**Court File No. CV-17-11846-00CL** 

SEARS CANADA INC., AND RELATED APPLICANTS

### FOURTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE NINETEENTH REPORT OF FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., AS MONITOR

August 17, 2018

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# 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 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.

APPLICANTS

# FOURTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE NINETEENTH REPORT TO THE COURT SUBMITTED BY FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., IN ITS CAPACITY AS MONITOR

#### A. INTRODUCTION

- 1. On June 1, 2018, the Monitor filed the Nineteenth Report to the Court (the "Nineteenth Report") in these CCAA Proceedings. The Nineteenth Report included an update on the steps taken by the Applicants and their advisors, in consultation with the Monitor, in connection with the marketing of the Remaining Real Estate Assets.
- 2. Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined in this Fourth Supplement to the Nineteenth Report (the "Fourth Supplement") have the meanings given to them in the Nineteenth Report.

- 3. The purpose of this Fourth Supplement is to provide the Court with updated information and the Monitor's comments and recommendations regarding the Sears Canada Group's motion for approval of sale transactions for the former Sears Canada stores located at:
  - (a) the site municipally known as 637 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough, Ontario (the "**Peterborough Property**");
  - (b) the site municipally known as 3050 Howard Avenue, Windsor, Ontario (the "Windsor Property"); and
  - (c) the site municipally known as 167 Malpeque Road, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (the "Charlottetown Property").
- 4. This Fourth Supplement should be read in conjunction with the Nineteenth Report. A copy of the Nineteenth Report is attached hereto as Appendix "A".
- 5. This Fourth Supplement also provides an update on the status of a motion served by Employee Representative Counsel, returnable August 27, 2018, for the removal of the directors of Sears Canada Inc.

#### B. PETERBOROUGH PROPERTY

- 6. The Peterborough Property is located adjacent to the Lansdowne Place shopping centre in Peterborough, Ontario. The Peterborough Property is not the subject of any continuing operating agreement and is not the subject of any right of first refusal or option to purchase.
- 7. The proposed purchaser of the Peterborough Property is Lansdowne Mall Inc. (the "Peterborough Purchaser"), an affiliate of the Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan ("HOOPP"). The Monitor understands the Peterborough Purchaser owns the Lansdowne Place shopping centre.
- 8. On March 7, 2018, as requested in the Updated Sale Process Letter, offers were received for the Peterborough Property, including from the Peterborough Purchaser. The

- Peterborough Purchaser had previously submitted a bid for the Peterborough Property on August 31, 2017 in connection with the initial bid deadline under the SISP.
- 9. A summary of offers received for the Peterborough Property at the initial August 31, 2017 bid deadline under the SISP and the subsequent March 7, 2018 bid deadline is included in Confidential Appendix "B".
- 10. Following a period of negotiation with the Peterborough Purchaser through which various terms of the Peterborough Purchaser's offer were refined, Sears Canada determined, in consultation with the Sale Advisor, the Monitor and the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties, that the transaction proposed by the Peterborough Purchaser was in the best interests of the Applicants and their stakeholders. The transaction was approved by the board of directors of Sears Canada.
- 11. The Monitor notes that the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties were consulted throughout the process.
- 12. The terms of the bid by the Peterborough Purchaser for this property are contained in an Agreement of Purchase and Sale dated with effect as of July 25, 2018 between the Peterborough Purchaser and Sears Canada (the "Peterborough APS"). An unredacted copy of the Peterborough APS is attached hereto as Confidential Appendix "C".
- 13. The terms of the Peterborough APS are substantially similar to Sears Canada's template transaction agreement described in the Nineteenth Report. Modifications to the template transaction terms include:
  - (a) No contracts will be assigned or assumed as part of this transaction;
  - (b) The outside date for completion of the transaction is September 21, 2018;
  - (c) The transaction is conditional upon Sears Canada's acceptance of an offer that was also made for the Windsor Property by an affiliate of HOOPP by July 31, 2018. As described in greater detail below, the applicable offer for the Windsor Property was accepted before July 31, 2018;

