Order, provided that such release must be acceptable to SFC (if on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date), the Monitor, the Initial Consenting Noteholders (if on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date) and the Litigation Trustee (if after the Plan Implementation Date), and provided further that such release shall not affect the plaintiffs in the Class Actions without the consent of counsel to the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs.

“Named Third Party Defendants” means the Third Party Defendants listed on Schedule “A” to the Plan in accordance with section 11.2(a) hereof, provided that only Eligible Third Party Defendants may become Named Third Party Defendants.

“Newco” means the new corporation to be incorporated pursuant to section 6.2(a) hereof under the laws of the Cayman Islands or such other jurisdiction as agreed to by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“Newco II” means the new corporation to be incorporated pursuant to section 6.2(b) hereof under the laws of the Cayman Islands or such other jurisdiction as agreed to by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“Newco II Consideration” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 6.4(x) hereof.

“Newco Equity Pool” means all of the Newco Shares to be issued by Newco on the Plan Implementation Date. The number of Newco Shares to be issued on the Plan Implementation Date shall be agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders prior to the Plan Implementation Date.

“Newco Note Certificate” means a certificate evidencing Newco Notes.

“Newco Notes” means the new notes to be issued by Newco on the Plan Implementation Date in the aggregate principal amount of \$300,000,000, on such terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the Initial Consenting Noteholders and SFC, acting reasonably.

“Newco Promissory Note 1”, **“Newco Promissory Note 2”**, **“Newco Promissory Note 3”** and **“Newco Promissory Notes”** have the meanings ascribed thereto in sections 6.4(k), 6.4(m), 6.4(n) and 6.4(q) hereof, respectively.

“Newco Share Certificate” means a certificate evidencing Newco Shares.

“Newco Shares” means common shares in the capital of Newco.

“Non-Released D&O Claims” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 4.9(f) hereof.

“Noteholder Advisors” means Goodmans LLP, Hogan Lovells and Conyers, Dill & Pearman LLP in their capacity as legal advisors to the Initial Consenting Noteholders, and Moelis & Company LLC and Moelis and Company Asia Limited, in their capacity as the financial advisors to the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“Noteholder Claim” means any Claim by a Noteholder (or a Trustee or other representative on the Noteholder’s behalf) in respect of or in relation to the Notes owned or held by such Noteholder, including all principal and Accrued Interest payable to such Noteholder pursuant to such Notes or the Note Indentures, but for greater certainty does not include any Noteholder Class Action Claim.

“Noteholder Class Action Claim” means any Class Action Claim, or any part thereof, against SFC, any of the Subsidiaries, any of the Directors and Officers of SFC or the Subsidiaries, any of the Auditors, any of the Underwriters and/or any other defendant to the Class Action Claims that relates to the purchase, sale or ownership of Notes, but for greater certainty does not include a Noteholder Claim.

“Noteholder Class Action Claimant” means any Person having or asserting a Noteholder Class Action Claim.

“Noteholder Class Action Representative” means an individual to be appointed by counsel to the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs.

“Noteholders” means, collectively, the beneficial owners of Notes as of the Distribution Record Date and, as the context requires, the registered holders of Notes as of the Distribution Record Date, and **“Noteholder”** means any one of the Noteholders.

“Note Indentures” means, collectively, the 2013 Note Indenture, the 2014 Note Indenture, the 2016 Note Indenture and the 2017 Note Indenture.

“Notes” means, collectively, the 2013 Notes, the 2014 Notes, the 2016 Notes and the 2017 Notes.

“Officer” means, with respect to SFC or any Subsidiary, anyone who is or was, or may be deemed to be or have been, whether by statute, operation of law or otherwise, an officer or *de facto* officer of such SFC Company.

“Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs” means the plaintiffs in the Ontario class action case styled as *Trustees of the Labourers’ Pension Fund of Central and Eastern Canada et al v. Sino-Forest Corporation et al.* (Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Court File No. CV-11-431153-00CP).

“Order” means any order of the Court made in connection with the CCAA Proceeding or this Plan.

“Ordinary Affected Creditor” means a Person with an Ordinary Affected Creditor Claim.

“Ordinary Affected Creditor Claim” means a Claim that is not: an Unaffected Claim; a Noteholder Claim; an Equity Claim; a Subsidiary Intercompany Claim; a Noteholder Class Action Claim; or a Class Action Indemnity Claim (other than a Class Action Indemnity Claim by any of the Third Party Defendants in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims).

“Other Directors and/or Officers” means any Directors and/or Officers other than the Named Directors and Officers.

“Permitted Continuing Retainer” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 6.4(d) hereof.

“Person” means any individual, sole proprietorship, limited or unlimited liability corporation, partnership, unincorporated association, unincorporated syndicate, unincorporated organization, body corporate, joint venture, trust, pension fund, union, Governmental Entity, and a natural person including in such person’s capacity as trustee, heir, beneficiary, executor, administrator or other legal representative.

“Plan” means this Plan of Compromise and Reorganization (including all schedules hereto) filed by SFC pursuant to the CCAA and the CBCA, as it may be further amended, supplemented or restated from time to time in accordance with the terms hereof or an Order.

“Plan Implementation Date” means the Business Day on which this Plan becomes effective, which shall be the Business Day on which the Monitor has filed with the Court the certificate contemplated in section 9.2 hereof, or such other date as SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders may agree.

“PRC” means the People’s Republic of China.

“Proof of Claim” means the “Proof of Claim” referred to in the Claims Procedure Order, substantially in the form attached to the Claims Procedure Order.

“Pro-Rata” means:

- (a) with respect to any Noteholder in relation to all Noteholders, the proportion of (i) the principal amount of Notes beneficially owned by such Noteholder as of the Distribution Record Date plus the Accrued Interest owing on such Notes as of the Filing Date, in relation to (ii) the aggregate principal amount of all Notes outstanding as of the Distribution Record Date plus the aggregate of all Accrued Interest owing on all Notes as of the Filing Date;
- (b) with respect to any Early Consent Noteholder in relation to all Early Consent Noteholders, the proportion of the principal amount of Early Consent Notes beneficially owned by such Early Consent Noteholder as of the Distribution Record Date in relation to the aggregate principal amount of Early Consent Notes held by all Early Consent Noteholders as of the Distribution Record Date; and

- (c) with respect to any Affected Creditor in relation to all Affected Creditors, the proportion of such Affected Creditor's Affected Creditor Claim as at any relevant time in relation to the aggregate of all Proven Claims and Unresolved Claims of Affected Creditors as at that time.

"Proven Claim" means an Affected Creditor Claim to the extent that such Affected Creditor Claim is finally determined and valued in accordance with the provisions of the Claims Procedure Order, the Meeting Order or any other Order, as applicable.

"Released Claims" means all of the rights, claims and liabilities of any kind released pursuant to Article 7 hereof.

"Released Parties" means, collectively, those Persons released pursuant to Article 7 hereof, but only to the extent so released, and each such Person is referred to individually as a **"Released Party"**.

"Required Majority" means a majority in number of Affected Creditors with Proven Claims, and two-thirds in value of the Proven Claims held by such Affected Creditors, in each case who vote (in person or by proxy) on the Plan at the Meeting.

"Remaining Post-Implementation Reserve Amount" has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 5.7(b) hereof.

"Restructuring Claim" means any right or claim of any Person that may be asserted or made in whole or in part against SFC, whether or not asserted or made, in connection with any indebtedness, liability or obligation of any kind arising out of the restructuring, termination, repudiation or disclaimer of any lease, contract, or other agreement or obligation on or after the Filing Date and whether such restructuring, termination, repudiation or disclaimer took place or takes place before or after the date of the Claims Procedure Order.

"Restructuring Transaction" means the transactions contemplated by this Plan (including any Alternative Sale Transaction that occurs pursuant to section 10.1 hereof).

"RSA" means the Restructuring Support Agreement executed as of March 30, 2012 by SFC, the Direct Subsidiaries and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, and subsequently executed or otherwise agreed to by the Early Consent Noteholders, as such Restructuring Support Agreement may be amended, restated and varied from time to time in accordance with its terms.

"Sanction Date" means the date that the Sanction Order is granted by the Court.

"Sanction Order" means the Order of the Court sanctioning and approving this Plan.

"Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim" means any D&O Claim that is not permitted to be compromised pursuant to section 5.1(2) of the CCAA, but only to the extent not so permitted, provided that any D&O Claim that qualifies as a Non-Released D&O Claim or a Continuing Other D&O Claim shall not constitute a Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim.

"Settlement Trust" has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 11.1(a) hereof.

“Settlement Trust Order” means a court order that establishes the Settlement Trust and approves the Ernst & Young Settlement and the Ernst & Young Release, in form and in substance satisfactory to Ernst & Young and counsel to the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs, provided that such order shall also be acceptable to SFC (if occurring on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date), the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, as applicable, to the extent, if any, that such order affects SFC, the Monitor or the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably.

“SFC” has the meaning ascribed thereto in the recitals.

“SFC Advisors” means Bennett Jones LLP, Appleby Global Group, King & Wood Mallesons and Linklaters LLP, in their respective capacities as legal advisors to SFC, and Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin Capital, Inc., in its capacity as financial advisor to SFC.

“SFC Assets” means all of SFC’s right, title and interest in and to all of SFC’s properties, assets and rights of every kind and description (including all restricted and unrestricted cash, contracts, real property, receivables or other debts owed to SFC, Intellectual Property, SFC’s corporate name and all related marks, all of SFC’s ownership interests in the Subsidiaries (including all of the shares of the Direct Subsidiaries and any other Subsidiaries that are directly owned by SFC immediately prior to the Effective Time), all of SFC’s ownership interest in Greenheart and its subsidiaries, all SFC Intercompany Claims, any entitlement of SFC to any insurance proceeds and a right to the Remaining Post-Implementation Reserve Amount), other than the Excluded SFC Assets.

“SFC Barbados” means Sino-Forest International (Barbados) Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SFC established under the laws of Barbados.

“SFC Business” means the business operated by the SFC Companies.

“SFC Continuing Shareholder” means the Litigation Trustee or such other Person as may be agreed to by the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“SFC Companies” means, collectively, SFC and all of the Subsidiaries, and **“SFC Company”** means any of them.

“SFC Escrow Co.” means the company to be incorporated as a wholly-owned subsidiary of SFC pursuant to section 6.3 hereof under the laws of the Cayman Islands or such other jurisdiction as agreed to by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“SFC Escrow Co. Share” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 6.3 hereof.

“SFC Intercompany Claim” means any amount owing to SFC by any Subsidiary or Greenheart and any claim by SFC against any Subsidiary or Greenheart.

“Subsidiaries” means all direct and indirect subsidiaries of SFC, other than (i) Greenheart and its direct and indirect subsidiaries and (ii) SFC Escrow Co., and **“Subsidiary”** means any one of the Subsidiaries.

“Subsidiary Intercompany Claim” means any Claim by any Subsidiary or Greenheart against SFC.

“Tax” or **“Taxes”** means any and all federal, provincial, municipal, local and foreign taxes, assessments, reassessments and other governmental charges, duties, impositions and liabilities including for greater certainty taxes based upon or measured by reference to income, gross receipts, profits, capital, transfer, land transfer, sales, goods and services, harmonized sales, use, value-added, excise, withholding, business, franchising, property, development, occupancy, employer health, payroll, employment, health, social services, education and social security taxes, all surtaxes, all customs duties and import and export taxes, all licence, franchise and registration fees and all employment insurance, health insurance and government pension plan premiums or contributions, together with all interest, penalties, fines and additions with respect to such amounts.

“Taxing Authorities” means any one of Her Majesty the Queen, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, Her Majesty the Queen in right of any province or territory of Canada, the Canada Revenue Agency, any similar revenue or taxing authority of Canada and each and every province or territory of Canada and any political subdivision thereof, any similar revenue or taxing authority of the United States, the PRC, Hong Kong or other foreign state and any political subdivision thereof, and any Canadian, United States, Hong Kong, PRC or other government, regulatory authority, government department, agency, commission, bureau, minister, court, tribunal or body or regulation-making entity exercising taxing authority or power, and **“Taxing Authority”** means any one of the Taxing Authorities.

“Third Party Defendants” means any defendants to the Class Action Claims (present or future) other than SFC, the Subsidiaries, the Named Directors and Officers or the Trustees.

“Transfer Agent” means Computershare Limited (or a subsidiary or affiliate thereof) or such other transfer agent as Newco may appoint, with the prior written consent of the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“Trustee Claims” means any rights or claims of the Trustees against SFC under the Note Indentures for compensation, fees, expenses, disbursements or advances, including reasonable legal fees and expenses, incurred or made by or on behalf of the Trustees before or after the Plan Implementation Date in connection with the performance of their respective duties under the Note Indentures or this Plan.

“Trustees” means, collectively, The Bank of New York Mellon in its capacity as trustee for the 2013 Notes and the 2016 Notes, and Law Debenture Trust Company of New York in its capacity as trustee for the 2014 Notes and the 2017 Notes, and **“Trustee”** means either one of them.

“Unaffected Claim” means any:

- (a) Claim secured by the Administration Charge;
- (b) Government Priority Claim;
- (c) Employee Priority Claim;

- (d) Lien Claim;
- (e) any other Claim of any employee, former employee, Director or Officer of SFC in respect of wages, vacation pay, bonuses, termination pay, severance pay or other remuneration payable to such Person by SFC, other than any termination pay or severance pay payable by SFC to a Person who ceased to be an employee, Director or Officer of SFC prior to the date of this Plan;
- (f) Trustee Claims; and
- (g) any trade payables that were incurred by SFC (i) after the Filing Date but before the Plan Implementation Date; and (ii) in compliance with the Initial Order or other Order issued in the CCAA Proceeding.

“Unaffected Claims Reserve” means the cash reserve to be established by SFC on the Plan Implementation Date and maintained by the Monitor, in escrow, for the purpose of paying certain Unaffected Claims in accordance with section 4.2 hereof.

“Unaffected Creditor” means a Person who has an Unaffected Claim, but only in respect of and to the extent of such Unaffected Claim.

“Undeliverable Distribution” has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 5.4.

“Underwriters” means any underwriters of SFC that are named as defendants in the Class Action Claims, including for greater certainty Credit Suisse Securities (Canada), Inc., TD Securities Inc., Dundee Securities Corporation, RBC Dominion Securities Inc., Scotia Capital Inc., CIBC World Markets Inc., Merrill Lynch Canada Inc., Canaccord Financial Ltd., Maison Placements Canada Inc., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (successor by merger to Banc of America Securities LLC).

“Unresolved Claim” means an Affected Creditor Claim in respect of which a Proof of Claim has been filed in a proper and timely manner in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order but that, as at any applicable time, has not been finally (i) determined to be a Proven Claim or (ii) disallowed in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order, the Meeting Order or any other Order.

“Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent” means SFC Escrow Co. or such other Person as may be agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“Unresolved Claims Reserve” means the reserve of Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests, if any, to be established pursuant to sections 6.4(h)(ii) and 6.4(r) hereof in respect of Unresolved Claims as at the Plan Implementation Date, which reserve shall be held and maintained by the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, in escrow, for distribution in accordance with the Plan. As at the Plan Implementation Date, the Unresolved Claims Reserve will consist of that amount of Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests as is necessary to make any potential distributions under the Plan in respect of the following Unresolved Claims: (i) Class Action Indemnity Claims in an amount up to the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit; (ii) Claims in respect of Defence Costs in the amount of \$30 million or such other amount

as may be agreed by the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders; and (iii) other Affected Creditor Claims that have been identified by the Monitor as Unresolved Claims in an amount up to \$500,000 or such other amount as may be agreed by the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders.

“**Website**” means the website maintained by the Monitor in respect of the CCAA Proceeding pursuant to the Initial Order at the following web address: <http://cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/sfc>.

1.2 Certain Rules of Interpretation

For the purposes of the Plan:

- (a) any reference in the Plan to an Order, agreement, contract, instrument, indenture, release, exhibit or other document means such Order, agreement, contract, instrument, indenture, release, exhibit or other document as it may have been or may be validly amended, modified or supplemented;
- (b) the division of the Plan into “articles” and “sections” and the insertion of a table of contents are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the construction or interpretation of the Plan, nor are the descriptive headings of “articles” and “sections” intended as complete or accurate descriptions of the content thereof;
- (c) unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular shall include the plural and *vice versa*, and words importing any gender shall include all genders;
- (d) the words “includes” and “including” and similar terms of inclusion shall not, unless expressly modified by the words “only” or “solely”, be construed as terms of limitation, but rather shall mean “includes but is not limited to” and “including but not limited to”, so that references to included matters shall be regarded as illustrative without being either characterizing or exhaustive;
- (e) unless otherwise specified, all references to time herein and in any document issued pursuant hereto mean local time in Toronto, Ontario and any reference to an event occurring on a Business Day shall mean prior to 5:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on such Business Day;
- (f) unless otherwise specified, time periods within or following which any payment is to be made or act is to be done shall be calculated by excluding the day on which the period commences and including the day on which the period ends and by extending the period to the next succeeding Business Day if the last day of the period is not a Business Day;
- (g) unless otherwise provided, any reference to a statute or other enactment of parliament or a legislature includes all regulations made thereunder, all amendments to or re-enactments of such statute or regulations in force from time

to time, and, if applicable, any statute or regulation that supplements or supersedes such statute or regulation; and

- (h) references to a specified "article" or "section" shall, unless something in the subject matter or context is inconsistent therewith, be construed as references to that specified article or section of the Plan, whereas the terms "the Plan", "hereof", "herein", "hereto", "hereunder" and similar expressions shall be deemed to refer generally to the Plan and not to any particular "article", "section" or other portion of the Plan and include any documents supplemental hereto.

1.3 Currency

For the purposes of this Plan, all amounts shall be denominated in Canadian dollars and all payments and distributions to be made in cash shall be made in Canadian dollars. Any Claims or other amounts denominated in a foreign currency shall be converted to Canadian dollars at the Reuters closing rate on the Filing Date.

1.4 Successors and Assigns

The Plan shall be binding upon and shall enure to the benefit of the heirs, administrators, executors, legal personal representatives, successors and assigns of any Person named or referred to in the Plan.

1.5 Governing Law

The Plan shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein. All questions as to the interpretation of or application of the Plan and all proceedings taken in connection with the Plan and its provisions shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.

1.6 Schedule "A"

Schedule "A" to the Plan is incorporated by reference into the Plan and forms part of the Plan.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE PLAN

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is:

- (a) to effect a full, final and irrevocable compromise, release, discharge, cancellation and bar of all Affected Claims;
- (b) to effect the distribution of the consideration provided for herein in respect of Proven Claims;

- (c) to transfer ownership of the SFC Business to Newco and then from Newco to Newco II, in each case free and clear of all claims against SFC and certain related claims against the Subsidiaries, so as to enable the SFC Business to continue on a viable, going concern basis; and
- (d) to allow Affected Creditors and Noteholder Class Action Claimants to benefit from contingent value that may be derived from litigation claims to be advanced by the Litigation Trustee.

The Plan is put forward in the expectation that the Persons with an economic interest in SFC, when considered as a whole, will derive a greater benefit from the implementation of the Plan and the continuation of the SFC Business as a going concern than would result from a bankruptcy or liquidation of SFC.

2.2 Claims Affected

The Plan provides for, among other things, the full, final and irrevocable compromise, release, discharge, cancellation and bar of Affected Claims and effectuates the restructuring of SFC. The Plan will become effective at the Effective Time on the Plan Implementation Date, other than such matters occurring on the Equity Cancellation Date (if the Equity Cancellation date does not occur on the Plan Implementation Date) which will occur and be effective on such date, and the Plan shall be binding on and enure to the benefit of SFC, the Subsidiaries, Newco, Newco II, SFC Escrow Co., any Person having an Affected Claim, the Directors and Officers of SFC and all other Persons named or referred to in, or subject to, the Plan, as and to the extent provided for in the Plan.