- (d) Sears Canada agrees that if, at the time the Peterborough Purchaser registers the approval and vesting order on title to the Peterborough Property, title to the Peterborough Property is subject to any encumbrances registered prior to the registration of the approval and vesting order that are not otherwise expressly set out in the list of encumbrances to be deleted from title pursuant to the approval and vesting order, then Sears Canada will reasonably cooperate at the Peterborough Purchaser's cost and expense to discharge, expunge or vacate such encumbrances from title. However, registration of the approval and vesting order is not a condition of closing;
- (e) In the event of material damage to the Peterborough Property prior to closing of the transaction in excess of 20% of the Purchase Price, the Peterborough Purchaser shall have the right to elect to take any insurance proceeds available and complete the transaction without adjustment to the purchase price or terminate the Peterborough APS; and
- (f) Any realty tax appeals in connection with the Peterborough Property are assigned to the Peterborough Purchaser without additional consideration. Sears Canada is not aware of any such realty tax appeals that are ongoing.
- 14. The form of approval and vesting order sought in connection with this transaction includes the following items that the Monitor wishes to draw to the court's attention:
  - (a) the proposed order expunges, deletes or vacates registrations made on behalf of Kone Inc. in connection with certain construction lien matters as well as a registration in favour of the former secured term lenders to Sears Canada; and
  - (b) the proposed order provides that the Peterborough Purchaser shall be bound by and have the benefit of the Initial Order until the earlier of (i) six months from the date of the approval and vesting order or (ii) the date on which other owners, operators, managers or landlords of commercial properties in which there is a store, office or warehouse owned or operated by Sears Canada ceases to be bound by the Initial Order. In particular, this would include the 'co-tenancy stay'

contained in the Initial Order. This request is consistent with certain of the previous orders of this court approving various lease surrender transactions in October 2017.

#### C. WINDSOR PROPERTY

- 15. The Windsor Property is located adjacent to the Devonshire Mall in Windsor, Ontario.
- 16. The Windsor Property is the subject of an existing operating agreement dated August 3, 1973 between Regional Shopping Centres Limited, Simpson-Sears Limited and Simpsons, Limited, as amended, supplemented, confirmed assigned and otherwise modified (the "Windsor Operating Agreement"). The Windsor Operating Agreement relates to the Windsor Property and the adjoining mall owned by HOOPP Realty Inc., who is also the purchaser under the Windsor APS (as defined below) (the "Windsor Purchaser").
- 17. The Windsor Operating Agreement contains a right of first refusal in favour of the Windsor Purchaser (the "Windsor ROFR"). The Windsor ROFR has now expired.
- 18. The Windsor Property is also the subject of a separate option to purchase in favour of the Windsor Purchaser (the "Windsor Option"). The Windsor Option has now expired.
- 19. On March 7, 2018, as requested in the Updated Sale Process Letter, offers were received for the Windsor Property, including from the Windsor Purchaser. The Windsor Purchaser had previously submitted a bid for the Windsor Property in October 2017.
- 20. A summary of offers received for the Windsor Property at the initial stage of the SISP and the subsequent March 7, 2018 bid deadline is included in Confidential Appendix "B".
- 21. Following a period of negotiation with the Windsor Purchaser through which various terms of the Windsor Purchaser's offer were refined, Sears Canada determined, in consultation with the Sale Advisor, the Monitor and the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties, that the transaction proposed by the Windsor Purchaser was in the best interests

- of the Applicants and their stakeholders. The transaction was approved by the board of directors of Sears Canada.
- 22. The Monitor notes that the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties were consulted throughout the process.
- 23. The terms of the bid by the Windsor Purchaser for this property are contained in an Agreement of Purchase and Sale dated with effect as of July 25, 2018 between the Windsor Purchaser and Sears Canada (the "Windsor APS"). An unredacted copy of the Windsor APS is attached hereto as Confidential Appendix "D".
- 24. The terms of the Windsor APS are substantially similar to Sears Canada's template transaction agreement described in the Nineteenth Report. Modifications to the template transaction terms include:
  - (a) No contracts will be assigned or assumed as part of this transaction;
  - (b) The outside date for completion of the transaction is September 21, 2018;
  - (c) The transaction is conditional upon Sears Canada's acceptance of an offer that was also made for the Peterborough Property by the Peterborough Purchaser by July 31, 2018. As described above, the applicable offer for the Peterborough Property was accepted before July 31, 2018;
  - (d) Sears Canada agrees that if, at the time the Windsor Purchaser registers the approval and vesting order on title to the Windsor Property, title to the Windsor Property is subject to any encumbrances registered prior to the registration of the approval and vesting order that are not otherwise expressly set out in the list of encumbrances to be deleted from title pursuant to the approval and vesting order, then Sears Canada will reasonably cooperate at the Windsor Purchaser's cost and expense to discharge, expunge or vacate such encumbrances from title. However, registration of the approval and vesting order is not a condition of closing;
  - (e) In the event of material damage to the Windsor Property prior to closing of the transaction in excess of 20% of the purchase price, the Windsor Purchaser shall

have the right to elect to take any insurance proceeds available and complete the transaction without adjustment to the purchase price or terminate the Windsor APS;

- (f) Any realty tax appeals in connection with the Windsor Property are assigned to the Windsor Purchaser without additional consideration. Sears Canada is not aware of any such realty tax appeals that are ongoing; and
- (g) the Windsor Purchaser shall deliver the following documents in connection with closing of the transaction: (i) an assumption agreement in favour of Sears Canada in accordance with the terms of the Windsor Operating Agreement, including an assumption of any amounts owing under the Windsor Operating Agreement; and (ii) a release of Sears Canada from all of Sears Canada's obligations under the Windsor Operating Agreement, in each case in form and substance acceptable to Sears Canada, acting reasonably.
- 25. The form of approval and vesting order sought in connection with this transaction includes additional relief substantially similar to the proposed approval and vesting order in connection with the sale of the Peterborough Property.

#### D. CHARLOTTETOWN PROPERTY

- 26. As previously reported, the Charlottetown Property has been marketed through a separate process conducted by CBRE Limited ("CBRE") and supervised by the Monitor.
- 27. The Charlottetown Property is a stand-alone location, not attached to a larger shopping centre. The property is not subject to a right of first refusal or option to purchase. The property is subject to a mutual easement and operating agreement dated July 30, 2004 between Pan American Trust Company (a neighbouring property owner) and Sears Canada, as amended (the "Charlottetown Operating Agreement").
- 28. CBRE's marketing campaign for this property commenced in March 2018. As set out in the Affidavit of Philip Mohtadi, affirmed August 8, 2018, CBRE advised that it listed the Charlottetown Property on its website, included the Charlottetown Property opportunity

in email blasts to CBRE's list of users and investors active in Atlantic Canada (totalling over 250 users); delivered a teaser package to 201 potential purchasers; received requests from at least 49 parties for further information; and delivered a Confidential Information Memorandum to 18 unique interested parties who expressed an interest in the Charlottetown Property. Throughout the marketing process, the Monitor, Sears Canada and the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties participated in regularly scheduled conference calls with CBRE.

- 29. A draft expression of interest template was prepared and shared with interested parties on May 13, 2018 and expressions of interest were requested. Multiple parties submitted expressions of interest to purchase the Charlottetown Property. One of those parties was Pan American Properties Inc. (the "Charlottetown Purchaser"). A summary of expressions of interest received for the Charlottetown Property is included in Confidential Appendix "B".
- 30. Following a period of negotiation with the Charlottetown Purchaser through which various terms of the Charlottetown Purchaser's offer were refined, Sears Canada determined, in consultation with CBRE, the Monitor and the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties, that the transaction proposed by the Charlottetown Purchaser was in the best interests of the Applicants and their stakeholders. The transaction was approved by the board of directors of Sears Canada.
- 31. The terms of the bid by the Charlottetown Purchaser for this property are contained in an Agreement of Purchase and Sale dated with effect as of July 26, 2018 between the Charlottetown Purchaser and Sears Canada (the "Charlottetown APS"). An unredacted copy of the Charlottetown APS is attached hereto as Confidential Appendix "E".
- 32. The terms of the Charlottetown APS are substantially similar to Sears Canada's template transaction agreement described in the Nineteenth Report. Modifications to the template transaction terms include:
  - (a) The outside date for completion of the transaction has been set as October 31, 2018;