2.3 Unaffected Claims against SFC Not Affected

Any amounts properly owing by SFC in respect of Unaffected Claims will be satisfied in accordance with section 4.2 hereof. Consistent with the foregoing, all liabilities of the Released Parties in respect of Unaffected Claims (other than the obligation of SFC to satisfy such Unaffected Claims in accordance with section 4.2 hereof) will be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred pursuant to Article 7 hereof. Nothing in the Plan shall affect SFC's rights and defences, both legal and equitable, with respect to any Unaffected Claims, including all rights with respect to legal and equitable defences or entitlements to set-offs or recoupments against such Unaffected Claims.

2.4 Insurance

- (a) Subject to the terms of this section 2.4, nothing in this Plan shall prejudice, compromise, release, discharge, cancel, bar or otherwise affect any right, entitlement or claim of any Person against SFC or any Director or Officer, or any insurer, in respect of an Insurance Policy or the proceeds thereof.
- (b) Nothing in this Plan shall prejudice, compromise, release or otherwise affect any right or defence of any such insurer in respect of any such Insurance Policy. Furthermore, nothing in this Plan shall prejudice, compromise, release or otherwise affect (i) any right of subrogation any such insurer may have against

any Person, including against any Director or Officer in the event of a determination of fraud against SFC or any Director or Officer in respect of whom such a determination is specifically made, and /or (ii) the ability of such insurer to claim repayment of Defense Costs (as defined in any such policy) from SFC and/or any Director or Officer in the event that the party from whom repayment is sought is not entitled to coverage under the terms and conditions of any such Insurance Policy

- (c) Notwithstanding anything herein (including section 2.4(b) and the releases and injunctions set forth in Article 7 hereof), but subject to section 2.4(d) hereof, all Insured Claims shall be deemed to remain outstanding and are not released following the Plan Implementation Date, but recovery as against SFC and the Named Directors and Officers is limited only to proceeds of Insurance Policies that are available to pay such Insured Claims, either by way of judgment or settlement. SFC and the Directors or Officers shall make all reasonable efforts to meet all obligations under the Insurance Policies. The insurers agree and acknowledge that they shall be obliged to pay any Loss payable pursuant to the terms and conditions of their respective Insurance Policies notwithstanding the releases granted to SFC and the Named Directors and Officers under this Plan, and that they shall not rely on any provisions of the Insurance Policies to argue, or otherwise assert, that such releases excuse them from, or relieve them of, the obligation to pay Loss that otherwise would be payable under the terms of the Insurance Policies. For greater certainty, the insurers agree and consent to a direct right of action against the insurers, or any of them, in favour of any plaintiff who or which has (a) negotiated a settlement of any Claim covered under any of the Insurance Policies, which settlement has been consented to in writing by the insurers or such of them as may be required or (b) obtained a final judgment against one or more of SFC and/or the Directors or Officers which such plaintiff asserts, in whole or in part, represents Loss covered under the Insurance Policies, notwithstanding that such plaintiff is not a named insured under the Insurance Policies and that neither SFC nor the Directors or Officers are parties to such action.
- (d) Notwithstanding anything in this section 2.4, from and after the Plan Implementation Date, any Person having an Insured Claim shall, as against SFC and the Named Directors and Officers, be irrevocably limited to recovery solely from the proceeds of the Insurance Policies paid or payable on behalf of SFC or its Directors or Officers, and Persons with any Insured Claims shall have no right to, and shall not, directly or indirectly, make any claim or seek any recoveries from SFC, any of the Named Directors and Officers, any of the Subsidiaries, Newco or Newco II, other than enforcing such Person's rights to be paid from the proceeds of an Insurance Policy by the applicable insurer(s), and this section 2.4(d) may be relied upon and raised or pled by SFC, Newco, Newco II, any Subsidiary and any Named Director and Officer in defence or estoppel of or to enjoin any claim, action or proceeding brought in contravention of this section

2.5 Claims Procedure Order

For greater certainty, nothing in this Plan revives or restores any right or claim of any kind that is barred or extinguished pursuant to the terms of the Claims Procedure Order, provided that nothing in this Plan, the Claims Procedure Order or any other Order compromises, releases, discharges, cancels or bars any claim against any Person for fraud or criminal conduct, regardless of whether or not any such claim has been asserted to date.

ARTICLE 3 CLASSIFICATION, VOTING AND RELATED MATTERS

3.1 Claims Procedure

The procedure for determining the validity and quantum of the Affected Claims shall be governed by the Claims Procedure Order, the Meeting Order, the CCAA, the Plan and any other Order, as applicable. SFC, the Monitor and any other creditor in respect of its own Claim, shall have the right to seek the assistance of the Court in valuing any Claim, whether for voting or distribution purposes, if required, and to ascertain the result of any vote on the Plan.

3.2 Classification

- (a) The Affected Creditors shall constitute a single class, the “**Affected Creditors Class**”, for the purposes of considering and voting on the Plan.
- (b) The Equity Claimants shall constitute a single class, separate from the Affected Creditors Class, but shall not, and shall have no right to, attend the Meeting or vote on the Plan in such capacity.

3.3 Unaffected Creditors

No Unaffected Creditor, in respect of an Unaffected Claim, shall:

- (a) be entitled to vote on the Plan;
- (b) be entitled to attend the Meeting; or
- (c) receive any entitlements under this Plan in respect of such Unaffected Creditor’s Unaffected Claims (other than its right to have its Unaffected Claim addressed in accordance with section 4.2 hereof).

3.4 Creditors’ Meeting

The Meeting shall be held in accordance with the Plan, the Meeting Order and any further Order of the Court. The only Persons entitled to attend and vote on the Plan at the Meeting are those specified in the Meeting Order.

3.5 Approval by Creditors

In order to be approved, the Plan must receive the affirmative vote of the Required Majority of the Affected Creditors Class.

ARTICLE 4 DISTRIBUTIONS, PAYMENTS AND TREATMENT OF CLAIMS

4.1 Affected Creditors

All Affected Creditor Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date. Each Affected Creditor that has a Proven Claim shall be entitled to receive the following in accordance with the Plan:

- (a) such Affected Creditor's Pro-Rata number of the Newco Shares to be issued by Newco from the Affected Creditors Equity Sub-Pool in accordance with the Plan;
- (b) such Affected Creditor's Pro-Rata amount of the Newco Notes to be issued by Newco in accordance with the Plan; and
- (c) such Affected Creditor's Pro-Rata share of the Litigation Trust Interests to be allocated to the Affected Creditors in accordance with 4.11 hereof and the terms of the Litigation Trust.

From and after the Plan Implementation Date, each Affected Creditor, in such capacity, shall have no rights as against SFC in respect of its Affected Creditor Claim.

4.2 Unaffected Creditors

Each Unaffected Claim that is finally determined as such, as to status and amount, and that is finally determined to be valid and enforceable against SFC, in each case in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order or other Order:

- (a) subject to sections 4.2(b) and 4.2(c) hereof, shall be paid in full from the Unaffected Claims Reserve and limited to recovery against the Unaffected Claims Reserve, and Persons with Unaffected Claims shall have no right to, and shall not, make any claim or seek any recoveries from any Person in respect of Unaffected Claims, other than enforcing such Person's right against SFC to be paid from the Unaffected Claims Reserve;
- (b) in the case of Claims secured by the Administration Charge:
 - (i) if billed or invoiced to SFC prior to the Plan Implementation Date, such Claims shall be paid by SFC in accordance with section 6.4(d) hereof; and
 - (ii) if billed or invoiced to SFC on or after the Plan Implementation Date, such Claims shall be paid from the Administration Charge Reserve, and all such

Claims shall be limited to recovery against the Administration Charge Reserve, and any Person with such Claims shall have no right to, and shall not, make any claim or seek any recoveries from any Person in respect of such Claims, other than enforcing such Person's right against the Administration Charge Reserve; and

- (c) in the case of Lien Claims:
 - (i) at the election of the Initial Consenting Noteholders, and with the consent of the Monitor, SFC shall satisfy such Lien Claim by the return of the applicable property of SFC that is secured as collateral for such Lien Claim, and the applicable Lien Claimant shall be limited to its recovery against such secured property in respect of such Lien Claim.
 - (ii) if the Initial Consenting Noteholders do not elect to satisfy such Lien Claim by the return of the applicable secured property: (A) SFC shall repay the Lien Claim in full in cash on the Plan Implementation Date; and (B) the security held by the applicable Lien Claimant over the property of SFC shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever released, discharged, cancelled and barred; and
 - (iii) upon the satisfaction of a Lien Claim in accordance with sections 4.2(c)(i) or 4.2(c)(ii) hereof, such Lien Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever released, discharged, cancelled and barred.

4.3 Early Consent Noteholders

As additional consideration for the compromise, release, discharge, cancellation and bar of the Affected Creditor Claims in respect of its Notes, each Early Consent Noteholder shall receive (in addition to the consideration it is entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.1 hereof) its Pro-Rata number of the Newco Shares to be issued by Newco from the Early Consent Equity Sub-Pool in accordance with the Plan.

4.4 Noteholder Class Action Claimants

- (a) All Noteholder Class Action Claims against SFC, the Subsidiaries or the Named Directors or Officers (other than any Noteholder Class Action Claims against the Named Directors or Officers that are Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims or Non-Released D&O Claims) shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred without consideration as against all said Persons on the Plan Implementation Date. Subject to section 4.4(f) hereof, Noteholder Class Action Claimants shall not receive any consideration or distributions under the Plan in respect of their Noteholder Class Action Claims. Noteholder Class Action Claimants shall not be entitled to attend or to vote on the Plan at the Meeting in respect of their Noteholder Class Action Claims.

- (b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 4.4(a), Noteholder Class Action Claims as against the Third Party Defendants (x) are not compromised, discharged, released, cancelled or barred, (y) shall be permitted to continue as against the Third Party Defendants and (z) shall not be limited or restricted by this Plan in any manner as to quantum or otherwise (including any collection or recovery for such Noteholder Class Action Claims that relates to any liability of the Third Party Defendants for any alleged liability of SFC), provided that:
- (i) in accordance with the releases set forth in Article 7 hereof, the collective aggregate amount of all rights and claims asserted or that may be asserted against the Third Party Defendants in respect of any such Noteholder Class Action Claims for which any such Persons in each case have a valid and enforceable Class Action Indemnity Claim against SFC (the **"Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims"**) shall not exceed, in the aggregate, the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit, and in accordance with section 7.3 hereof, all Persons shall be permanently and forever barred, estopped, stayed and enjoined, on and after the Effective Time, from seeking to enforce any liability in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims that exceeds the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit;
 - (ii) subject to section 4.4(g), any Class Action Indemnity Claims against SFC by the Third Party Defendants in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims shall be treated as Affected Creditor Claims against SFC, but only to the extent that any such Class Action Indemnity Claims that are determined to be properly indemnified by SFC, enforceable against SFC and are not barred or extinguished by the Claims Procedure Order, and further provided that the aggregate liability of SFC in respect of all such Class Action Indemnity Claims shall be limited to the lesser of: (A) the actual aggregate liability of the Third Party Defendants pursuant to any final judgment, settlement or other binding resolution in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims; and (B) the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit; and
 - (iii) for greater certainty, in the event that any Third Party Defendant is found to be liable for or agrees to a settlement in respect of a Noteholder Class Action Claim (other than a Noteholder Class Action Claim for fraud or criminal conduct) and such amounts are paid by or on behalf of the applicable Third Party Defendant, then the amount of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit applicable to the remaining Third Party Defendants shall be reduced by the amount paid in respect of such Noteholder Class Action Claim, as applicable.
- (c) Subject to section 7.1(o), the Claims of the Underwriters for indemnification in respect of any Noteholder Class Action Claims (other than Noteholder Class Action Claims against the Underwriters for fraud or criminal conduct) shall, for purposes of the Plan, be deemed to be valid and enforceable Class Action

Indemnity Claims against SFC (as limited pursuant to section 4.4(b) hereof), provided that: (i) the Underwriters shall not be entitled to receive any distributions of any kind under the Plan in respect of such Claims; (ii) such Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date; and (iii) the amount of such Claims shall not affect the calculation of any Pro-Rata entitlements of the Affected Creditors under this Plan. For greater certainty, to the extent of any conflict with respect to the Underwriters between section 4.4(e) hereof and this section 4.4(c), this section 4.4(c) shall prevail.

- (d) Subject to section 7.1(m), any and all indemnification rights and entitlements of Ernst & Young at common law and any and all indemnification agreements between Ernst & Young and SFC shall be deemed to be valid and enforceable in accordance with their terms for the purpose of determining whether the Claims of Ernst & Young for indemnification in respect of Noteholder Class Action Claims are valid and enforceable within the meaning of section 4.4(b) hereof. With respect to Claims of Ernst & Young for indemnification in respect of Noteholder Class Action Claims that are valid and enforceable: (i) Ernst & Young shall not be entitled to receive any distributions of any kind under the Plan in respect of such Claims; (ii) such Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date; and (iii) the amount of such Claims shall not affect the calculation of any Pro-Rata entitlements of the Affected Creditors under this Plan.
- (e) Subject to section 7.1(n), any and all indemnification rights and entitlements of the Named Third Party Defendants at common law and any and all indemnification agreements between the Named Third Party Defendants and SFC shall be deemed to be valid and enforceable in accordance with their terms for the purpose of determining whether the Claims of the Named Third Party Defendants for indemnification in respect of Noteholder Class Action Claims are valid and enforceable within the meaning of section 4.4(b) hereof. With respect to Claims of the Named Third Party Defendants for indemnification in respect of Noteholder Class Action Claims that are valid and enforceable: (i) the Named Third Party Defendants shall not be entitled to receive any distributions of any kind under the Plan in respect of such Claims; (ii) such Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date; and (iii) the amount of such Claims shall not affect the calculation of any Pro-Rata entitlements of the Affected Creditors under this Plan.
- (f) Each Noteholder Class Action Claimant shall be entitled to receive its share of the Litigation Trust Interests to be allocated to Noteholder Class Action Claimants in accordance with the terms of the Litigation Trust and section 4.11 hereof, as such Noteholder Class Action Claimant's share is determined by the applicable Class Action Court.

- (g) Nothing in this Plan impairs, affects or limits in any way the ability of SFC, the Monitor or the Initial Consenting Noteholders to seek or obtain an Order, whether before or after the Plan Implementation Date, directing that Class Action Indemnity Claims in respect of Noteholder Class Action Claims or any other Claims of the Third Party Defendants should receive the same or similar treatment as is afforded to Class Action Indemnity Claims in respect of Equity Claims under the terms of this Plan.

4.5 Equity Claimants

All Equity Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date. Equity Claimants shall not receive any consideration or distributions under the Plan and shall not be entitled to vote on the Plan at the Meeting.

4.6 Claims of the Trustees and Noteholders

For purposes of this Plan, all claims filed by the Trustees in respect of the Noteholder Claims (other than any Trustee Claims) shall be treated as provided in section 4.1 and the Trustees and the Noteholders shall have no other entitlements in respect of the guarantees and share pledges that have been provided by the Subsidiaries, or any of them, all of which shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date as against the Subsidiaries pursuant to Article 7 hereof.

4.7 Claims of the Third Party Defendants

For purposes of this Plan, all claims filed by the Third Party Defendants against SFC and/or any of its Subsidiaries shall be treated as follows:

- (a) all such claims against the Subsidiaries shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with Article 7 hereof;
- (b) all such claims against SFC that are Class Action Indemnity Claims in respect of Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims shall be treated as set out in section 4.4(b)(ii) hereof;
- (c) all such claims against SFC for indemnification of Defence Costs shall be treated in accordance with section 4.8 hereof; and
- (d) all other claims shall be treated as Equity Claims.

4.8 Defence Costs

All Claims against SFC for indemnification of defence costs incurred by any Person (other than a Named Director or Officer) in connection with defending against Shareholder Claims (as defined in the Equity Claims Order), Noteholder Class Action Claims or any other

claims of any kind relating to SFC or the Subsidiaries ("**Defence Costs**") shall be treated as follows:

- (a) as Equity Claims to the extent they are determined to be Equity Claims under any Order; and
- (b) as Affected Creditor Claims to the extent that they are not determined to be Equity Claims under any Order, provided that:
 - (i) if such Defence Costs were incurred in respect of a claim against the applicable Person that has been successfully defended and the Claim for such Defence Costs is otherwise valid and enforceable against SFC, the Claim for such Defence Costs shall be treated as a Proven Claim, provided that if such Claim for Defence Costs is a Class Action Indemnity Claim of a Third Party Defendant against SFC in respect of any Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claim, such Claim for Defence Costs shall be treated in the manner set forth in section 4.4(b)(ii) hereof;
 - (ii) if such Defence Costs were incurred in respect of a claim against the applicable Person that has not been successfully defended or such Defence Costs are determined not to be valid and enforceable against SFC, the Claim for such Defence Costs shall be disallowed and no consideration will be payable in respect thereof under the Plan; and
 - (iii) until any such Claim for Defence Costs is determined to be either a Claim within section 4.8(b)(i) or a Claim within section 4.8(b)(ii), such Claim shall be treated as an Unresolved Claim,

provided that nothing in this Plan impairs, affects or limits in any way the ability of SFC, the Monitor or the Initial Consenting Noteholders to seek an Order that Claims against SFC for indemnification of any Defence Costs should receive the same or similar treatment as is afforded to Equity Claims under the terms of this Plan.

4.9 D&O Claims

- (a) All D&O Claims against the Named Directors and Officers (other than Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims and Non-Released D&O Claims) shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred without consideration on the Plan Implementation Date.
- (b) All D&O Claims against the Other Directors and/or Officers shall not be compromised, released, discharged, cancelled or barred by this Plan and shall be permitted to continue as against the applicable Other Directors and/or Officers (the "**Continuing Other D&O Claims**"), provided that any Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims against the Other Directors and/or Officers shall be limited as described in section 4.4(b)(i) hereof.

- (c) All D&O Indemnity Claims and any other rights or claims for indemnification held by the Named Directors and Officers shall be deemed to have no value and shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred without consideration on the Plan Implementation Date.
- (d) All D&O Indemnity Claims and any other rights or claims for indemnification held by the Other Directors and/or Officers shall be deemed to have no value and shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred without consideration on the Plan Implementation Date, except that: (i) any such D&O Indemnity Claims for Defence Costs shall be treated in accordance with section 4.8 hereof; and (ii) any Class Action Indemnity Claim of an Other Director and/or Officer against SFC in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims shall be treated in the manner set forth in section 4.4(b)(ii) hereof.
- (e) All Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims and all Conspiracy Claims shall not be compromised, released, discharged, cancelled or barred by this Plan, provided that any Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims against Named Directors and Officers and any Conspiracy Claims against Named Directors and Officers shall be limited to recovery from any insurance proceeds payable in respect of such Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims or Conspiracy Claims, as applicable, pursuant to the Insurance Policies, and Persons with any such Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims against Named Directors and Officers or Conspiracy Claims against Named Directors and Officers shall have no right to, and shall not, make any claim or seek any recoveries from any Person (including SFC, any of the Subsidiaries, Newco or Newco II), other than enforcing such Persons' rights to be paid from the proceeds of an Insurance Policy by the applicable insurer(s).
- (f) All D&O Claims against the Directors and Officers of SFC or the Subsidiaries for fraud or criminal conduct shall not be compromised, discharged, released, cancelled or barred by this Plan and shall be permitted to continue as against all applicable Directors and Officers ("**Non-Released D&O Claims**").
- (g) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, from and after the Plan Implementation Date, a Person may only commence an action for a Non-Released D&O Claim against a Named Director or Officer if such Person has first obtained (i) the consent of the Monitor or (ii) leave of the Court on notice to the applicable Directors and Officers, SFC, the Monitor, the Initial Consenting Noteholders and any applicable insurers. For the avoidance of doubt, the foregoing requirement for the consent of the Monitor or leave of the Court shall not apply to any Non-Released D&O Claim that is asserted against an Other Director and/or Officer.

4.10 Intercompany Claims

All SFC Intercompany Claims (other than those transferred to SFC Barbados pursuant to section 6.4(j) hereof or set-off pursuant to section 6.4(l) hereof) shall be deemed to be assigned by SFC to Newco on the Plan Implementation Date pursuant to section 6.4(m) hereof, and shall

then be deemed to be assigned by Newco to Newco II pursuant to section 6.4(x) hereof. The obligations of SFC to the applicable Subsidiaries and Greenheart in respect of all Subsidiary Intercompany Claims (other than those set-off pursuant to section 6.4(l) hereof) shall be assumed by Newco on the Plan Implementation Date pursuant to 6.4(m) hereof, and then shall be assumed by Newco II pursuant to section 6.4(x) hereof. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, Newco II shall be liable to the applicable Subsidiaries and Greenheart for such Subsidiary Intercompany Claims and SFC shall be released from such Subsidiary Intercompany Claims from and after the Plan Implementation Date, and the applicable Subsidiaries and Greenheart shall be liable to Newco II for such SFC Intercompany Claims from and after the Plan Implementation Date. For greater certainty, nothing in this Plan affects any rights or claims as between any of the Subsidiaries, Greenheart and Greenheart's direct and indirect subsidiaries.

4.11 Entitlement to Litigation Trust Interests

- (a) The Litigation Trust Interests to be created in accordance with this Plan and the Litigation Trust shall be allocated as follows:
 - (i) the Affected Creditors shall be collectively entitled to 75% of such Litigation Trust Interests; and
 - (ii) the Noteholder Class Action Claimants shall be collectively entitled to 25% of such Litigation Trust Interests,

which allocations shall occur at the times and in the manner set forth in section 6.4 hereof and shall be recorded by the Litigation Trustee in its registry of Litigation Trust Interests.

- (b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 4.11(a) hereof, if any of the Noteholder Class Action Claims against any of the Third Party Defendants are finally resolved (whether by final judgment, settlement or any other binding means of resolution) within two years of the Plan Implementation Date, then the Litigation Trust Interests to which the applicable Noteholder Class Action Claimants would otherwise have been entitled in respect of such Noteholder Class Action Claims pursuant to section 4.11(a)(ii) hereof (based on the amount of such resolved Noteholder Class Action Claims in proportion to all Noteholder Class Action Claims in existence as of the Claims Bar Date) shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever cancelled.

4.12 Litigation Trust Claims

- (a) At any time prior to the Plan Implementation Date, SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders may agree to exclude one or more Causes of Action from the Litigation Trust Claims and/or to specify that any Causes of Action against a specified Person will not constitute Litigation Trust Claims ("**Excluded Litigation Trust Claims**"), in which case, any such Causes of Action shall not be transferred to the Litigation Trust on the Plan Implementation Date. Any such Excluded Litigation Trust Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan

Implementation Date in accordance with Article 7 hereof. All Affected Creditors shall be deemed to consent to such treatment of Excluded Litigation Trust Claims pursuant to this section 4.12(a).

- (b) All Causes of Action against the Underwriters by (i) SFC or (ii) the Trustees (on behalf of the Noteholders) shall be deemed to be Excluded Litigation Trust Claims that are fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with Article 7 hereof, provided that, unless otherwise agreed by SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders prior to the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with section 4.12(a) hereof, any such Causes of Action for fraud or criminal conduct shall not constitute Excluded Litigation Trust Claims and shall be transferred to the Litigation Trust in accordance with section 6.4(o) hereof.
- (c) At any time from and after the Plan Implementation Date, and subject to the prior consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders and the terms of the Litigation Trust Agreement, the Litigation Trustee shall have the right to seek and obtain an order from any court of competent jurisdiction, including an Order of the Court in the CCAA or otherwise, that gives effect to any releases of any Litigation Trust Claims agreed to by the Litigation Trustee in accordance with the Litigation Trust Agreement, including a release that fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromises, releases, discharges, cancels and bars the applicable Litigation Trust Claims as if they were Excluded Litigation Trust Claims released in accordance with Article 7 hereof. All Affected Creditors shall be deemed to consent to any such treatment of any Litigation Trust Claims pursuant to this section 4.12(b).

4.13 Multiple Affected Claims

On the Plan Implementation Date, any and all liabilities for and guarantees and indemnities of the payment or performance of any Affected Claim, Unaffected Claim, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim, Conspiracy Claim, Continuing Other D&O Claim or Non-Released D&O Claim by any of the Subsidiaries, and any purported liability for the payment or performance of such Affected Claim, Unaffected Claim, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim, Conspiracy Claim, Continuing Other D&O Claim or Non-Released D&O Claim by Newco or Newco II, will be deemed eliminated and cancelled, and no Person shall have any rights whatsoever to pursue or enforce any such liabilities for or guarantees or indemnities of the payment or performance of any such Affected Claim, Unaffected Claim, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim, Conspiracy Claim, Continuing Other D&O Claim or Non-Released D&O Claim against any Subsidiary, Newco or Newco II.

4.14 Interest

Subject to section 12.4 hereof, no holder of an Affected Claim shall be entitled to interest accruing on or after the Filing Date.

4.15 Existing Shares

Holders of Existing Shares and Equity Interests shall not receive any consideration or distributions under the Plan in respect thereof and shall not be entitled to vote on the Plan at the Meeting. Unless otherwise agreed between the Monitor, SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, all Existing Shares and Equity Interests shall be fully, finally and irrevocably cancelled in accordance with and at the time specified in section 6.5 hereof.

4.16 Canadian Exempt Plans

If an Affected Creditor is a trust governed by a plan which is exempt from tax under Part I of the Canadian Tax Act (including, for example, a registered retirement savings plan), such Affected Creditor may make arrangements with Newco (if Newco so agrees) and the Litigation Trustee (if the Litigation Trustee so agrees) to have the Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests to which it is entitled under this Plan directed to (or in the case of Litigation Trust Interests, registered in the name of) an affiliate of such Affected Creditor or the annuitant or controlling person of the governing tax-deferred plan.

ARTICLE 5 DISTRIBUTION MECHANICS

5.1 Letters of Instruction

In order to issue (i) Newco Shares and Newco Notes to Ordinary Affected Creditors and (ii) Newco Shares to Early Consent Noteholders, the following steps will be taken:

- (a) with respect to Ordinary Affected Creditors with Proven Claims or Unresolved Claims:
 - (i) on the next Business Day following the Distribution Record Date, the Monitor shall send blank Letters of Instruction by prepaid first class mail, courier, email or facsimile to each such Ordinary Affected Creditor to the address of each such Ordinary Affected Creditor (as specified in the applicable Proof of Claim) as of the Distribution Record Date, or as evidenced by any assignment or transfer in accordance with section 5.10;
 - (ii) each such Ordinary Affected Creditor shall deliver to the Monitor a duly completed and executed Letter of Instruction that must be received by the Monitor on or before the date that is seven (7) Business Days after the Distribution Record Date or such other date as the Monitor may determine; and
 - (iii) any such Ordinary Affected Creditor that does not return a Letter of Instruction to the Monitor in accordance with section 5.1(a)(ii) shall be deemed to have requested that such Ordinary Affected Creditor's Newco Shares and Newco Notes be registered or distributed, as applicable, in accordance with the information set out in such Ordinary Affected Creditor's Proof of Claim; and

- (b) with respect to Early Consent Noteholders:
 - (i) on the next Business Day following the Distribution Record Date the Monitor shall send blank Letters of Instruction by prepaid first class mail, courier, email or facsimile to each Early Consent Noteholder to the address of each such Early Consent Noteholder as confirmed by the Monitor on or before the Distribution Record Date;
 - (ii) each Early Consent Noteholder shall deliver to the Monitor a duly completed and executed Letter of Instruction that must be received by the Monitor on or before the date that is seven (7) Business Days after the Distribution Record Date or such other date as the Monitor may determine; and
 - (iii) any such Early Consent Noteholder that does not return a Letter of Instruction to the Monitor in accordance with section 5.1(b)(ii) shall be deemed to have requested that such Early Consent Noteholder's Newco Shares be distributed or registered, as applicable, in accordance with information confirmed by the Monitor on or before the Distribution Record Date.

5.2 Distribution Mechanics with respect to Newco Shares and Newco Notes

- (a) To effect distributions of Newco Shares and Newco Notes, the Monitor shall deliver a direction at least two (2) Business Days prior to the Initial Distribution Date to Newco or its agent, as applicable, directing Newco or its agent, as applicable, to issue on such Initial Distribution Date or subsequent Distribution Date:
 - (i) in respect of the Ordinary Affected Creditors with Proven Claims:
 - (A) the number of Newco Shares that each such Ordinary Affected Creditor is entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.1(a) hereof; and
 - (B) the amount of Newco Notes that each such Ordinary Affected Creditor is entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.1(b) hereof,

all of which Newco Shares and Newco Notes shall be issued to such Ordinary Affected Creditors and distributed in accordance with this Article 5;
 - (ii) in respect of the Ordinary Affected Creditors with Unresolved Claims:
 - (A) the number of Newco Shares that each such Ordinary Affected Creditor would have been entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.1(a) hereof had such Ordinary Affected Creditor's

Unresolved Claim been a Proven Claim on the Plan Implementation Date; and

- (B) the amount of Newco Notes that each such Ordinary Affected Creditor would have been entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.1(b) hereof had such Ordinary Affected Creditor's Unresolved Claim been a Proven Claim on the Plan Implementation Date,

all of which Newco Shares and Newco Notes shall be issued in the name of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto under the Plan, which Newco Shares and Newco Notes shall comprise part of the Unresolved Claims Reserve and shall be held in escrow by the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent until released and distributed in accordance with this Article 5;

- (iii) in respect of the Noteholders:

- (A) the number of Newco Shares that the Trustees are collectively required to receive such that, upon distribution to the Noteholders in accordance with this Article 5, each individual Noteholder receives the number of Newco Shares to which it is entitled in accordance with section 4.1(a) hereof; and
- (B) the amount of Newco Notes that the Trustees are collectively required to receive such that, upon distribution to the Noteholders in accordance with this Article 5, each individual Noteholder receives the amount of Newco Notes to which it is entitled in accordance with section 4.1(b) hereof,

all of which Newco Shares and Newco Notes shall be issued to such Noteholders and distributed in accordance with this Article 5; and

- (iv) in respect of Early Consent Noteholders, the number of Newco Shares that each such Early Consent Noteholder is entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.3 hereof, all of which Newco Shares shall be issued to such Early Consent Noteholders and distributed in accordance with this Article 5.

The direction delivered by the Monitor in respect of the applicable Ordinary Affected Creditors and Early Consent Noteholders shall: (A) indicate the registration and delivery details of each applicable Ordinary Affected Creditor and Early Consent Noteholder based on the information prescribed in section 5.1; and (B) specify the number of Newco Shares and, in the case of Ordinary Affected Creditors, the amount of Newco Notes to be issued to each such Person on the applicable Distribution Date. The direction delivered by the Monitor in respect of the Noteholders shall: (C) indicate that the registration and delivery details with respect to the number of Newco Shares and amount of Newco Notes

to be distributed to each Noteholder will be the same as the registration and delivery details in effect with respect to the Notes held by each Noteholder as of the Distribution Record Date; and (D) specify the number of Newco Shares and the amount of Newco Notes to be issued to each of the Trustees for purposes of satisfying the entitlements of the Noteholders set forth in sections 4.1(a) and 4.1(b) hereof. The direction delivered by the Monitor in respect of the Newco Shares and Newco Notes to be issued in the name of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto under the Plan, for purposes of the Unresolved Claims Reserve shall specify the number of Newco Shares and the amount of Newco Notes to be issued in the name of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent for that purpose.

- (b) If the registers for the Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes are maintained by the Transfer Agent in a direct registration system (without certificates), the Monitor and/or Newco and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, shall, on the Initial Distribution Date or any subsequent Distribution Date, as applicable:
 - (i) instruct the Transfer Agent to record, and the Transfer Agent shall record, in the Direct Registration Account of each applicable Ordinary Affected Creditor and each Early Consent Noteholder the number of Newco Shares and, in the case of Ordinary Affected Creditors, the amount of Newco Notes that are to be distributed to each such Person, and the Monitor and/or Newco and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, shall send or cause to be sent to each such Ordinary Affected Creditor and Early Consent Noteholder a Direct Registration Transaction Advice based on the delivery information as determined pursuant to section 5.1; and
 - (ii) with respect to the distribution of Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes to Noteholders:
 - (A) if the Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes are DTC eligible, the Monitor and/or Newco and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, shall instruct the Transfer Agent to register, and the Transfer Agent shall register, the applicable Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes in the name of DTC (or its nominee) for the benefit of the Noteholders, and the Trustees shall provide their consent to DTC to the distribution of such Newco Shares and Newco Notes to the applicable Noteholders, in the applicable amounts, through the facilities of DTC in accordance with customary practices and procedures; and
 - (B) if the Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes are not DTC eligible, the Monitor and/or Newco and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, shall instruct the Transfer Agent to register the applicable Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes in the Direct Registration Accounts of the applicable Noteholders pursuant to the registration instructions obtained through DTC and the DTC

participants (by way of a letter of transmittal process or such other process as agreed by SFC, the Monitor, the Trustees and the Initial Consenting Noteholders), and the Transfer Agent shall (A) register such Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes, in the applicable amounts, in the Direct Registration Accounts of the applicable Noteholders; and (B) send or cause to be sent to each Noteholder a Direct Registration Transaction Advice in accordance with customary practices and procedures; provided that the Transfer Agent shall not be permitted to effect the foregoing registrations without the prior written consent of the Trustees.

- (c) If the registers for the Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes are not maintained by the Transfer Agent in a direct registration system, Newco shall prepare and deliver to the Monitor and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, and the Monitor and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, shall promptly thereafter, on the Initial Distribution Date or any subsequent Distribution Date, as applicable:
 - (i) deliver to each Ordinary Affected Creditor and each Early Consent Noteholder Newco Share Certificates and, in the case of Ordinary Affected Creditors, Newco Note Certificates representing the applicable number of Newco Shares and the applicable amount of Newco Notes that are to be distributed to each such Person; and
 - (ii) with respect to the distribution of Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes to Noteholders:
 - (A) if the Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes are DTC eligible, the Monitor and/or Newco and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, shall distribute to DTC (or its nominee), for the benefit of the Noteholders, Newco Share Certificates and/or Newco Note Certificates representing the aggregate of all Newco Shares and Newco Notes to be distributed to the Noteholders on such Distribution Date, and the Trustees shall provide their consent to DTC to the distribution of such Newco Shares and Newco Notes to the applicable Noteholders, in the applicable amounts, through the facilities of DTC in accordance with customary practices and procedures; and
 - (B) if the Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes are not DTC eligible, the Monitor and/or Newco and/or the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, as applicable, shall distribute to the applicable Trustees, Newco Share Certificates and/or Newco Note Certificates representing the aggregate of all Newco Shares and/or Newco Notes to be distributed to the Noteholders on such Distribution Date, and the Trustees shall make delivery of such Newco Share Certificates and Newco Note Certificates, in the applicable

amounts, directly to the applicable Noteholders pursuant to the delivery instructions obtained through DTC and the DTC participants (by way of a letter of transmittal process or such other process as agreed by SFC, the Monitor, the Trustees and the Initial Consenting Noteholders), all of which shall occur in accordance with customary practices and procedures.

- (d) Upon receipt of and in accordance with written instructions from the Monitor, the Trustees shall instruct DTC to and DTC shall: (i) set up an escrow position representing the respective positions of the Noteholders as of the Distribution Record Date for the purpose of making distributions on the Initial Distribution Date and any subsequent Distribution Dates (the “**Distribution Escrow Position**”); and (ii) block any further trading of the Notes, effective as of the close of business on the day immediately preceding the Plan Implementation Date, all in accordance with DTC’s customary practices and procedures.
- (e) The Monitor, Newco, Newco II, the Trustees, SFC, the Named Directors and Officers and the Transfer Agent shall have no liability or obligation in respect of deliveries by DTC (or its nominee) to the DTC participants or the Noteholders pursuant to this Article 5.

5.3 Allocation of Litigation Trust Interests

The Litigation Trustee shall administer the Litigation Trust Claims and the Litigation Funding Amount for the benefit of the Persons that are entitled to the Litigation Trust Interests and shall maintain a registry of such Persons as follows:

- (a) with respect to Affected Creditors:
 - (i) the Litigation Trustee shall maintain a record of the amount of Litigation Trust Interests that each Ordinary Affected Creditor is entitled to receive in accordance with sections 4.1(c) and 4.11(a) hereof;
 - (ii) the Litigation Trustee shall maintain a record of the aggregate amount of all Litigation Trust Interests to which the Noteholders are collectively entitled in accordance with sections 4.1(c) and 4.11(a) hereof, and if cash is distributed from the Litigation Trust to Persons with Litigation Trust Interests, the amount of such cash that is payable to the Noteholders will be distributed through the Distribution Escrow Position (such that each beneficial Noteholder will receive a percentage of such cash distribution that is equal to its entitlement to Litigation Trust Interests (as set forth in section 4.1(c) hereof) as a percentage of all Litigation Trust Interests); and
 - (iii) with respect to any Litigation Trust Interests to be allocated in respect of the Unresolved Claims Reserve, the Litigation Trustee shall record such Litigation Trust Interests in the name of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto in accordance with

this Plan, which shall be held by the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent in escrow until released and distributed unless and until otherwise directed by the Monitor in accordance with this Plan;

- (b) with respect to the Noteholder Class Action Claimants, the Litigation Trustee shall maintain a record of the aggregate of all Litigation Trust Interests that the Noteholder Class Action Claimants are entitled to receive pursuant to sections 4.4(f) and 4.11(a) hereof, provided that such record shall be maintained in the name of the Noteholder Class Action Representative, to be allocated to individual Noteholder Class Action Claimants in any manner ordered by the applicable Class Action Court, and provided further that if any such Litigation Trust Interests are cancelled in accordance with section 4.11(b) hereof, the Litigation Trustee shall record such cancellation in its registry of Litigation Trust Interests.

5.4 Treatment of Undeliverable Distributions

If any distribution under section 5.2 or section 5.3 of Newco Shares, Newco Notes or Litigation Trust Interests is undeliverable (that is, for greater certainty, that it cannot be properly registered or delivered to the Applicable Affected Creditor because of inadequate or incorrect registration or delivery information or otherwise) (an “**Undeliverable Distribution**”), it shall be delivered to SFC Escrow Co., which shall hold such Undeliverable Distribution in escrow and administer it in accordance with this section 5.4. No further distributions in respect of an Undeliverable Distribution shall be made unless and until SFC and the Monitor are notified by the applicable Person of its current address and/or registration information, as applicable, at which time the Monitor shall direct SFC Escrow Co. to make all such distributions to such Person, and SFC Escrow Co. shall make all such distributions to such Person. All claims for Undeliverable Distributions must be made on or before the date that is six months following the final Distribution Date, after which date the right to receive distributions under this Plan in respect of such Undeliverable Distributions shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred, without any compensation therefore, notwithstanding any federal, state or provincial laws to the contrary, at which time any such Undeliverable Distributions held by SFC Escrow Co. shall be deemed to have been gifted by the owner of the Undeliverable Distribution to Newco or the Litigation Trust, as applicable, without consideration, and, in the case of Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests, shall be cancelled by Newco and the Litigation Trustee, as applicable. Nothing contained in the Plan shall require SFC, the Monitor, SFC Escrow Co. or any other Person to attempt to locate any owner of an Undeliverable Distribution. No interest is payable in respect of an Undeliverable Distribution. Any distribution under this Plan on account of the Notes, other than any distributions in respect of Litigation Trust Interests, shall be deemed made when delivered to DTC or the applicable Trustee, as applicable, for subsequent distribution to the applicable Noteholders in accordance with section 5.2.