- (b) The Charlottetown Purchaser is not acquiring any realty tax appeals in connection with the Charlottetown Property;
- (c) Within ten business days of the execution and delivery of the Charlottetown APS, the Charlottetown Purchaser shall apply for all necessary approvals to acquire the Charlottetown Property pursuant to the *Lands Protection Act* (Prince Edward Island) and shall provide evidence of such application to Sears Canada. The Charlottetown Purchaser is also required to furnish any additional information requested by the Executive Counsel, the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission of Prince Edward Island or other applicable government authorities in connection with obtaining the approval required for this transaction under the *Lands Protection Act* (Prince Edward Island);
- (d) The transaction is conditional upon receipt of approval pursuant to the *Lands Protection Act* (Prince Edward Island). The Monitor understands that such approval should be feasible within the time contemplated for closing under the Charlottetown APS. The Monitor is not aware of any impediments to obtaining such approval at this time;
- (e) The transaction is conditional upon the proposed approval and vesting order being granted on or before August 31, 2018;
- (f) The Charlottetown Purchaser must deliver on closing an assumption agreement in favour of Sears Canada and the counterparty to the Charlottetown Operating Agreement in form and substance acceptable to those parties; and
- (g) The Charlottetown Purchaser has the right to assign all of its rights and obligations under the Charlottetown APS to an affiliate provided that the Charlottetown Purchaser is not relieved of its obligations under the Charlottetown APS until closing of the transaction. The Charlottetown Purchaser has assigned its rights and obligations under the Charlottetown APS to 102253 PEI Inc., an affiliate of the Charlottetown Purchaser.

#### E. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL OF THE SALES

- 33. Sears Canada now seeks approval for:
  - (a) its entry into and completion of the transactions under the Peterborough APS, the Windsor APS and the Charlottetown APS; and
  - (b) the sealing of Confidential Appendices "B" through "F" to this Fourth Supplement.

Sales of the Windsor Property, the Peterborough Property and the Charlottetown Property

#### (collectively, the "Properties")

- 34. Section 36(1) of the CCAA states:
  - 36(1) **Restriction on disposition of business assets** A debtor company in respect of which an order has been made under this Act may not sell or otherwise dispose of assets outside the ordinary course of business unless authorized to do so by a court. Despite any requirement for shareholder approval, including one under federal or provincial law, the court may authorize the sale or disposition even if shareholder approval was not obtained.
- 35. Section 36(3) of the CCAA states:
  - (3) Factors to be considered In deciding whether to grant the authorization, the court is to consider, among other things,
  - (a) whether the process leading to the proposed sale or disposition was reasonable in the circumstances;
  - (b) whether the monitor approved the process leading to the proposed sale or disposition;
  - (c) whether the monitor filed with the court a report stating that in their opinion the sale or disposition would be more beneficial to the creditors than a sale or disposition under a bankruptcy;
  - (d) the extent to which the creditors were consulted;
  - (e) the effects of the proposed sale or disposition on the creditors and other interested parties; and