5.5 Procedure for Distributions Regarding Unresolved Claims

- (a) An Affected Creditor that has asserted an Unresolved Claim will not be entitled to receive a distribution under the Plan in respect of such Unresolved Claim or any portion thereof unless and until such Unresolved Claim becomes a Proven Claim.

- (b) Distributions in respect of any Unresolved Claim in existence at the Plan Implementation Date will be held in escrow by the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent in the Unresolved Claims Reserve until settlement or final determination of the Unresolved Claim in accordance with the Claims Procedure Order, the Meeting Order or this Plan, as applicable.
- (c) To the extent that Unresolved Claims become Proven Claims or are finally disallowed, the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall release from escrow and deliver (or in the case of Litigation Trust Interests, cause to be registered) the following from the Unresolved Claims Reserve (on the next Distribution Date, as determined by the Monitor with the consent of SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders):
 - (i) in the case of Affected Creditors whose Unresolved Claims are ultimately determined, in whole or in part, to be Proven Claims, the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall release from escrow and deliver to such Affected Creditor that number of Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests (and any income or proceeds therefrom) that such Affected Creditor is entitled to receive in respect of its Proven Claim pursuant to section 4.1 hereof;
 - (ii) in the case of Affected Creditors whose Unresolved Claims are ultimately determined, in whole or in part, to be disallowed, the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall release from escrow and deliver to all Affected Creditors with Proven Claims the number of Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests (and any income or proceeds therefrom) that had been reserved in the Unresolved Claims Reserve for such Affected Creditor whose Unresolved Claims has been disallowed, Claims such that, following such delivery, all of the Affected Creditors with Proven Claims have received the amount of Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests that they are entitled to receive pursuant to section 4.1 hereof, which delivery shall be effected in accordance with sections 5.2 and 5.3 hereof.
- (d) As soon as practicable following the date that all Unresolved Claims have been finally resolved and any required distributions contemplated in section 5.5(c) have been made, the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall distribute (or in the case of Litigation Trust Interests, cause to be registered) any Litigation Trust Interests, Newco Shares and Newco Notes (and any income or proceeds therefrom), as applicable, remaining in the Unresolved Claims Reserve to the Affected Creditors with Proven Claims such that after giving effect to such distributions each such Affected Creditor has received the amount of Litigation Trust Interests, Newco Shares and Newco Notes that it is entitled to receive pursuant to section 4.1 hereof.
- (e) During the time that Newco Shares, Newco Notes and/or Litigation Trust Interests are held in escrow in the Unresolved Claims Reserve, any income or proceeds

received therefrom or accruing thereon shall be added to the Unresolved Claims Reserve by the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent and no Person shall have any right to such income or proceeds until such Newco Shares, Newco Notes or Litigation Trust Interests, as applicable, are distributed (or in the case of Litigation Trust Interests, registered) in accordance with section 5.5(c) and 5.5(d) hereof, at which time the recipient thereof shall be entitled to any applicable income or proceeds therefrom.

- (f) The Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall have no beneficial interest or right in the Unresolved Claims Reserve. The Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall not take any step or action with respect to the Unresolved Claims Reserve or any other matter without the consent or direction of the Monitor or the direction of the Court. The Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall forthwith, upon receipt of an Order of the Court or instruction of the Monitor directing the release of any Newco Shares, Newco Notes and/or Litigation Trust Interests from the Unresolved Claims Reserve, comply with any such Order or instruction.
- (g) Nothing in this Plan impairs, affects or limits in any way the ability of SFC, the Monitor or the Initial Consenting Noteholders to seek or obtain an Order, whether before or after the Plan Implementation Date, directing that any Unresolved Claims should be disallowed in whole or in part or that such Unresolved Claims should receive the same or similar treatment as is afforded to Equity Claims under the terms of this Plan.
- (h) Persons with Unresolved Claims shall have standing in any proceeding in respect of the determination or status of any Unresolved Claim, and Goodmans LLP (in its capacity as counsel to the Initial Consenting Noteholders) shall have standing in any such proceeding on behalf of the Initial Consenting Noteholders (in their capacity as Affected Creditors with Proven Claims).

5.6 Tax Refunds

Any input tax credits or tax refunds received by or on behalf of SFC after the Effective Time shall, immediately upon receipt thereof, be paid directly by, or on behalf of, SFC to Newco without consideration.

5.7 Final Distributions from Reserves

- (a) If there is any cash remaining in: (i) the Unaffected Claims Reserve on the date that all Unaffected Claims have been finally paid or otherwise discharged and/or (ii) the Administration Charge Reserve on the date that all Claims secured by the Administration Charge have been finally paid or otherwise discharged, the Monitor shall, in each case, forthwith transfer all such remaining cash to the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve.
- (b) The Monitor will not terminate the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve prior to the termination of each of the Unaffected Claims Reserve and the Administration Charge Reserve. The Monitor may, at any time, from time to time

and at its sole discretion, release amounts from the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve to Newco. Goodmans LLP (in its capacity as counsel to the Initial Consenting Noteholders) shall be permitted to apply for an Order of the Court directing the Monitor to make distributions from the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve. Once the Monitor has determined that the cash remaining in the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve is no longer necessary for administering SFC or the Claims Procedure, the Monitor shall forthwith transfer any such remaining cash (the "**Remaining Post-Implementation Reserve Amount**") to Newco.

5.8 Other Payments and Distributions

All other payments and distributions to be made pursuant to this Plan shall be made in the manner described in this Plan, the Sanction Order or any other Order, as applicable.

5.9 Note Indentures to Remain in Effect Solely for Purpose of Distributions

Following completion of the steps in the sequence set forth in section 6.4, all debentures, indentures, notes (including the Notes), certificates, agreements, invoices and other instruments evidencing Affected Claims will not entitle any holder thereof to any compensation or participation other than as expressly provided for in the Plan and will be cancelled and will be null and void. Any and all obligations of SFC and the Subsidiaries under and with respect to the Notes, the Note Indentures and any guarantees or indemnities with respect to the Notes or the Note Indentures shall be terminated and cancelled on the Plan Implementation Date and shall not continue beyond the Plan Implementation Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing and anything to the contrary in the Plan, the Note Indentures shall remain in effect solely for the purpose of and only to the extent necessary to allow the Trustees to make distributions to Noteholders on the Initial Distribution Date and, as necessary, each subsequent Distribution Date thereafter, and to maintain all of the rights and protections afforded to the Trustees as against the Noteholders under the applicable Note Indentures, including their lien rights with respect to any distributions under this Plan, until all distributions provided for hereunder have been made to the Noteholders. The obligations of the Trustees under or in respect of this Plan shall be solely as expressly set out herein. Without limiting the generality of the releases, injunctions and other protections afforded to the Trustees under this Plan and the applicable Note Indentures, the Trustees shall have no liability whatsoever to any Person resulting from the due performance of their obligations hereunder, except if such Trustee is adjudged by the express terms of a non-appealable judgment rendered on a final determination on the merits to have committed gross negligence or wilful misconduct in respect of such matter.

5.10 Assignment of Claims for Distribution Purposes

(a) Assignment of Claims by Ordinary Affected Creditors

Subject to any restrictions contained in Applicable Laws, an Ordinary Affected Creditor may transfer or assign the whole of its Affected Claim after the Meeting provided that neither SFC nor Newco nor Newco II nor the Monitor nor the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall be obliged to make distributions to any such transferee or assignee or otherwise deal with such

transferee or assignee as an Ordinary Affected Creditor in respect thereof unless and until actual notice of the transfer or assignment, together with satisfactory evidence of such transfer or assignment and such other documentation as SFC and the Monitor may reasonably require, has been received by SFC and the Monitor on or before the Plan Implementation Date, or such other date as SFC and the Monitor may agree, failing which the original transferor shall have all applicable rights as the "Ordinary Affected Creditor" with respect to such Affected Claim as if no transfer of the Affected Claim had occurred. Thereafter, such transferee or assignee shall, for all purposes in accordance with this Plan, constitute an Ordinary Affected Creditor and shall be bound by any and all notices previously given to the transferor or assignor in respect of such Claim. For greater certainty, SFC shall not recognize partial transfers or assignments of Claims.

(b) *Assignment of Notes*

Only those Noteholders who have beneficial ownership of one or more Notes as at the Distribution Record Date shall be entitled to receive a distribution under this Plan on the Initial Distribution Date or any Distribution Date. Noteholders who have beneficial ownership of Notes shall not be restricted from transferring or assigning such Notes prior to or after the Distribution Record Date (unless the Distribution Record Date is the Plan Implementation Date), provided that if such transfer or assignment occurs after the Distribution Record Date, neither SFC nor Newco nor Newco II nor the Monitor nor the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall have any obligation to make distributions to any such transferee or assignee of Notes in respect of the Claims associated therewith, or otherwise deal with such transferee or assignee as an Affected Creditor in respect thereof. Noteholders who assign or acquire Notes after the Distribution Record Date shall be wholly responsible for ensuring that Plan distributions in respect of the Claims associated with such Notes are in fact delivered to the assignee, and the Trustees shall have no liability in connection therewith.

5.11 Withholding Rights

SFC, Newco, Newco II, the Monitor, the Litigation Trustee, the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent and/or any other Person making a payment contemplated herein shall be entitled to deduct and withhold from any consideration payable to any Person such amounts as it is required to deduct and withhold with respect to such payment under the Canadian Tax Act, the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any provision of federal, provincial, territorial, state, local or foreign Tax laws, in each case, as amended. To the extent that amounts are so withheld or deducted, such withheld or deducted amounts shall be treated for all purposes hereof as having been paid to the Person in respect of which such withholding was made, provided that such amounts are actually remitted to the appropriate Taxing Authority. To the extent that the amounts so required or permitted to be deducted or withheld from any payment to a Person exceed the cash portion of the consideration otherwise payable to that Person: (i) the payor is authorized to sell or otherwise dispose of such portion of the consideration as is necessary to provide sufficient funds to enable it to comply with such deduction or withholding requirement or entitlement, and the payor shall notify the applicable Person thereof and remit to such Person any unapplied balance of the net proceeds of such sale; or (ii) if such sale is not reasonably possible, the payor shall not be required to make such excess payment until the Person has directly satisfied any such withholding obligation and provides evidence thereof to the payor.

5.12 Fractional Interests

No fractional interests of Newco Shares or Newco Notes (“**Fractional Interests**”) will be issued under this Plan. For purposes of calculating the number of Newco Shares and Newco Notes to be issued by Newco pursuant to this Plan, recipients of Newco Shares or Newco Notes will have their entitlements adjusted downwards to the nearest whole number of Newco Shares or Newco Notes, as applicable, to eliminate any such Fractional Interests and no compensation will be given for the Fractional Interest.

5.13 Further Direction of the Court

The Monitor shall, in its sole discretion, be entitled to seek further direction of the Court, including a plan implementation order, with respect to any matter relating to the implementation of the plan including with respect to the distribution mechanics and restructuring transaction as set out in Articles 5 and 6 of this Plan.

ARTICLE 6 RESTRUCTURING TRANSACTION

6.1 Corporate Actions

The adoption, execution, delivery, implementation and consummation of all matters contemplated under the Plan involving corporate action of SFC will occur and be effective as of the Plan Implementation Date, other than such matters occurring on the Equity Cancellation Date which will occur and be effective on such date, and in either case will be authorized and approved under the Plan and by the Court, where appropriate, as part of the Sanction Order, in all respects and for all purposes without any requirement of further action by shareholders, Directors or Officers of SFC. All necessary approvals to take actions shall be deemed to have been obtained from the directors or the shareholders of SFC, as applicable, including the deemed passing by any class of shareholders of any resolution or special resolution and no shareholders’ agreement or agreement between a shareholder and another Person limiting in any way the right to vote shares held by such shareholder or shareholders with respect to any of the steps contemplated by the Plan shall be deemed to be effective and shall have no force and effect, provided that, subject to sections 12.6 and 12.7 hereof, where any matter expressly requires the consent or approval of SFC, the Initial Consenting Noteholders or SFC’s board of directors pursuant to this Plan, such consent or approval shall not be deemed to be given unless actually given.

6.2 Incorporation of Newco and Newco II

- (a) Newco shall be incorporated prior to the Plan Implementation Date. Newco shall be authorized to issue an unlimited number of Newco Shares and shall have no restrictions on the number of its shareholders. At the time that Newco is incorporated, Newco shall issue one Newco Share to the Initial Newco Shareholder, as the sole shareholder of Newco, and the Initial Newco Shareholder shall be deemed to hold the Newco Share for the purpose of facilitating the

Restructuring Transaction. For greater certainty, the Initial Newco Shareholder shall not hold such Newco Share as agent of or for the benefit of SFC, and SFC shall have no rights in relation to such Newco Share. Newco shall not carry on any business or issue any other Newco Shares or other securities until the Plan Implementation Date, and then only in accordance with section 6.4 hereof. The Initial Newco Shareholder shall be deemed to have no liability whatsoever for any matter pertaining to its status as the Initial Newco Shareholder, other than its obligations under this Plan to act as the Initial Newco Shareholder.

- (b) Newco II shall be incorporated prior to the Plan Implementation Date as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Newco. The memorandum and articles of association of Newco II will be in a form customary for a wholly-owned subsidiary under the applicable jurisdiction and the initial board of directors of Newco II will consist of the same Persons appointed as the directors of Newco on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date.

6.3 Incorporation of SFC Escrow Co.

SFC Escrow Co. shall be incorporated prior to the Plan Implementation Date. SFC Escrow Co. shall be incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands, or such other jurisdiction as may be agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders. The sole director of SFC Escrow Co. shall be Codan Services (Cayman) Limited, or such other Person as may be agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders. At the time that SFC Escrow Co. is incorporated, SFC Escrow Co. shall issue one share (the "SFC Escrow Co. Share") to SFC, as the sole shareholder of SFC Escrow Co. and SFC shall be deemed to hold the SFC Escrow Co. Share for the purpose of facilitating the Restructuring Transaction. SFC Escrow Co. shall have no assets other than any assets that it is required to hold in escrow pursuant to the terms of this Plan, and it shall have no liabilities other than its obligations as set forth in this Plan. SFC Escrow Co. shall not carry on any business or issue any shares or other securities (other than the SFC Escrow Co. Share). The sole activity and function of SFC Escrow Co. shall be to perform the obligations of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent as set forth in this Plan and to administer Undeliverable Distributions as set forth in section 5.4 of this Plan. SFC Escrow Co. shall not make any sale, distribution, transfer or conveyance of any Newco Shares, Newco Notes or any other assets or property that it holds unless it is directed to do so by an Order of the Court or by a written direction from the Monitor, in which case SFC Escrow Co. shall promptly comply with such Order of the Court or such written direction from the Monitor. SFC shall not sell, transfer or convey the SFC Escrow Co. Share nor effect or cause to be effected any liquidation, dissolution, merger or other corporate reorganization of SFC Escrow Co. unless it is directed to do so by an Order of the Court or by a written direction from the Monitor, in which case SFC shall promptly comply with such Order of the Court or such written direction from the Monitor. SFC Escrow Co. shall not exercise any voting rights (including any right to vote at a meeting of shareholders or creditors held or in any written resolution) in respect of Newco Shares or Newco Notes held in the Unresolved Claims Reserve. SFC Escrow Co. shall not be entitled to receive any compensation for the performance of its obligations under this Plan.

6.4 Plan Implementation Date Transactions

The following steps and compromises and releases to be effected shall occur, and be deemed to have occurred in the following manner and order (sequentially, each step occurring five minutes apart, except that within such order steps (a) to (f) (Cash Payments) shall occur simultaneously and steps (t) to (w) (Releases) shall occur simultaneously) without any further act or formality, on the Plan Implementation Date beginning at the Effective Time (or in such other manner or order or at such other time or times as SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders may agree):

Cash Payments and Satisfaction of Lien Claims

- (a) SFC shall pay required funds to the Monitor for the purpose of funding the Unaffected Claims Reserve, and the Monitor shall hold and administer such funds in trust for the purpose of paying the Unaffected Claims pursuant to the Plan.
- (b) SFC shall pay the required funds to the Monitor for the purpose of funding the Administration Charge Reserve, and the Monitor shall hold and administer such funds in trust for the purpose of paying Unaffected Claims secured by Administration Charge.
- (c) SFC shall pay the required funds to the Monitor for the purpose of funding the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve, and the Monitor shall hold and administer such funds in trust for the purpose of administering SFC, as necessary, from and after the Plan Implementation Date.
- (d) SFC shall pay to the Noteholder Advisors and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, as applicable, each such Person's respective portion of the Expense Reimbursement. SFC shall pay all fees and expenses owing to each of the SFC Advisors, the advisors to the current Board of Directors of SFC, Chandler Fraser Keating Limited and Spencer Stuart and SFC or any of the Subsidiaries shall pay all fees and expenses owing to each of Indufor Asia Pacific Limited and Stewart Murray (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. If requested by the Monitor (with the consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders) no more than 10 days prior to the Plan Implementation Date and provided that all fees and expenses set out in all previous invoices rendered by the applicable Person to SFC have been paid, SFC and the Subsidiaries, as applicable, shall, with respect to the final one or two invoices rendered prior to the Plan Implementation Date, pay any such fees and expenses to such Persons for all work up to and including the Plan Implementation Date (including any reasonable estimates of work to be performed on the Plan Implementation Date) first by applying any such monetary retainers currently held by such Persons and then by paying any remaining balance in cash.
- (e) If requested by the Monitor (with the consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders) prior to the Plan Implementation Date, any Person with a monetary retainer from SFC that remains outstanding following the steps and payment of all

fees and expenses set out in section 6.4(d) hereof shall pay to SFC in cash the full amount of such remaining retainer, less any amount permitted by the Monitor (with the Consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders and after prior discussion with the applicable Person as to any remaining work that may reasonably be required) to remain as a continuing monetary retainer in connection with completion of any remaining work after the Plan Implementation Date that may be requested by the Monitor, SFC or the Initial Consenting Noteholders (each such continuing monetary retainer being a “**Permitted Continuing Retainer**”). Such Persons shall have no duty or obligation to perform any further work or tasks in respect of SFC unless such Persons are satisfied that they are holding adequate retainers or other security or have received payment to compensate them for all fees and expenses in respect of such work or tasks. The obligation of such Persons to repay the remaining amounts of any monetary retainers (including the unused portions of any Permitted Continuing Retainers) and all cash received therefrom shall constitute SFC Assets.

- (f) The Lien Claims shall be satisfied in accordance with section 4.2(c) hereof.

Transaction Steps

- (g) All accrued and unpaid interest owing on, or in respect of, or as part of, Affected Creditor Claims (including any Accrued Interest on the Notes and any interest accruing on the Notes or any Ordinary Affected Creditor Claim after the Filing Date) shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred for no consideration, and from and after the occurrence of this step, no Person shall have any entitlement to any such accrued and unpaid interest.
- (h) All of the Affected Creditors shall be deemed to assign, transfer and convey to Newco all of their Affected Creditor Claims, and from and after the occurrence of this step, Newco shall be the legal and beneficial owner of all Affected Creditor Claims. In exchange for the assignment, transfer and conveyance of the Affected Creditor Claims to Newco:
- (i) with respect to Affected Creditor Claims that are Proven Claims at the Effective Time:
- (A) Newco shall issue to each applicable Affected Creditor the number of Newco Shares that each such Affected Creditor is entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.1(a) hereof;
- (B) Newco shall issue to each applicable Affected Creditor the amount of Newco Notes that each such Affected Creditor is entitled to receive in accordance with section 4.1(b) hereof;
- (C) Newco shall issue to each of the Early Consent Noteholders the number of Newco Shares that each such Early Consent Noteholder is entitled to receive pursuant to section 4.3 hereof;

- (D) such Affected Creditors shall be entitled to receive the Litigation Trust Interests to be acquired by Newco in section 6.4(q) hereof, following the establishment of the Litigation Trust;
- (E) such Affected Creditors shall be entitled to receive, at the time or times contemplated in sections 5.5(c) and 5.5(d) hereof, the Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests that are subsequently distributed to (or in the case of Litigation Trust Interests registered for the benefit of) Affected Creditors with Proven Claims pursuant to sections 5.5(c) and 5.5(d) hereof (if any),

and all such Newco Shares and Newco Notes shall be distributed in the manner described in section 5.2 hereof; and

- (ii) with respect to Affected Creditor Claims that are Unresolved Claims as at the Effective Time, Newco shall issue in the name of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, for the benefit of the Persons entitled thereto under the Plan, the Newco Shares and the Newco Notes that would have been distributed to the applicable Affected Creditors in respect of such Unresolved Claims if such Unresolved Claims had been Proven Claims at the Effective Time; such Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests acquired by Newco in section 6.4(q) and assigned to and registered in the name of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent in accordance with section 6.4(r) shall comprise part of the Unresolved Claims Reserve and the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent shall hold all such Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests in escrow for the benefit of those Persons entitled to receive distributions thereof pursuant to the Plan.
- (i) The initial Newco Share in the capital of Newco held by the Initial Newco Shareholder shall be redeemed and cancelled for no consideration.
 - (j) SFC shall be deemed to assign, transfer and convey to SFC Barbados those SFC Intercompany Claims and/or Equity Interests in one or more Direct Subsidiaries as agreed to by SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders prior to the Plan Implementation Date (the "**Barbados Property**") first in full repayment of the Barbados Loans and second, to the extent the fair market value of the Barbados Property exceeds the amount owing under the Barbados Loans, as a contribution to the capital of SFC Barbados by SFC. Immediately after the time of such assignment, transfer and conveyance, the Barbados Loans shall be considered to be fully paid by SFC and no longer outstanding.
 - (k) SFC shall be deemed to assign, transfer and convey to Newco all shares and other Equity Interests (other than the Barbados Property) in the capital of (i) the Direct Subsidiaries and (ii) any other Subsidiaries that are directly owned by SFC immediately prior to the Effective Time, other than SFC Escrow Co. (all such

shares and other equity interests being the “**Direct Subsidiary Shares**”) for a purchase price equal to the fair market value of the Direct Subsidiary Shares and, in consideration therefor, Newco shall be deemed to pay to SFC consideration equal to the fair market value of the Direct Subsidiary Shares, which consideration shall be comprised of a U.S. dollar denominated demand non-interest-bearing promissory note issued to SFC by Newco having a principal amount equal to the fair market value of the Direct Subsidiary Shares (the “**Newco Promissory Note 1**”). At the time of such assignment, transfer and conveyance, all prior rights that Newco had to acquire the Direct Subsidiary Shares, under the Plan or otherwise, shall cease to be outstanding. For greater certainty, SFC shall not assign, transfer or convey the SFC Escrow Co. Share, and the SFC Escrow Co. Share shall remain the property of SFC.

- (l) If the Initial Consenting Noteholders and SFC agree prior to the Plan Implementation Date, there will be a set-off of any SFC Intercompany Claim so agreed against a Subsidiary Intercompany Claim owing between SFC and the same Subsidiary. In such case, the amounts will be set-off in repayment of both claims to the extent of the lesser of the two amounts, and the excess (if any) shall continue as an SFC Intercompany Claim or a Subsidiary Intercompany Claim, as applicable.
- (m) SFC shall be deemed to assign, transfer and convey to Newco all SFC Intercompany Claims (other than the SFC Intercompany Claims transferred to SFC Barbados in section 6.4(j) hereof or set-off pursuant to section 6.4(l) hereof) for a purchase price equal to the fair market value of such SFC Intercompany Claims and, in consideration therefor, Newco shall be deemed to pay SFC consideration equal to the fair market value of the SFC Intercompany Claims, which consideration shall be comprised of the following: (i) the assumption by Newco of all of SFC’s obligations to the Subsidiaries in respect of Subsidiary Intercompany Claims (other than the Subsidiary Intercompany Claims set-off pursuant to section 6.4(l) hereof); and (ii) if the fair market value of the transferred SFC Intercompany Claims exceeds the fair market value of the assumed Subsidiary Intercompany Claims, Newco shall issue to SFC a U.S. dollar denominated demand non-interest-bearing promissory note having a principal amount equal to such excess (the “**Newco Promissory Note 2**”).
- (n) SFC shall be deemed to assign, transfer and convey to Newco all other SFC Assets (namely, all SFC Assets other than the Direct Subsidiary Shares and the SFC Intercompany Claims (which shall have already been transferred to Newco in accordance with sections 6.4(k) and 6.4(m) hereof)), for a purchase price equal to the fair market value of such other SFC Assets and, in consideration therefor, Newco shall be deemed to pay to SFC consideration equal to the fair market value of such other SFC Assets, which consideration shall be comprised of a U.S. dollar denominated demand non-interest-bearing promissory note issued to SFC by Newco having a principal amount equal to the fair market value of such other SFC Assets (the “**Newco Promissory Note 3**”).

- (o) SFC shall establish the Litigation Trust and SFC and the Trustees (on behalf of the Noteholders) shall be deemed to convey, transfer and assign to the Litigation Trustee all of their respective rights, title and interest in and to the Litigation Trust Claims. SFC shall advance the Litigation Funding Amount to the Litigation Trustee for use by the Litigation Trustee in prosecuting the Litigation Trust Claims in accordance with the Litigation Trust Agreement, which advance shall be deemed to create a non-interest bearing receivable from the Litigation Trustee in favour of SFC in the amount of the Litigation Funding Amount (the "**Litigation Funding Receivable**"). The Litigation Funding Amount and Litigation Trust Claims shall be managed by the Litigation Trustee in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Litigation Trust Agreement.
- (p) The Litigation Trust shall be deemed to be effective from the time that it is established in section 6.4(o) hereof. Initially, all of the Litigation Trust Interests shall be held by SFC. Immediately thereafter, SFC shall assign, convey and transfer a portion of the Litigation Trust Interests to the Noteholder Class Action Claimants in accordance with the allocation set forth in section 4.11 hereof.
- (q) SFC shall settle and discharge the Affected Creditor Claims by assigning Newco Promissory Note 1, Newco Promissory Note 2 and Newco Promissory Note 3 (collectively, the "**Newco Promissory Notes**"), the Litigation Funding Receivable and the remaining Litigation Trust Interests held by SFC to Newco. Such assignment shall constitute payment, by set-off, of the full principal amount of the Newco Promissory Notes and of a portion of the Affected Creditor Claims equal to the aggregate principal amount of the Newco Promissory Notes, the Litigation Trust Receivable and the fair market value of the Litigation Trust Interests so transferred (with such payment being allocated first to the Noteholder Claims and then to the Ordinary Affected Creditor Claims). As a consequence thereof:
 - (i) Newco shall be deemed to discharge and release SFC of and from all of SFC's obligations to Newco in respect of the Affected Creditor Claims, and all of Newco's rights against SFC of any kind in respect of the Affected Creditor Claims shall thereupon be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged and cancelled; and
 - (ii) SFC shall be deemed to discharge and release Newco of and from all of Newco's obligations to SFC in respect of the Newco Promissory Notes, and the Newco Promissory Notes and all of SFC's rights against Newco in respect thereof shall thereupon be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever released, discharged and cancelled.
- (r) Newco shall cause a portion of the Litigation Trust Interests it acquired in section 6.4(q) hereof to be assigned to and registered in the name of the Affected Creditors with Proven Claims as contemplated in section 6.4(h), and with respect to any Affected Creditor Claims that are Unresolved Claims as at the Effective Time, the remaining Litigation Trust Interests held by Newco that would have been allocated to the applicable Affected Creditors in respect of such Unresolved

Claims if such Unresolved Claims had been Proven Claims at the Effective Time shall be assigned and registered by the Litigation Trustee to the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent and in the name of the Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent, in escrow for the benefit of Persons entitled thereto, and such Litigation Trust Interests shall comprise part of the Unresolved Claims Reserve. The Litigation Trustee shall record entitlements to the Litigation Trust Interests in the manner set forth in section 5.3.

Cancellation of Instruments and Guarantees

- (s) Subject to section 5.9 hereof, all debentures, indentures, notes, certificates, agreements, invoices, guarantees, pledges and other instruments evidencing Affected Claims, including the Notes and the Note Indentures, will not entitle any holder thereof to any compensation or participation other than as expressly provided for in the Plan and shall be cancelled and will thereupon be null and void. The Trustees shall be directed by the Court and shall be deemed to have released, discharged and cancelled any guarantees, indemnities, Encumbrances or other obligations owing by or in respect of any Subsidiary relating to the Notes or the Note Indentures.

Releases

- (t) Each of Newco and Newco II shall be deemed to have no liability or obligation of any kind whatsoever for: any Claim (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claim); any Affected Claim (including any Affected Creditor Claim, Equity Claim, D&O Claim, D&O Indemnity Claim and Noteholder Class Action Claim); any Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim; any Conspiracy Claim; any Continuing Other D&O Claim; any Non-Released D&O Claim; any Class Action Claim; any Class Action Indemnity Claim; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Notes or the Note Indentures; any guarantees, indemnities, share pledges or Encumbrances relating to the Notes or the Note Indentures; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Existing Shares or other Equity Interests or any other securities of SFC; any rights or claims of the Third Party Defendants relating to SFC or the Subsidiaries; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the RSA, the Plan, the CCAA Proceedings, the Restructuring Transaction, the Litigation Trust, the business and affairs of SFC and the Subsidiaries (whenever or however conducted), the administration and/or management of SFC and the Subsidiaries, or any public filings, statements, disclosures or press releases relating to SFC; any right or claim in connection with or liability for any guaranty, indemnity or claim for contribution in respect of any of the foregoing; and any Encumbrance in respect of the foregoing, provided only that Newco shall assume SFC's obligations to the applicable Subsidiaries in respect of the Subsidiary Intercompany Claims pursuant to section 6.4(1) hereof and Newco II shall assume Newco's obligations to the applicable Subsidiaries in respect of the Subsidiary Intercompany Claims pursuant to section 6.4(x) hereof.

- (u) Each of the Charges shall be discharged, released and cancelled.
- (v) The releases and injunctions referred to in Article 7 of the Plan shall become effective in accordance with the Plan.
- (w) Any contract defaults arising as a result of the CCAA Proceedings and/or the implementation of the Plan (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any such contract defaults in respect of the Unaffected Claims) shall be deemed to be cured.

Newco II

- (x) Newco shall be deemed to assign, transfer and convey to Newco II all of Newco's right, title and interest in and to all of its properties, assets and rights of every kind and description (namely the SFC Assets acquired by Newco pursuant to the Plan) for a purchase price equal to the fair market value thereof and, in consideration therefor, Newco II shall be deemed to pay to Newco consideration equal to the fair market value of such properties, assets and rights (the "**Newco II Consideration**"). The Newco II Consideration shall be comprised of: (i) the assumption by Newco II of any and all indebtedness of Newco other than the indebtedness of Newco in respect of the Newco Notes (namely, any indebtedness of Newco in respect of the Subsidiary Intercompany Claims); and (ii) the issuance to Newco of that number of common shares in Newco II as is necessary to ensure that the value of the Newco II Consideration is equal to the fair market value of the properties, assets and rights conveyed by Newco to Newco II pursuant to this section 6.4(x).

6.5 Cancellation of Existing Shares and Equity Interests

Unless otherwise agreed between the Monitor, SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, on the Equity Cancellation Date all Existing Shares and Equity Interests shall be fully, finally and irrevocably cancelled, and the following steps will be implemented pursuant to the Plan as a plan of reorganization under section 191 of the *CBCA*, to be effected by articles of reorganization to be filed by SFC, subject to the receipt of any required approvals from the Ontario Securities Commission with respect to the trades in securities contemplated by the following:

- (a) SFC will create a new class of common shares to be called Class A common shares that are equivalent to the current Existing Shares except that they carry two votes per share;
- (b) SFC will amend the share conditions of the Existing Shares to provide that they are cancellable for no consideration at such time as determined by the board of directors of SFC;
- (c) prior to the cancellation of the Existing Shares, SFC will issue for nominal consideration one Class A common share of SFC to the SFC Continuing Shareholder;

- (d) SFC will cancel the Existing Shares for no consideration on the Equity Cancellation Date; and
- (e) SFC will apply to Canadian securities regulatory authorities for SFC to cease to be a reporting issuer effective immediately before the Effective Time.

Unless otherwise agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders or as otherwise directed by Order of the Court, SFC shall maintain its corporate existence at all times from and after the Plan Implementation Date until the later of the date: (i) on which SFC Escrow Co. has completed all of its obligations as Unresolved Claims Escrow Agent under this Plan; (ii) on which SFC escrow Co. no longer holds any Undeliverable Distributions delivered to it in accordance with the section 5.4 hereof; and (iii) as determined by the Litigation Trustee.

6.6 Transfers and Vesting Free and Clear

- (a) All of the SFC Assets (including for greater certainty the Direct Subsidiary Shares, the SFC Intercompany Claims and all other SFC Assets assigned, transferred and conveyed to Newco and/or Newco II pursuant to section 6.4) shall be deemed to vest absolutely in Newco or Newco II, as applicable, free and clear of and from any and all Charges, Claims (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claims), D&O Claims, D&O Indemnity Claims, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims, Continuing Other D&O Claims, Non-Released D&O Claims, Affected Claims, Class Action Claims, Class Action Indemnity Claims, claims or rights of any kind in respect of the Notes or the Note Indentures, and any right or claim that is based in whole or in part on facts, underlying transactions, Causes of Action or events relating to the Restructuring Transaction, the CCAA Proceedings or any of the foregoing, and any guarantees or indemnities with respect to any of the foregoing. Any Encumbrances or claims affecting, attaching to or relating to the SFC Assets in respect of the foregoing shall be deemed to be irrevocably expunged and discharged as against the SFC Assets, and no such Encumbrances or claims shall be pursued or enforceable as against Newco or Newco II. For greater certainty, with respect to the Subsidiaries, Greenheart and Greenheart's direct and indirect subsidiaries: (i) the vesting free and clear in Newco and/or Newco II, as applicable, and the expunging and discharging that occurs by operation of this paragraph shall only apply to SFC's ownership interests in the Subsidiaries, Greenheart and Greenheart's subsidiaries; and (ii) except as provided for in the Plan (including this section 6.6(a) and sections 4.9(g), 6.4(k), 6.4(l) and 6.4(m) hereof and Article 7 hereof) and the Sanction Order, the assets, liabilities, business and property of the Subsidiaries, Greenheart and Greenheart's direct and indirect subsidiaries shall remain unaffected by the Restructuring Transaction.
- (b) Any issuance, assignment, transfer or conveyance of any securities, interests, rights or claims pursuant to the Plan, including the Newco Shares, the Newco Notes and the Affected Creditor Claims, will be free and clear of and from any and all Charges, Claims (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claims), D&O Claims, D&O Indemnity Claims, Affected

Claims, Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims; Conspiracy Claims; Continuing Other D&O Claims, Non-Released D&O Claims; Class Action Claims, Class Action Indemnity Claims, claims or rights of any kind in respect of the Notes or the Note Indentures, and any right or claim that is based in whole or in part on facts, underlying transactions, Causes of Action or events relating to the Restructuring Transaction, the CCAA Proceedings or any of the foregoing, and any guarantees or indemnities with respect to any of the foregoing. For greater certainty, with respect to the Subsidiaries, Greenheart and Greenheart's direct and indirect subsidiaries: (i) the vesting free and clear in Newco and Newco II that occurs by operation of this paragraph shall only apply to SFC's direct and indirect ownership interests in the Subsidiaries, Greenheart and Greenheart's direct and indirect subsidiaries; and (ii) except as provided for in the Plan (including section 6.6(a) and sections 4.9(g), 6.4(k), 6.4(l) and 6.4(m) hereof and Article 7 hereof) and the Sanction Order, the assets, liabilities, business and property of the Subsidiaries, Greenheart and Greenheart's direct and indirect subsidiaries shall remain unaffected by the Restructuring Transaction.

ARTICLE 7 RELEASES

7.1 Plan Releases

Subject to 7.2 hereof, all of the following shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred on the Plan Implementation Date:

- (a) all Affected Claims, including all Affected Creditor Claims, Equity Claims, D&O Claims (other than Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims, Continuing Other D&O Claims and Non-Released D&O Claims), D&O Indemnity Claims (except as set forth in section 7.1(d) hereof) and Noteholder Class Action Claims (other than the Continuing Noteholder Class Action Claims);
- (b) all Claims of the Ontario Securities Commission or any other Governmental Entity that have or could give rise to a monetary liability, including fines, awards, penalties, costs, claims for reimbursement or other claims having a monetary value;
- (c) all Class Action Claims (including the Noteholder Class Action Claims) against SFC, the Subsidiaries or the Named Directors or Officers of SFC or the Subsidiaries (other than Class Action Claims that are Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims or Non-Released D&O Claims);
- (d) all Class Action Indemnity Claims (including related D&O Indemnity Claims), other than any Class Action Indemnity Claim by the Third Party Defendants against SFC in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims (including any D&O Indemnity Claim in that respect), which shall be limited to the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit pursuant to the releases set out in section 7.1(f) hereof and the injunctions set out in section 7.3 hereof;

- (e) any portion or amount of liability of the Third Party Defendants for the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims (on a collective, aggregate basis in reference to all Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims together) that exceeds the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit;
- (f) any portion or amount of liability of the Underwriters for the Noteholder Class Action Claims (other than any Noteholder Class Action Claims against the Underwriters for fraud or criminal conduct) (on a collective, aggregate basis in reference to all such Noteholder Class Action Claims together) that exceeds the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit;
- (g) any portion or amount of, or liability of SFC for, any Class Action Indemnity Claims by the Third Party Defendants against SFC in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims (on a collective, aggregate basis in reference to all such Class Action Indemnity Claims together) to the extent that such Class Action Indemnity Claims exceed the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit;
- (h) any and all Excluded Litigation Trust Claims;
- (i) any and all Causes of Action against Newco, Newco II, the directors and officers of Newco, the directors and officers of Newco II, the Noteholders, members of the *ad hoc* committee of Noteholders, the Trustees, the Transfer Agent, the Monitor, FTI Consulting Canada Inc., FTI HK, counsel for the current Directors of SFC, counsel for the Monitor, counsel for the Trustees, the SFC Advisors, the Noteholder Advisors, and each and every member (including members of any committee or governance council), partner or employee of any of the foregoing, for or in connection with or in any way relating to: any Claims (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claims); Affected Claims; Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims; Conspiracy Claims; Continuing Other D&O Claims; Non-Released D&O Claims; Class Action Claims; Class Action Indemnity Claims; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Notes or the Note Indentures; any guarantees, indemnities, claims for contribution, share pledges or Encumbrances related to the Notes or the Note Indentures; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Existing Shares, Equity Interests or any other securities of SFC; any rights or claims of the Third Party Defendants relating to SFC or the Subsidiaries;
- (j) any and all Causes of Action against Newco, Newco II, the directors and officers of Newco, the directors and officers of Newco II, the Noteholders, members of the *ad hoc* committee of Noteholders, the Trustees, the Transfer Agent, the Monitor, FTI Consulting Canada Inc., FTI HK, the Named Directors and Officers, counsel for the current Directors of SFC, counsel for the Monitor, counsel for the Trustees, the SFC Advisors, the Noteholder Advisors, and each and every member (including members of any committee or governance council), partner or employee of any of the foregoing, based in whole or in part on any act, omission, transaction, duty, responsibility, indebtedness, liability, obligation, dealing or other occurrence existing or taking place on or prior to the Plan Implementation