- (f) whether the consideration to be received for the assets is reasonable and fair, taking into account their market value.
- 36. The SISP was approved by the Court on July 13, 2017. The Monitor notes that the SISP was the subject of significant media attention, thereby further increasing the notice to all bona fide interested parties about the ongoing SISP.
- 37. The Properties have been marketed extensively for a period of approximately 12 months.
- 38. The Monitor participated in all stages of the marketing process and is satisfied that the marketing process was carried out in accordance with all orders of the Court, that the opportunity to acquire the assets offered was widely known and that the processes that resulted in (i) the Windsor APS and the Peterborough APS; and (ii) the Charlottetown APS were fair and reasonable. In the Monitor's view, the Applicants' marketing efforts were appropriate in the circumstances.
- 39. The Monitor approved the process set out in the SISP and the extended marketing processes in early 2018 led by the Sale Advisor and CBRE that resulted in the transactions for the Properties.
- 40. The Sears Canada Group has consulted extensively with the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties during the process to market the Properties. The Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties were informed of material developments in that marketing processes. This consultation included in-person meetings and conference calls regarding the status of the sale processes and access to bids received and counter-proposals delivered by Sears Canada through Sears Canada's electronic data room.
- 41. The Monitor has not been advised of any objection to the transactions by the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties.
- 42. The proposed transactions maximize value from all options available at this time for the Properties and eliminate ongoing carrying costs of these Properties, estimated at approximately \$250,000 per month in aggregate for all Properties.

- 43. The proposed transactions represent the highest and best executable offers obtained for each of the Properties.
- 44. The Monitor understands appraisals of the Properties were obtained in May 2017, when the properties were still operating as going concern Sears stores. Copies of those appraisals are attached as Confidential Appendix "F".

#### Sealing of Confidential Appendices

45. Confidential Appendices "B" through "F" to this Fourth Supplement contain commercially sensitive information, including information on the bids received for the Properties, the purchase prices for the Properties and the appraisals regarding the Properties. The public disclosure of this information would be harmful to the integrity of the process to sell the Properties, including if any of the Properties needed to be subject to a further marketing process.

#### F. MONITOR'S RECOMMENDATION

- 46. Based upon the considerations set out above, the Monitor supports the Applicants' motions for approval of the sale of the Properties as contemplated in the Charlottetown APS, the Peterborough APS and the Windsor APS.
- 47. The Monitor supports the sealing of Confidential Appendices "B" through "F" to this Fourth Supplement.

#### G. UPDATE ON EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE COUNSEL MOTION

48. On June 29, 2018, Employee Representative Counsel filed a motion seeking the removal of the Sears Canada board of directors (the "Board"). On July 23, 2018, the Board filed a motion record in response to the Employee Representative Counsel motion. Subsequent to the filing of the above noted motion and responding material, Employee Representative Counsel and the Board with the assistance of the Monitor have engaged in discussions with a view to resolving the issues giving rise to the Employee Representative Counsel motion in a consensual manner, thereby avoiding the significant cost to the estate that would result from a contested motion. In the course of the above

noted discussions, the Board has gained a detailed understanding of the former Sears Canada employees' concerns and has responded constructively. The Monitor is therefore pleased to inform the Court that the parties have reached an agreement that will see the Employee Representative Counsel motion for the removal of the Board withdrawn as settled. The principal terms of this agreement are as follows:

- (a) The number of directors will be reduced from four to two in order to carry out the remaining duties of the Board;
- (b) Director remuneration will be reduced significantly;
- (c) Counsel to the Board will advise the Board in matters directly relating to D&O insurance and the CCAA Proceedings and will consult with the Monitor and the Monitor's counsel and seek the Monitor's approval before undertaking any work that falls outside this scope to the extent the Board requests that the cost of such work be paid by the estate;
- (d) The Monitor will review Board counsel's fees on a monthly basis and advise stakeholders of same; and
- (e) The remaining directors will continue to serve on the Board until they voluntarily resign or the stay of proceedings under the CCAA Proceedings expires (as it may be extended).

The Monitor respectfully submits to the Court this, its Fourth Supplement to the Nineteenth Report.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.

FTI Consulting Canada Inc. in its capacity as Monitor of the Sears Canada Group

Pal Bosas

Paul Bishop

Senior Managing Director

Greg Watson

Senior Managing Director

#### Appendix "A"

#### **Nineteenth Report**

**Court File No. CV-17-11846-00CL** 

SEARS CANADA INC., AND RELATED APPLICANTS

#### NINETEENTH REPORT OF FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., AS MONITOR

June 1, 2018

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# ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

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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.