Date (or, with respect to actions taken pursuant to the Plan after the Plan Implementation Date, the date of such actions) in any way relating to, arising out of, leading up to, for, or in connection with the CCAA Proceeding, RSA, the Restructuring Transaction, the Plan, any proceedings commenced with respect to or in connection with the Plan, or the transactions contemplated by the RSA and the Plan, including the creation of Newco and/or Newco II and the creation, issuance or distribution of the Newco Shares, the Newco Notes, the Litigation Trust or the Litigation Trust Interests, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall release or discharge any of the Persons listed in this paragraph from or in respect of any obligations any of them may have under or in respect of the RSA, the Plan or under or in respect of any of Newco, Newco II, the Newco Shares, the Newco Notes, the Litigation Trust or the Litigation Trust Interests, as the case may be;

- (k) any and all Causes of Action against the Subsidiaries for or in connection with any Claim (including, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any Unaffected Claim); any Affected Claim (including any Affected Creditor Claim, Equity Claim, D&O Claim, D&O Indemnity Claim and Noteholder Class Action Claim); any Section 5.1(2) D&O Claim; any Conspiracy Claim; any Continuing Other D&O Claim; any Non-Released D&O Claim; any Class Action Claim; any Class Action Indemnity Claim; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Notes or the Note Indentures; any guarantees, indemnities, share pledges or Encumbrances relating to the Notes or the Note Indentures; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the Existing Shares, Equity Interests or any other securities of SFC; any rights or claims of the Third Party Defendants relating to SFC or the Subsidiaries; any right or claim in connection with or liability for the RSA, the Plan, the CCAA Proceedings, the Restructuring Transaction, the Litigation Trust, the business and affairs of SFC and the Subsidiaries (whenever or however conducted), the administration and/or management of SFC and the Subsidiaries, or any public filings, statements, disclosures or press releases relating to SFC; any right or claim in connection with or liability for any indemnification obligation to Directors or Officers of SFC or the Subsidiaries pertaining to SFC, the Notes, the Note Indentures, the Existing Shares, the Equity Interests, any other securities of SFC or any other right, claim or liability for or in connection with the RSA, the Plan, the CCAA Proceedings, the Restructuring Transaction, the Litigation Trust, the business and affairs of SFC (whenever or however conducted), the administration and/or management of SFC, or any public filings, statements, disclosures or press releases relating to SFC; any right or claim in connection with or liability for any guaranty, indemnity or claim for contribution in respect of any of the foregoing; and any Encumbrance in respect of the foregoing;
- (l) all Subsidiary Intercompany Claims as against SFC (which are assumed by Newco and then Newco II pursuant to the Plan);
- (m) any entitlements of Ernst & Young to receive distributions of any kind (including Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests) under this Plan;

- (n) any entitlements of the Named Third Party Defendants to receive distributions of any kind (including Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests) under this Plan; and
- (o) any entitlements of the Underwriters to receive distributions of any kind (including Newco Shares, Newco Notes and Litigation Trust Interests) under this Plan.

7.2 Claims Not Released

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 7.1 hereof, nothing in this Plan shall waive, compromise, release, discharge, cancel or bar any of the following:

- (a) SFC of its obligations under the Plan and the Sanction Order;
- (b) SFC from or in respect of any Unaffected Claims (provided that recourse against SFC in respect of Unaffected Claims shall be limited in the manner set out in section 4.2 hereof);
- (c) any Directors or Officers of SFC or the Subsidiaries from any Non-Released D&O Claims, Conspiracy Claims or any Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims, provided that recourse against the Named Directors or Officers of SFC in respect of any Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims and any Conspiracy Claims shall be limited in the manner set out in section 4.9(e) hereof;
- (d) any Other Directors and/or Officers from any Continuing Other D&O Claims, provided that recourse against the Other Directors and/or Officers in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims shall be limited in the manner set out in section 4.4(b)(i) hereof;
- (e) the Third Party Defendants from any claim, liability or obligation of whatever nature for or in connection with the Class Action Claims, provided that the maximum aggregate liability of the Third Party Defendants collectively in respect of the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Claims shall be limited to the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit pursuant to section 4.4(b)(i) hereof and the releases set out in sections 7.1(e) and 7.1(f) hereof and the injunctions set out in section 7.3 hereof;
- (f) Newco II from any liability to the applicable Subsidiaries in respect of the Subsidiary Intercompany Claims assumed by Newco II pursuant to section 6.4(x) hereof;
- (g) the Subsidiaries from any liability to Newco II in respect of the SFC Intercompany Claims conveyed to Newco II pursuant to section 6.4(x) hereof;
- (h) SFC of or from any investigations by or non-monetary remedies of the Ontario Securities Commission, provided that, for greater certainty, all monetary rights, claims or remedies of the Ontario Securities Commission against SFC shall be

treated as Affected Creditor Claims in the manner described in section 4.1 hereof and released pursuant to section 7.1(b) hereof;

- (i) the Subsidiaries from their respective indemnification obligations (if any) to Directors or Officers of the Subsidiaries that relate to the ordinary course operations of the Subsidiaries and that have no connection with any of the matters listed in section 7.1(i) hereof;
- (j) SFC or the Directors and Officers from any Insured Claims, provided that recovery for Insured Claims shall be irrevocably limited to recovery solely from the proceeds of Insurance Policies paid or payable on behalf of SFC or its Directors and Officers in the manner set forth in section 2.4 hereof;
- (k) insurers from their obligations under insurance policies; and
- (l) any Released Party for fraud or criminal conduct.

7.3 Injunctions

All Persons are permanently and forever barred, estopped, stayed and enjoined, on and after the Effective Time, with respect to any and all Released Claims, from (i) commencing, conducting or continuing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any action, suits, demands or other proceedings of any nature or kind whatsoever (including, without limitation, any proceeding in a judicial, arbitral, administrative or other forum) against the Released Parties; (ii) enforcing, levying, attaching, collecting or otherwise recovering or enforcing by any manner or means, directly or indirectly, any judgment, award, decree or order against the Released Parties or their property; (iii) commencing, conducting or continuing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any action, suits or demands, including without limitation, by way of contribution or indemnity or other relief, in common law, or in equity, breach of trust or breach of fiduciary duty or under the provisions of any statute or regulation, or other proceedings of any nature or kind whatsoever (including, without limitation, any proceeding in a judicial, arbitral, administrative or other forum) against any Person who makes such a claim or might reasonably be expected to make such a claim, in any manner or forum, against one or more of the Released Parties; (iv) creating, perfecting, asserting or otherwise enforcing, directly or indirectly, any lien or encumbrance of any kind against the Released Parties or their property; or (v) taking any actions to interfere with the implementation or consummation of this Plan; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to the enforcement of any obligations under the Plan.

7.4 Timing of Releases and Injunctions

All releases and injunctions set forth in this Article 7 shall become effective on the Plan Implementation Date at the time or times and in the manner set forth in section 6.4 hereof.

7.5 Equity Class Action Claims Against the Third Party Defendants

Subject only to Article 11 hereof, and notwithstanding anything else to the contrary in this Plan, any Class Action Claim against the Third Party Defendants that relates to the purchase, sale or ownership of Existing Shares or Equity Interests: (a) is unaffected by this Plan; (b) is not

discharged, released, cancelled or barred pursuant to this Plan; (c) shall be permitted to continue as against the Third Party Defendants; (d) shall not be limited or restricted by this Plan in any manner as to quantum or otherwise (including any collection or recovery for any such Class Action Claim that relates to any liability of the Third Party Defendants for any alleged liability of SFC); and (e) does not constitute an Equity Claim or an Affected Claim under this Plan.

ARTICLE 8 COURT SANCTION

8.1 Application for Sanction Order

If the Plan is approved by the Required Majority, SFC shall apply for the Sanction Order on or before the date set for the hearing of the Sanction Order or such later date as the Court may set.

8.2 Sanction Order

The Sanction Order shall, among other things:

- (a) declare that: (i) the Plan has been approved by the Required Majority in conformity with the CCAA; (ii) the activities of SFC have been in reasonable compliance with the provisions of the CCAA and the Orders of the Court made in this CCAA Proceeding in all respects; (iii) the Court is satisfied that SFC has not done or purported to do anything that is not authorized by the CCAA; and (iv) the Plan and the transactions contemplated thereby are fair and reasonable;
- (b) declare that the Plan and all associated steps, compromises, releases, discharges, cancellations, transactions, arrangements and reorganizations effected thereby are approved, binding and effective as herein set out as of the Plan Implementation Date;
- (c) confirm the amount of each of the Unaffected Claims Reserve, the Administration Charge Reserve and the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve;
- (d) declare that, on the Plan Implementation Date, all Affected Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled and barred, subject only to the right of the applicable Persons to receive the distributions to which they are entitled pursuant to the Plan;
- (e) declare that, on the Plan Implementation Date, the ability of any Person to proceed against SFC or the Subsidiaries in respect of any Released Claims shall be forever discharged and restrained, and all proceedings with respect to, in connection with or relating to any such matter shall be permanently stayed;
- (f) declare that the steps to be taken, the matters that are deemed to occur and the compromises and releases to be effective on the Plan Implementation Date are deemed to occur and be effected in the sequential order contemplated by section 6.4, beginning at the Effective Time;

- (g) declare that, on the Plan Implementation Date, the SFC Assets vest absolutely in Newco and that, in accordance with section 6.4(x) hereof, the SFC Assets transferred by Newco to Newco II vest absolutely in Newco II, in each case in accordance with the terms of section 6.6(a) hereof;
- (h) confirm that the Court was satisfied that: (i) the hearing of the Sanction Order was open to all of the Affected Creditors and all other Persons with an interest in SFC and that such Affected Creditors and other Persons were permitted to be heard at the hearing in respect of the Sanction Order; (ii) prior to the hearing, all of the Affected Creditors and all other Persons on the service list in respect of the CCAA Proceeding were given adequate notice thereof;
- (i) provide that the Court was advised prior to the hearing in respect of the Sanction Order that the Sanction Order will be relied upon by SFC and Newco as an approval of the Plan for the purpose of relying on the exemption from the registration requirements of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, pursuant to Section 3(a)(10) thereof for the issuance of the Newco Shares, Newco Notes and, to the extent they may be deemed to be securities, the Litigation Trust Interests, and any other securities to be issued pursuant to the Plan;
- (j) declare that all obligations, agreements or leases to which (i) SFC remains a party on the Plan Implementation Date, or (ii) Newco and/or Newco II becomes a party as a result of the conveyance of the SFC Assets to Newco and the further conveyance of the SFC Assets to Newco II on the Plan Implementation Date, shall be and remain in full force and effect, unamended, as at the Plan Implementation Date and no party to any such obligation or agreement shall on or following the Plan Implementation Date, accelerate, terminate, refuse to renew, rescind, refuse to perform or otherwise disclaim or resiliate its obligations thereunder, or enforce or exercise (or purport to enforce or exercise) any right or remedy under or in respect of any such obligation or agreement, by reason:
 - (i) of any event which occurred prior to, and not continuing after, the Plan Implementation Date, or which is or continues to be suspended or waived under the Plan, which would have entitled any other party thereto to enforce those rights or remedies;
 - (ii) that SFC sought or obtained relief or has taken steps as part of the Plan or under the CCAA;
 - (iii) of any default or event of default arising as a result of the financial condition or insolvency of SFC;
 - (iv) of the completion of any of the transactions contemplated under the Plan, including the transfer, conveyance and assignment of the SFC Assets to Newco and the further transfer, conveyance and assignment of the SFC Assets by Newco to Newco II; or

- (v) of any compromises, settlements, restructurings, recapitalizations or reorganizations effected pursuant to the Plan;
- (k) stay the commencing, taking, applying for or issuing or continuing any and all steps or proceedings, including without limitation, administrative hearings and orders, declarations or assessments, commenced, taken or proceeded with or that may be commenced, taken or proceed with to advance any Released Claims;
- (l) stay as against Ernst & Young the commencing, taking, applying for or issuing or continuing any and all steps or proceedings (other than all steps or proceedings to implement the Ernst & Young Settlement) pursuant to the terms of the Order of the Honourable Justice Morawetz dated May 8, 2012 between (i) the Plan Implementation Date and (ii) the earlier of the Ernst & Young Settlement Date or such other date as may be ordered by the Court on a motion to the Court on reasonable notice to Ernst & Young;
- (m) declare that in no circumstances will the Monitor have any liability for any of SFC's tax liability regardless of how or when such liability may have arisen;
- (n) authorize the Monitor to perform its functions and fulfil its obligations under the Plan to facilitate the implementation of the Plan;
- (o) direct and deem the Trustees to release, discharge and cancel any guarantees, indemnities, Encumbrances or other obligations owing by or in respect of any Subsidiary relating to the Notes or the Note Indentures;
- (p) declare that upon completion by the Monitor of its duties in respect of SFC pursuant to the CCAA and the Orders, the Monitor may file with the Court a certificate of Plan Implementation stating that all of its duties in respect of SFC pursuant to the CCAA and the Orders have been completed and thereupon, FTI Consulting Canada Inc. shall be deemed to be discharged from its duties as Monitor and released of all claims relating to its activities as Monitor; and
- (q) declare that, on the Plan Implementation Date, each of the Charges shall be discharged, released and cancelled, and that any obligations secured thereby shall satisfied pursuant to section 4.2(b) hereof, and that from and after the Plan Implementation Date the Administration Charge Reserve shall stand in place of the Administration Charge as security for the payment of any amounts secured by the Administration Charge;
- (r) declare that the Monitor may not make any payment from the Monitor's Post-Implementation Plan Reserve to any third party professional services provider (other than its counsel) that exceeds \$250,000 (alone or in a series of related payments) without the prior consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders or an Order of the Court;
- (s) declare that SFC and the Monitor may apply to the Court for advice and direction in respect of any matters arising from or under the Plan;

- (t) declare that, subject to the due performance of its obligations as set forth in the Plan and subject to its compliance with any written directions or instructions of the Monitor and/or directions of the Court in the manner set forth in the Plan, SFC Escrow Co. shall have no liabilities whatsoever arising from the performance of its obligations under the Plan;
- (u) order and declare that all Persons with Unresolved Claims shall have standing in any proceeding in respect of the determination or status of any Unresolved Claim, and that Goodmans LLP (in its capacity as counsel to the Initial Consenting Noteholders) shall have standing in any such proceeding on behalf of the Initial Consenting Noteholders (in their capacity as Affected Creditors with Proven Claims);
- (v) order and declare that, from and after the Plan Implementation Date, Newco will be permitted, in its sole discretion and on terms acceptable to Newco, to advance additional cash amounts to the Litigation Trustee from time to time for the purpose of providing additional financing to the Litigation Trust, including the provision of such additional amounts as a non-interest bearing loan to the Litigation Trust that is repayable to Newco on similar terms and conditions as the Litigation Funding Receivable;
- (w) order and declare that: (i) subject to the prior consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each of the Monitor and the Litigation Trustee shall have the right to seek and obtain an order from any court of competent jurisdiction, including an Order of the Court in the CCAA or otherwise, that gives effect to any releases of any Litigation Trust Claims agreed to by the Litigation Trustee in accordance with the Litigation Trust Agreement, and (ii) in accordance with this section 8.2(w), all Affected Creditors shall be deemed to consent to any such releases in any such proceedings;
- (x) order and declare that, prior to the Effective Time, SFC shall: (i) preserve or cause to be preserved copies of any documents (as such term is defined in the *Rules of Civil Procedure* (Ontario)) that are relevant to the issues raised in the Class Actions; and (ii) make arrangements acceptable to SFC, the Monitor, the Initial Consenting Noteholders, counsel to Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs, counsel to Ernst & Young, counsel to the Underwriters and counsel to the Named Third Party Defendants to provide the parties to the Class Actions with access thereto, subject to customary commercial confidentiality, privilege or other applicable restrictions, including lawyer-client privilege, work product privilege and other privileges or immunities, and to restrictions on disclosure arising from s. 16 of the *Securities Act* (Ontario) and comparable restrictions on disclosure in other relevant jurisdictions, for purposes of prosecuting and/or defending the Class Actions, as the case may be, provided that nothing in the foregoing reduces or otherwise limits the parties' rights to production and discovery in accordance with the *Rules of Civil Procedure* (Ontario) and the *Class Proceedings Act, 1992* (Ontario);

- (y) order that releases and injunctions set forth in Article 7 of this Plan are effective on the Plan Implementation Date at the time or times and in the manner set forth in section 6.4 hereof;
- (z) order that the Ernst & Young Release shall become effective on the Ernst & Young Settlement Date in the manner set forth in section 11.1 hereof;
- (aa) order that any Named Third Party Defendant Releases shall become effective if and when the terms and conditions of sections 11.2(a), 11.2(b), 11.2(c) have been fulfilled.;
- (bb) order and declare that the matters described in Article 11 hereof shall occur subject to and in accordance with the terms and conditions of Article 11; and
- (cc) declare that section 95 to 101 of the BIA shall not apply to any of the transactions implemented pursuant to the Plan.

If agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, any of the relief to be included in the Sanction Order pursuant to this section 8.2 in respect of matters relating to the Litigation Trust may instead be included in a separate Order of the Court satisfactory to SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders granted prior to the Plan Implementation Date.

ARTICLE 9 CONDITIONS PRECEDENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 Conditions Precedent to Implementation of the Plan

The implementation of the Plan shall be conditional upon satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions prior to or at the Effective Time, each of which is for the benefit of SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders and may be waived only by SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders collectively; provided, however, that the conditions in sub-paragraphs (g), (h), (n), (o), (q), (r), (u), (z), (ff), (gg), (mm), (ll) and (nn) shall only be for the benefit of the Initial Consenting Noteholders and, if not satisfied on or prior to the Effective Time, may be waived only by the Initial Consenting Noteholders; and provided further that such conditions shall not be enforceable by SFC if any failure to satisfy such conditions results from an action, error, omission by or within the control of SFC and such conditions shall not be enforceable by the Initial Consenting Noteholders if any failure to satisfy such conditions results from an action, error, omission by or within the control of the Initial Consenting Noteholders:

Plan Approval Matters

- (a) the Plan shall have been approved by the Required Majority and the Court, and in each case the Plan shall have been approved in a form consistent with the RSA or otherwise acceptable to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably;
- (b) the Sanction Order shall have been made and shall be in full force and effect prior to December 17, 2012 (or such later date as may be consented to by SFC and the

Initial Consenting Noteholders), and all applicable appeal periods in respect thereof shall have expired and any appeals therefrom shall have been disposed of by the applicable appellate court;

- (c) the Sanction Order shall be in a form consistent with the Plan or otherwise acceptable to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably;
- (d) all filings under Applicable Laws that are required in connection with the Restructuring Transaction shall have been made and any regulatory consents or approvals that are required in connection with the Restructuring Transaction shall have been obtained and, in the case of waiting or suspensory periods, such waiting or suspensory periods shall have expired or been terminated; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such filings and regulatory consents or approvals include:
 - (i) any required filings, consents and approvals of securities regulatory authorities in Canada;
 - (ii) a consultation with the Executive of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission that is satisfactory to SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders confirming that implementation of the Restructuring Transaction will not result in an obligation arising for Newco, its shareholders, Newco II or any Subsidiary to make a mandatory offer to acquire shares of Greenheart;
 - (iii) the submission by SFC and each applicable Subsidiary of a Circular 698 tax filing with all appropriate tax authorities in the PRC within the requisite time prior to the Plan Implementation Date, such filings to be in form and substance satisfactory to the Initial Consenting Noteholders; and
 - (iv) if notification is necessary or desirable under the *Antimonopoly Law of People's Republic of China* and its implementation rules, the submission of all antitrust filings considered necessary or prudent by the Initial Consenting Noteholders and the acceptance and (to the extent required) approval thereof by the competent Chinese authority, each such filing to be in form and substance satisfactory to the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (e) there shall not be in effect any preliminary or final decision, order or decree by a Governmental Entity, no application shall have been made to any Governmental Entity, and no action or investigation shall have been announced, threatened or commenced by any Governmental Entity, in consequence of or in connection with the Restructuring Transaction that restrains, impedes or prohibits (or if granted could reasonably be expected to restrain, impede or prohibit) the Restructuring Transaction or any material part thereof or requires or purports to require a variation of the Restructuring Transaction, and SFC shall have provided the Initial Consenting Noteholders with a certificate signed by an officer of SFC, without

personal liability on the part of such officer, certifying compliance with this Section 9.1(e) as of the Plan Implementation Date;

Newco and Newco II Matters

- (f) the organization, incorporating documents, articles, by-laws and other constating documents of Newco and Newco II (including any shareholders agreement, shareholder rights plan and classes of shares (voting and non-voting)) and any affiliated or related entities formed in connection with the Restructuring Transaction or the Plan, and all definitive legal documentation in connection with all of the foregoing, shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders and in form and in substance reasonably satisfactory to SFC;
- (g) the composition of the board of directors of Newco and Newco II and the senior management and officers of Newco and Newco II that will assume office, or that will continue in office, as applicable, on the Plan Implementation Date shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (h) the terms of employment of the senior management and officers of Newco and Newco II shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (i) except as expressly set out in this Plan, neither Newco nor Newco II shall have:
 - (i) issued or authorized the issuance of any shares, notes, options, warrants or other securities of any kind, (ii) become subject to any Encumbrance with respect to its assets or property; (iii) become liable to pay any indebtedness or liability of any kind (other than as expressly set out in section 6.4 hereof); or (iv) entered into any Material agreement;
- (j) any securities that are formed in connection with the Plan, including the Newco Shares and the Newco Notes, when issued and delivered pursuant to the Plan, shall be duly authorized, validly issued and fully paid and non-assessable and the issuance and distribution thereof shall be exempt from all prospectus and registration requirements of any applicable securities, corporate or other law, statute, order, decree, consent decree, judgment, rule, regulation, ordinance, notice, policy or other pronouncement having the effect of law applicable in the provinces of Canada;
- (k) Newco shall not be a reporting issuer (or equivalent) in any province of Canada or any other jurisdiction;
- (l) all of the steps, terms, transactions and documents relating to the conveyance of the SFC Assets to Newco and the further conveyance of the SFC Assets by Newco to Newco II in accordance with the Plan shall be in form and in substance acceptable to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (m) all of the following shall be in form and in substance acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders and reasonably satisfactory to SFC: (i) the Newco Shares; (ii) the Newco Notes (including the aggregate principal amount of the

Newco Notes); (iii) any trust indenture or other document governing the terms of the Newco Notes; and (iv) the number of Newco Shares and Newco Notes to be issued in accordance with this Plan;

Plan Matters

- (n) the Indemnified Noteholder Class Action Limit shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (o) the aggregate amount of the Proven Claims held by Ordinary Affected Creditors shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (p) the amount of each of the Unaffected Claims Reserve and the Administration Charge Reserve shall, in each case, be acceptable to SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (q) the amount of the Monitor's Post-Implementation Reserve and the amount of any Permitted Continuing Retainers shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders, and the Initial Consenting Noteholders shall be satisfied that all outstanding monetary retainers held by any SFC Advisors (net of any Permitted Continuing Retainers) have been repaid to SFC on the Plan Implementation Date;
- (r) **[Intentionally deleted];**
- (s) the amount of each of the following shall be acceptable to SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders: (i) the aggregate amount of Lien Claims to be satisfied by the return to the applicable Lien Claimants of the applicable secured property in accordance with section 4.2(c)(i) hereof; and (ii) the aggregate amount of Lien Claims to be repaid in cash on the Plan Implementation Date in accordance with section 4.2(c)(ii) hereof;
- (t) the aggregate amount of Unaffected Claims, and the aggregate amount of the Claims listed in each subparagraph of the definition of "Unaffected Claims" shall, in each case, be acceptable to SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (u) the aggregate amount of Unresolved Claims and the amount of the Unresolved Claims Reserve shall, in each case, be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders and shall be confirmed in the Sanction Order;
- (v) Litigation Trust and the Litigation Trust Agreement shall be in form and in substance acceptable to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably, and the Litigation Trust shall be established in a jurisdiction that is acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders and SFC, each acting reasonably;
- (w) SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably, shall be satisfied with the proposed use of proceeds and payments relating to all aspects of the Restructuring Transaction and the Plan, including, without

limitation, any change of control payments, consent fees, transaction fees, third party fees or termination or severance payments, in the aggregate of \$500,000 or more, payable by SFC or any Subsidiary to any Person (other than a Governmental Entity) in respect of or in connection with the Restructuring Transaction or the Plan, including without limitation, pursuant to any employment agreement or incentive plan of SFC or any Subsidiary;

- (x) SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably, shall be satisfied with the status and composition of all liabilities, indebtedness and obligations of the Subsidiaries and all releases of the Subsidiaries provided for in the Plan and the Sanction Order shall be binding and effective as of the Plan Implementation Date;

Plan Implementation Date Matters

- (y) the steps required to complete and implement the Plan shall be in form and in substance satisfactory to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders;
- (z) the Noteholders and the Early Consent Noteholders shall receive, on the Plan Implementation Date, all of the consideration to be distributed to them pursuant to the Plan;
- (aa) all of the following shall be in form and in substance satisfactory to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders: (i) all materials filed by SFC with the Court or any court of competent jurisdiction in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, the PRC or any other jurisdiction that relates to the Restructuring Transaction; (ii) the terms of any court-imposed charges on any of the assets, property or undertaking of any of SFC, including without limitation any of the Charges; (iii) the Initial Order; (iv) the Claims Procedure Order; (v) the Meeting Order; (vi) the Sanction Order; (vii) any other Order granted in connection with the CCAA Proceeding or the Restructuring Transaction by the Court or any other court of competent jurisdiction in Canada, the United States, Hong Kong, the PRC or any other jurisdiction; and (viii) the Plan (as it is approved by the Required Majority and the Sanction Order);
- (bb) any and all court-imposed charges on any assets, property or undertaking of SFC, including the Charges, shall be discharged on the Plan Implementation Date on terms acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders and SFC, each acting reasonably;
- (cc) SFC shall have paid, in full, the Expense Reimbursement and all fees and costs owing to the SFC Advisors on the Plan Implementation Date, and neither Newco nor Newco II shall have any liability for any fees or expenses due to the SFC Advisors or the Noteholder Advisors either as at or following the Plan Implementation Date;
- (dd) SFC or the Subsidiaries shall have paid, in full all fees owing to each of Chandler Fraser Keating Limited and Spencer Stuart on the Plan Implementation Date, and

neither Newco nor Newco II shall have any liability for any fees or expenses due to either Chandler Fraser Keating Limited and Spencer Stuart as at or following the Plan Implementation Date;

- (ee) SFC shall have paid all Trustee Claims that are outstanding as of the Plan Implementation Date, and the Initial Consenting Noteholders shall be satisfied that SFC has made adequate provision in the Unaffected Claims Reserve for the payment of all Trustee Claims to be incurred by the Trustees after the Plan Implementation Date in connection with the performance of their respective duties under the Note Indentures or this Plan;
- (ff) there shall not exist or have occurred any Material Adverse Effect, and SFC shall have provided the Initial Consenting Noteholders with a certificate signed by an officer of the Company, without any personal liability on the part of such officer, certifying compliance with this section 9.1(ff) as of the Plan Implementation Date;
- (gg) there shall have been no breach of the Noteholder Confidentiality Agreements (as defined in the RSA) by SFC or any of the Sino-Forest Representatives (as defined therein) in respect of the applicable Initial Consenting Noteholder;
- (hh) the Plan Implementation Date shall have occurred no later than January 15, 2013 (or such later date as may be consented to by SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders);

RSA Matters

- (ii) all conditions set out in sections 6 and 7 of the RSA shall have been satisfied or waived in accordance with the terms of the RSA;
- (jj) the RSA shall not have been terminated;

Other Matters

- (kk) the organization, incorporating documents, articles, by-laws and other constating documents of SFC Escrow Co. and all definitive legal documentation in connection with SFC Escrow Co., shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders and the Monitor and in form and in substance reasonably satisfactory to SFC;
- (ll) except as expressly set out in this Plan, SFC Escrow Co. shall not have: (i) issued or authorized the issuance of any shares, notes, options, warrants or other securities of any kind, (ii) become subject to any Encumbrance with respect to its assets or property; (iii) acquired any assets or become liable to pay any indebtedness or liability of any kind (other than as expressly set out in this Plan); or (iv) entered into any agreement;

- (mm) the Initial Consenting Noteholders shall have completed due diligence in respect of SFC and the Subsidiaries and the results of such due diligence shall be acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders prior to the date for the hearing of the Sanction Order, except in respect of any new material information or events arising or discovered on or after the date of the hearing for the Sanction Order of which the Initial Consenting Noteholders were previously unaware, in respect of which the date for the Initial Consenting Noteholders to complete such due diligence shall be the Plan Implementation Date, provided that "new material information or events" for purposes of this Section 9.1(mm) shall not include any information or events disclosed prior to the date of the hearing for the Sanction Order in a press release issued by SFC, an affidavit filed with the Court by SFC or a Monitor's Report filed with the Court;
- (nn) if so requested by the Initial Consenting Noteholders, the Sanction Order shall have been recognized and confirmed as binding and effective pursuant to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction in Canada and any other jurisdiction requested by the Initial Consenting Noteholders, and all applicable appeal periods in respect of any such recognition order shall have expired and any appeals therefrom shall have been disposed of by the applicable appellate court;
- (oo) all press releases, disclosure documents and definitive agreements in respect of the Restructuring Transaction or the Plan shall be in form and substance satisfactory to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably; and
- (pp) Newco and SFC shall have entered into arrangements reasonably satisfactory to SFC and the Initial Consenting Noteholders for ongoing preservation and access to the books and records of SFC and the Subsidiaries in existence as at the Plan Implementation Date, as such access may be reasonably requested by SFC or any Director or Officer in the future in connection with any administrative or legal proceeding, in each such case at the expense of the Person making such request.

For greater certainty, nothing in Article 11 hereof is a condition precedent to the implementation of the Plan.

9.2 Monitor's Certificate of Plan Implementation

Upon delivery of written notice from SFC and Goodmans LLP (on behalf of the Initial Consenting Noteholders) of the satisfaction of the conditions set out in section 9.1, the Monitor shall deliver to Goodmans LLP and SFC a certificate stating that the Plan Implementation Date has occurred and that the Plan and the Sanction Order are effective in accordance with their respective terms. Following the Plan Implementation Date, the Monitor shall file such certificate with the Court.

ARTICLE 10 ALTERNATIVE SALE TRANSACTION

10.1 Alternative Sale Transaction

At any time prior to the Plan Implementation Date (whether prior to or after the granting of the Sanction Order), and subject to the prior written consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders, SFC may complete a sale of all or substantially all of the SFC Assets on terms that are acceptable to the Initial Consenting Noteholders (an “**Alternative Sale Transaction**”), provided that such Alternative Sale Transaction has been approved by the Court pursuant to section 36 of the CCAA on notice to the service list. In the event that such an Alternative Sale Transaction is completed, the terms and conditions of this Plan shall continue to apply in all respects, subject to the following:

- (a) The Newco Shares and Newco Notes shall not be distributed in the manner contemplated herein. Instead, the consideration paid or payable to SFC pursuant to the Alternative Sale Transaction (the “**Alternative Sale Transaction Consideration**”) shall be distributed to the Persons entitled to receive Newco Shares hereunder, and such Persons shall receive the Alternative Sale Transaction Consideration in the same proportions and subject to the same terms and conditions as are applicable to the distribution of Newco Shares hereunder.
- (b) All provisions in this Plan that address Newco or Newco II shall be deemed to be ineffective to the extent that they address Newco or Newco II, given that Newco and Newco II will not be required in connection with an Alternative Sale Transaction.
- (c) All provisions addressing the Newco Notes shall be deemed to be ineffective to the extent such provisions address the Newco Notes, given that the Newco Notes will not be required in connection with an Alternative Sale Transaction.
- (d) All provisions relating to the Newco Shares shall be deemed to address the Alternative Sale Transaction Consideration to the limited extent such provisions address the Newco Shares.
- (e) SFC, with the written consent of the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, shall be permitted to make such amendments, modifications and supplements to the terms and conditions of this Plan as are necessary to: (i) facilitate the Alternative Sale Transaction; (ii) cause the Alternative Sale Transaction Consideration to be distributed in the same proportions and subject to the same terms and conditions as are subject to the distribution of Newco Shares hereunder; and (iii) complete the Alternative Sale Transaction and distribute the Alternative Sale Transaction Proceeds in a manner that is tax efficient for SFC and the Affected Creditors with Proven Claims, provided in each case that (y) a copy of such amendments, modifications or supplements is filed with the Court and served upon the service list; and (z) the Monitor is satisfied that such amendments, modifications or supplements do not materially alter the

proportionate entitlements of the Affected Creditors, as amongst themselves, to the consideration distributed pursuant to the Plan.

Except for the requirement of obtaining the prior written consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders with respect to the matters set forth in this section 10.1 and subject to the approval of the Alternative Sale Transaction by the Court pursuant to section 36 of the CCAA (on notice to the service list), once this Plan has been approved by the Required Majority of Affected Creditors, no further meeting, vote or approval of the Affected Creditors shall be required to enable SFC to complete an Alternative Sale Transaction or to amend the Plan in the manner described in this 10.1.

ARTICLE 11 SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS AGAINST THIRD PARTY DEFENDANTS

11.1 Ernst & Young

- (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, subject to: (i) the granting of the Sanction Order; (ii) the issuance of the Settlement Trust Order (as may be modified in a manner satisfactory to the parties to the Ernst & Young Settlement and SFC (if occurring on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date), the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, as applicable, to the extent, if any, that such modifications affect SFC, the Monitor or the Initial Consenting Noteholders, each acting reasonably); (iii) the granting of an Order under Chapter 15 of the United States Bankruptcy Code recognizing and enforcing the Sanction Order and the Settlement Trust Order in the United States; (iv) any other order necessary to give effect to the Ernst & Young Settlement (the orders referenced in (iii) and (iv) being collectively the “**Ernst & Young Orders**”); (v) the fulfillment of all conditions precedent in the Ernst & Young Settlement and the fulfillment by the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs of all of their obligations thereunder; and (vi) the Sanction Order, the Settlement Trust Order and all Ernst & Young Orders being final orders and not subject to further appeal or challenge, Ernst & Young shall pay the settlement amount as provided in the Ernst & Young Settlement to the trust established pursuant to the Settlement Trust Order (the “**Settlement Trust**”). Upon receipt of a certificate from Ernst & Young confirming it has paid the settlement amount to the Settlement Trust in accordance with the Ernst & Young Settlement and the trustee of the Settlement Trust confirming receipt of such settlement amount, the Monitor shall deliver to Ernst & Young a certificate (the “**Monitor’s Ernst & Young Settlement Certificate**”) stating that (i) Ernst & Young has confirmed that the settlement amount has been paid to the Settlement Trust in accordance with the Ernst & Young Settlement; (ii) the trustee of the Settlement Trust has confirmed that such settlement amount has been received by the Settlement Trust; and (iii) the Ernst & Young Release is in full force and effect in accordance with the Plan. The Monitor shall thereafter file the Monitor’s Ernst & Young Settlement Certificate with the Court.
- (b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, upon receipt by the Settlement Trust of the settlement amount in accordance with the Ernst & Young Settlement:

- (i) all Ernst & Young Claims shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled, barred and deemed satisfied and extinguished as against Ernst & Young; (ii) section 7.3 hereof shall apply to Ernst & Young and the Ernst & Young Claims *mutatis mutandis* on the Ernst & Young Settlement Date; and (iii) none of the plaintiffs in the Class Actions shall be permitted to claim from any of the other Third Party Defendants that portion of any damages that corresponds to the liability of Ernst & Young, proven at trial or otherwise, that is the subject of the Ernst & Young Settlement.
- (c) In the event that the Ernst & Young Settlement is not completed in accordance with its terms, the Ernst & Young Release and the injunctions described in section 11.1(b) shall not become effective.

11.2 Named Third Party Defendants

- (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 12.5(a) or 12.5(b) hereof, at any time prior to 10:00 a.m. (Toronto time) on December 6, 2012 or such later date as agreed in writing by the Monitor, SFC (if on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date) and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, Schedule "A" to this Plan may be amended, restated, modified or supplemented at any time and from time to time to add any Eligible Third Party Defendant as a "Named Third Party Defendant", subject in each case to the prior written consent of such Third Party Defendant, the Initial Consenting Noteholders, counsel to the Ontario Class Action Plaintiffs, the Monitor and, if occurring on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date, SFC. Any such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement of Schedule "A" shall be deemed to be effective automatically upon all such required consents being received. The Monitor shall: (A) provide notice to the service list of any such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement of Schedule "A"; (B) file a copy thereof with the Court; and (C) post an electronic copy thereof on the Website. All Affected Creditors shall be deemed to consent thereto and no Court Approval thereof will be required.
- (b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, subject to: (i) the granting of the Sanction Order; (ii) the granting of the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Settlement Order; and (iii) the satisfaction or waiver of all conditions precedent contained in the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Settlement, the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Settlement shall be given effect in accordance with its terms. Upon receipt of a certificate (in form and in substance satisfactory to the Monitor) from each of the parties to the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Settlement confirming that all conditions precedent thereto have been satisfied or waived, and that any settlement funds have been paid and received, the Monitor shall deliver to the applicable Named Third Party Defendant a certificate (the "**Monitor's Named Third Party Settlement Certificate**") stating that (i) each of the parties to such Named Third Party Defendant Settlement has confirmed that all conditions precedent thereto have been satisfied or waived; (ii) any settlement funds have been paid and received; and (iii) immediately upon the delivery of the Monitor's Named Third Party

Settlement Certificate, the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Release will be in full force and effect in accordance with the Plan. The Monitor shall thereafter file the Monitor's Named Third Party Settlement Certificate with the Court.

- (c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, upon delivery of the Monitor's Named Third Party Settlement Certificate, any claims and Causes of Action shall be dealt with in accordance with the terms of the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Settlement, the Named Third Party Defendant Settlement Order and the Named Third Party Defendant Release. To the extent provided for by the terms of the applicable Named Third Party Defendant Release: (i) the applicable Causes of Action against the applicable Named Third Party Defendant shall be fully, finally, irrevocably and forever compromised, released, discharged, cancelled, barred and deemed satisfied and extinguished as against the applicable Named Third Party Defendant; and (ii) section 7.3 hereof shall apply to the applicable Named Third Party Defendant and the applicable Causes of Action against the applicable Named Third Party Defendant *mutatis mutandis* on the effective date of the Named Third Party Defendant Settlement.

ARTICLE 12 GENERAL

12.1 Binding Effect

On the Plan Implementation Date:

- (a) the Plan will become effective at the Effective Time;
- (b) the Plan shall be final and binding in accordance with its terms for all purposes on all Persons named or referred to in, or subject to, the Plan and their respective heirs, executors, administrators and other legal representatives, successors and assigns;
- (c) each Person named or referred to in, or subject to, the Plan will be deemed to have consented and agreed to all of the provisions of the Plan, in its entirety and shall be deemed to have executed and delivered all consents, releases, assignments and waivers, statutory or otherwise, required to implement and carry out the Plan in its entirety.

12.2 Waiver of Defaults

- (a) From and after the Plan Implementation Date, all Persons shall be deemed to have waived any and all defaults of SFC then existing or previously committed by SFC, or caused by SFC, the commencement of the CCAA Proceedings by SFC, any matter pertaining to the CCAA Proceedings, any of the provisions in the Plan or steps contemplated in the Plan, or non-compliance with any covenant, warranty, representation, term, provision, condition or obligation, expressed or implied, in any contract, instrument, credit document, indenture, note, lease,

guarantee, agreement for sale or other agreement, written or oral, and any and all amendments or supplements thereto, existing between such Person and SFC, and any and all notices of default and demands for payment or any step or proceeding taken or commenced in connection therewith under any such agreement shall be deemed to have been rescinded and of no further force or effect, provided that nothing shall be deemed to excuse SFC from performing its obligations under the Plan or be a waiver of defaults by SFC under the Plan and the related documents.

- (b) Effective on the Plan Implementation Date, any and all agreements that are assigned to Newco and/or to Newco II as part of the SFC Assets shall be and remain in full force and effect, unamended, as at the Plan Implementation Date, and no Person shall, following the Plan Implementation Date, accelerate, terminate, rescind, refuse to perform or otherwise repudiate its obligations under, or enforce or exercise any right (including any right of set-off, dilution or other remedy) or make any demand against Newco, Newco II or any Subsidiary under or in respect of any such agreement with Newco, Newco II or any Subsidiary, by reason of:
- (i) any event that occurred on or prior to the Plan Implementation Date that would have entitled any Person thereto to enforce those rights or remedies (including defaults or events of default arising as a result of the insolvency of SFC);
 - (ii) the fact that SFC commenced or completed the CCAA Proceedings;
 - (iii) the implementation of the Plan, or the completion of any of the steps, transactions or things contemplated by the Plan; or
 - (iv) any compromises, arrangements, transactions, releases, discharges or injunctions effected pursuant to the Plan or this Order.

12.3 Deeming Provisions

In the Plan, the deeming provisions are not rebuttable and are conclusive and irrevocable.

12.4 Non-Consummation

SFC reserves the right to revoke or withdraw the Plan at any time prior to the Sanction Date, with the consent of the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders. If SFC so revokes or withdraws the Plan, or if the Sanction Order is not issued or if the Plan Implementation Date does not occur, (a) the Plan shall be null and void in all respects, (b) any settlement or compromise embodied in the Plan, including the fixing or limiting to an amount certain any Claim, and any document or agreement executed pursuant to the Plan shall be deemed null and void, and (c) nothing contained in the Plan, and no acts taken in preparation for consummation of the Plan, shall (i) constitute or be deemed to constitute a waiver or release of any Claims by or against SFC or any other Person; (ii) prejudice in any manner the rights of SFC or any other Person in any further proceedings involving SFC; or (iii) constitute an admission of any sort by SFC or any other Person.

12.5 Modification of the Plan

- (a) SFC may, at any time and from time to time, amend, restate, modify and/or supplement the Plan with the consent of the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, provided that: any such amendment, restatement, modification or supplement must be contained in a written document that is filed with the Court and:
 - (i) if made prior to or at the Meeting: (A) the Monitor, SFC or the Chair (as defined in the Meeting Order) shall communicate the details of any such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement to Affected Creditors and other Persons present at the Meeting prior to any vote being taken at the Meeting; (B) SFC shall provide notice to the service list of any such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement and shall file a copy thereof with the Court forthwith and in any event prior to the Court hearing in respect of the Sanction Order; and (C) the Monitor shall post an electronic copy of such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement on the Website forthwith and in any event prior to the Court hearing in respect of the Sanction Order; and
 - (ii) if made following the Meeting: (A) SFC shall provide notice to the service list of any such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement and shall file a copy thereof with the Court; (B) the Monitor shall post an electronic copy of such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement on the Website; and (C) such amendment, restatement, modification and/or supplement shall require the approval of the Court following notice to the Affected Creditors and the Trustees.
- (b) Notwithstanding section 12.5(a), any amendment, restatement, modification or supplement may be made by SFC: (i) if prior to the Sanction Date, with the consent of the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders; and (ii) if after the Sanction Date, with the consent of the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders and upon approval by the Court, provided in each case that it concerns a matter that, in the opinion of SFC, acting reasonably, is of an administrative nature required to better give effect to the implementation of the Plan and the Sanction Order or to cure any errors, omissions or ambiguities and is not materially adverse to the financial or economic interests of the Affected Creditors or the Trustees.
- (c) Any amended, restated, modified or supplementary plan or plans of compromise filed with the Court and, if required by this section, approved by the Court, shall, for all purposes, be and be deemed to be a part of and incorporated in the Plan.

12.6 Actions and Approvals of SFC after Plan Implementation

- (a) From and after the Plan Implementation Date, and for the purpose of this Plan only:

- (i) if SFC does not have the ability or the capacity pursuant to Applicable Law to provide its agreement, waiver, consent or approval to any matter requiring SFC's agreement, waiver, consent or approval under this Plan, such agreement, waiver consent or approval may be provided by the Monitor; and
- (ii) if SFC does not have the ability or the capacity pursuant to Applicable Law to provide its agreement, waiver, consent or approval to any matter requiring SFC's agreement, waiver, consent or approval under this Plan, and the Monitor has been discharged pursuant to an Order, such agreement, waiver consent or approval shall be deemed not to be necessary.

12.7 Consent of the Initial Consenting Noteholders

For the purposes of this Plan, any matter requiring the agreement, waiver, consent or approval of the Initial Consenting Noteholders shall be deemed to have been agreed to, waived, consented to or approved by such Initial Consenting Noteholders if such matter is agreed to, waived, consented to or approved in writing by Goodmans LLP, provided that Goodmans LLP expressly confirms in writing (including by way of e-mail) to the applicable Person that it is providing such agreement, consent or waiver on behalf of Initial Consenting Noteholders. In addition, following the Plan Implementation Date, any matter requiring the agreement, waiver, consent or approval of the Initial Consenting Noteholders shall: (i) be deemed to have been given if agreed to, waived, consented to or approved by Initial Consenting Noteholders in their capacities as holders of Newco Shares, Newco Notes or Litigation Trust Interests (provided that they continue to hold such consideration); and (ii) with respect to any matter concerning the Litigation Trust or the Litigation Trust Claims, be deemed to be given if agreed to, waived, consented to or approved by the Litigation Trustee.

12.8 Claims Not Subject to Compromise

Nothing in this Plan, including section 2.4 hereof, shall prejudice, compromise, release, discharge, cancel, bar or otherwise affect any: (i) Non-Released D&O Claims (except to the extent that such Non-Released D&O Claim is asserted against a Named Director or Officer, in which case section 4.9(g) applies); (ii) Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims or Conspiracy Claims (except that, in accordance with section 4.9(e) hereof, any Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims against Named Directors and Officers and any Conspiracy Claims against Named Directors and Officers shall be limited to recovery from any insurance proceeds payable in respect of such Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims or Conspiracy Claims, as applicable, pursuant to the Insurance Policies, and Persons with any such Section 5.1(2) D&O Claims against Named Directors and Officers or Conspiracy Claims against Named Directors and Officers shall have no right to, and shall not, make any claim or seek any recoveries from any Person, other than enforcing such Persons' rights to be paid from the proceeds of an Insurance Policy by the applicable insurer(s)); or (iii) any Claims that are not permitted to be compromised under section 19(2) of the *CCAA*.

12.9 Paramourncy

From and after the Effective Time on the Plan Implementation Date, any conflict between:

- (a) the Plan; and
- (b) the covenants, warranties, representations, terms, conditions, provisions or obligations, expressed or implied, of any contract, mortgage, security agreement, indenture, trust indenture, note, loan agreement, commitment letter, agreement for sale, lease or other agreement, written or oral and any and all amendments or supplements thereto existing between any Person and SFC and/or the Subsidiaries as at the Plan Implementation Date,

will be deemed to be governed by the terms, conditions and provisions of the Plan and the Sanction Order, which shall take precedence and priority.

12.10 Foreign Recognition

- (a) From and after the Plan Implementation Date, if requested by the Initial Consenting Noteholders or Newco, the Monitor (at the Monitor's election) or Newco (if the Monitor does not so elect) shall and is hereby authorized to seek an order of any court of competent jurisdiction recognizing the Plan and the Sanction Order and confirming the Plan and the Sanction Order as binding and effective in Canada, the United States, and any other jurisdiction so requested by the Initial Consenting Noteholders or Newco, as applicable.
- (b) Without limiting the generality of section 12.10(a), as promptly as practicable, but in no event later than the third Business Day following the Plan Implementation Date, a foreign representative of SFC (as agreed by SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders) (the "**Foreign Representative**") shall commence a proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction in the United States seeking recognition of the Plan and the Sanction Order and confirming that the Plan and the Sanction Order are binding and effective in the United States, and the Foreign Representative shall use its best efforts to obtain such recognition order.

12.11 Severability of Plan Provisions

If, prior to the Sanction Date, any term or provision of the Plan is held by the Court to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the Court, at the request of SFC and with the consent of the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders, shall have the power to either (a) sever such term or provision from the balance of the Plan and provide SFC with the option to proceed with the implementation of the balance of the Plan as of and with effect from the Plan Implementation Date, or (b) alter and interpret such term or provision to make it valid or enforceable to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with the original purpose of the term or provision held to be invalid, void or unenforceable, and such term or provision shall then be applicable as altered or interpreted. Notwithstanding any such holding, alteration or interpretation, and provided that SFC proceeds with the implementation of the Plan, the remainder of the terms and provisions of

the Plan shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated by such holding, alteration or interpretation.

12.12 Responsibilities of the Monitor

The Monitor is acting in its capacity as Monitor in the CCAA Proceeding and the Plan with respect to SFC and will not be responsible or liable for any obligations of SFC.

12.13 Different Capacities

Persons who are affected by this Plan may be affected in more than one capacity. Unless expressly provided herein to the contrary, a Person will be entitled to participate hereunder, and will be affected hereunder, in each such capacity. Any action taken by or treatment of a Person in one capacity will not affect such Person in any other capacity, unless expressly agreed by the Person, SFC, the Monitor and the Initial Consenting Noteholders in writing, or unless the Person's Claims overlap or are otherwise duplicative.

12.14 Notices

Any notice or other communication to be delivered hereunder must be in writing and reference the Plan and may, subject as hereinafter provided, be made or given by personal delivery, ordinary mail or by facsimile or email addressed to the respective parties as follows:

- (a) if to SFC or any Subsidiary:

Sino-Forest Corporation
Room 3815-29 38/F, Sun Hung Kai Centre
30 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Attention: Mr. Judson Martin, Executive Vice-Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
Fax: +852-2877-0062

with a copy by email or fax (which shall not be deemed notice) to:

Bennett Jones LLP
One First Canadian Place, Suite 3400
Toronto, ON M5X 1A4

Attention: Kevin J. Zych and Raj S. Sahni
Email: zychk@bennettjones.com and sahnir@bennettjones.com
Fax: 416-863-1716

(b) if to the Initial Consenting Noteholders:

c/o Goodmans LLP
Bay Adelaide Centre
333 Bay Street, Suite 3400
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2S7

Attention: Robert Chadwick and Brendan O'Neill
Email: rchadwick@goodmans.ca and boneill@goodmans.ca
Fax: 416-979-1234

and with a copy by email or fax (which shall not be deemed notice) to:

Hogan Lovells International LLP
11th Floor, One Pacific Place, 88 Queensway
Hong Kong China

Attention: Neil McDonald
Email: neil.mcdonald@hoganlovells.com
Fax: 852-2219-0222

(c) if to the Monitor:

FTI Consulting Canada Inc.
TD Waterhouse Tower
79 Wellington Street West
Suite 2010, P.O. Box 104
Toronto, ON M5K 1G8

Attention: Greg Watson
Email: greg.watson@fticonsulting.com
Fax: (416) 649-8101

and with a copy by email or fax (which shall not be deemed notice) to:

Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
1 First Canadian Place
100 King Street West, Suite 1600
Toronto, Ontario M5X 1G5

Attention: Derrick Tay
Email: derrick.tay@gowlings.com
Fax: (416) 862-7661

(d) if to Ernst & Young:

Ernst & Young LLP
Ernst & Young Tower
222 Bay Street
P.O. Box 251

Toronto, ON M5K 1J7

Attention: Doris Stamml
Email: doris.stamml@ca.ey.com
Fax: (416) 943-[TBD]

and with a copy by email or fax (which shall not be deemed notice) to:

Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin
130 Adelaide Street West, Suite 2600
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3P5

Attention: Peter Griffin
Email: pgriffin@litigate.com
Fax: (416) 865-2921

or to such other address as any party may from time to time notify the others in accordance with this section. Any such communication so given or made shall be deemed to have been given or made and to have been received on the day of delivery if delivered, or on the day of faxing or sending by other means of recorded electronic communication, provided that such day in either event is a Business Day and the communication is so delivered, faxed or sent before 5:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on such day. Otherwise, such communication shall be deemed to have been given and made and to have been received on the next following Business Day.

12.15 Further Assurances

SFC, the Subsidiaries and any other Person named or referred to in the Plan will execute and deliver all such documents and instruments and do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the full intent and meaning of the Plan and to give effect to the transactions contemplated herein.

DATED as of the 3rd day of December, 2012.

SCHEDULE A

NAMED THIRD PARTY DEFENDANTS

1. The Underwriters, together with their respective present and former affiliates, partners, associates, employees, servants, agents, contractors, directors, officers, insurers and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns, excluding any Director or Officer and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns of any Director or Officer in their capacity as such.
2. Ernst & Young LLP (Canada), Ernst & Young Global Limited and all other member firms thereof, together with their respective present and former affiliates, partners, associates, employees, servants, agents, contractors, directors, officers, insurers and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns, excluding any Director or Officer and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns of any Director or Officer in their capacity as such, in the event that the Ernst & Young Settlement is not completed.
3. BDO Limited, together with its respective present and former affiliates, partners, associates, employees, servants, agents, contractors, directors, officers, insurers and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns, excluding any Director or Officer and successors, administrators, heirs and assigns of any Director or Officer in their capacity as such.

Schedule "B"

FORM OF MONITOR'S CERTIFICATE OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Court File No. CV-12-9667-00CL

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 SINO-FOREST CORPORATION

MONITOR'S CERTIFICATE

(Plan Implementation)

All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Plan of Compromise and Reorganization of Sino-Forest Corporation ("**SFC**") dated December 3, 2012 (the "**Plan**"), which is attached as Schedule "A" to the Order of the Honourable Mr. Justice Morawetz made in these proceedings on the [7th] day of December, 2012 (the "**Order**"), as such Plan may be further amended, varied or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof.

Pursuant to paragraph 12 of the Order, FTI Consulting Canada Inc. (the "**Monitor**") in its capacity as Court-appointed Monitor of SFC delivers to SFC and Goodmans LLP this certificate and hereby certifies that:

1. The Monitor has received written notice from SFC and Goodmans LLP (on behalf of the Initial Consenting Noteholders) that the conditions precedent set out in section 9.1 of the Plan have been satisfied or waived in accordance with the terms of the Plan; and

2. The Plan Implementation Date has occurred and the Plan and the Plan Sanction Order are effective in accordance with their terms.

DATED at the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, this ■ day of ■, 201 ■.

FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., in its
capacity as Court-appointed Monitor of the Sino-
Forest Corporation and not in its personal capacity

By: _____

Name:

Title:

Schedule "C"



Industry Canada Industrie Canada
 Canada Business Loi canadienne sur les
 Corporations Act sociétés par actions

FORM 14 FORMULAIRE 14
 ARTICLES OF REORGANIZATION CLAUSES DE RÉORGANISATION
 (SECTION 191) (ARTICLE 191)

1 -- Name of Corporation - Dénomination sociale de la société Sino-Forest Corporation	2 -- Corporation No. - N° de la société 409023-3
3 -- In accordance with the order for reorganization, the articles of Incorporation are amended as follows:	Conformément à l'ordonnance de réorganisation, les statuts constitutifs sont modifiés comme suit :

Please see Schedule A attached hereto.

Signature	Printed Name - Nom en lettres moulées	4 -- Capacity of - En qualité de	5 -- Tel. N°. - N° de tél.
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FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY / À L'USAGE DU MINISTÈRE SEULEMENT

Schedule A

3. In accordance with the order for reorganization, the articles of continuance of the Corporation dated June 25, 2002, as amended by articles of amendment dated June 22, 2004, are amended as follows:

(a) to decrease the minimum number of directors of the Corporation from three (3) directors to one (1) director;

(b) to create a new class of shares consisting of an unlimited number of "Class A Common Shares" having the following rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions:

The holders of Class A Common Shares are entitled:

(i) to two (2) votes per Class A Common Share at any meeting of shareholders of the Corporation, except meetings at which only holders of a specified class of shares are entitled to vote;

(ii) subject to the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to shares of any other class or series of shares of the Corporation, to receive the remaining property of the Corporation upon dissolution pro rata with the holders of the Common Shares; and

(iii) subject to the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to shares of any other class or series of shares of the Corporation, to receive any dividend declared by the directors of the Corporation and payable on the Class A Common Shares.

(c) to delete the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to the Common Shares and to substitute therefor the following:

(1) The holders of Common Shares are entitled:

(i) to one (1) vote per Common Share at any meeting of shareholders of the Corporation, except meetings at which only holders of a specified class of shares are entitled to vote;

(ii) subject to the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to shares of any other class or series of shares of the Corporation, to receive the remaining property of the Corporation upon dissolution pro rata with the holders of the Class A Common Shares; and

(iii) subject to the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to shares of any other class or series of shares of the Corporation, to receive any dividend declared by the directors of the Corporation and payable on the Common Shares.

(2) At a time to be determined by the board of directors of the Corporation, the Common Shares shall be cancelled and eliminated for no consideration whatsoever, and shall be of no further force and effect, whether surrendered for cancellation or otherwise, and the obligation of the Corporation thereunder or in any way related thereto shall be deemed to

be satisfied and discharged and the holders of the Common Shares shall have no further rights or interest in the Corporation on account thereof and the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attached to the Common Shares shall be deleted.

(d) to confirm that the authorized capital of the Corporation consists of an unlimited number of Class A Common Shares, an unlimited number of Common Shares and an unlimited number of Preference Shares, issuable in series.

Schedule "D"

1. Unaffected Claims Reserve:	\$1,500,000
2. Unresolved Claims Reserve for Defence Costs:	\$8,000,000

**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 OR COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF SINO-FORÉST CORPORATION**

Court File No. CV-12-9667-00CL

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
(COMMERCIAL LIST)**

Proceedings commenced in Toronto

PLAN SANCTION ORDER

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Lawyers for Sino-Forest Corporation

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 PAYLESS SHOESOURCE CANADA INC. AND PAYLESS SHOESOURCE CANADA GP INC.

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
COMMERCIAL LIST**

PROCEEDING COMMENCED AT TORONTO

**BOOK OF AUTHORITIES OF THE APPLICANTS
(Plan Sanction Order)**

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Canada LP*