**APPLICANTS** 

#### NINETEENTH REPORT TO THE COURT SUBMITTED BY FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., IN ITS CAPACITY AS MONITOR

#### A. INTRODUCTION

- 1. On June 22, 2017, Sears Canada Inc. ("Sears Canada") and a number of its operating subsidiaries (collectively with Sears Canada, the "Sears Canada Group" or the "Applicants") sought and obtained an initial order (as amended and restated on July 13, 2017, the "Initial Order"), under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "CCAA"). The relief granted pursuant to the Initial Order was also extended to SearsConnect, a partnership forming part of the operations of the Sears Canada Group. The proceedings commenced under the CCAA by the Sears Canada Group are referred to herein as the "CCAA Proceedings".
- 2. The Initial Order, among other things:

- (a) appointed FTI Consulting Canada Inc. as monitor of the Sears Canada Group (the "Monitor") in the CCAA Proceedings;
- (b) granted an initial stay of proceedings against the Sears Canada Group until July 22, 2017; and
- (c) scheduled a comeback motion for July 13, 2017 (the "Comeback Motion").
- 3. Following the Comeback Motion, the Court extended the stay of proceedings to October 4, 2017. In addition, the following orders were issued:
  - (a) the amended and restated Initial Order;
  - (b) an order setting out the terms of the appointment of Ursel Phillips Fellows Hopkinson LLP as representative counsel for the non-unionized active and former employees of the Sears Canada Group ("Employee Representative Counsel");
  - (c) an order setting out the terms of the appointment of Koskie Minsky LLP as representative counsel to the non-unionized retirees and non-unionized active and former employees of the Sears Canada Group with respect to pension and postemployment benefit matters ("Pension and Retiree Representative Counsel"); and
  - (d) an order approving a sale and investor solicitation process (the "SISP") to solicit interest in potential transactions, including investment and liquidation proposals, involving the business, property, assets and/or leases of the Applicants (the "SISP Approval Order").
- 4. On July 18, 2017, the Court issued a Liquidation Sale Approval Order, which approved (i) a process for the liquidation of inventory, furniture, fixtures and equipment ("FF&E") at locations scheduled for closure (the "Liquidation Process"); and (ii) in connection with that Liquidation Process, an Amended and Restated Agency Agreement and a Consulting Agreement between Sears Canada and the agent and consultant described therein. The Liquidation Process is now completed.

- 5. On October 13, 2017, the Court issued, among other orders, an order (a) approving an agreement and a process (the "Second Liquidation Process") for the liquidation of the inventory and FF&E at all remaining Sears Canada retail locations, which liquidation commenced shortly thereafter and is now completed.
- 6. On December 8, 2017, the Court issued an Order (the "Claims Procedure Order") approving a claims process for the identification, determination and adjudication of claims of creditors against the Sears Canada Group and their Officers and Directors.
- 7. On February 22, 2018, the Court issued an Employee and Retiree Claims Procedure Order (the "E&R Claims Procedure Order") approving a process for the identification, determination and adjudication of claims of employees and retirees of the Sears Canada Entities.
- 8. The liquidation of assets at Sears Canada's retail locations is now completed, all retail locations are closed, and leases in respect of such locations have been disclaimed or otherwise dealt with in the CCAA Proceedings. The primary assets of the Sears Canada Group that remain to be realized upon are the Remaining Real Estate Assets (as defined and discussed later in this Report).
- Since the date of the Comeback Motion, the stay period has been extended a number of times and currently expires on July 31, 2018. A Court-ordered mediation described in greater detail in the Monitor's Eighteenth Report has been scheduled for June 13-14, 2018.
- 10. In connection with the CCAA Proceedings, the Monitor has provided eighteen reports and eight supplemental reports (collectively, the "**Prior Reports**"), and prior to its appointment as Monitor, FTI also provided to this Court a pre-filing report of the proposed Monitor dated June 22, 2017 (the "**Pre-Filing Report**"). The Pre-Filing Report, the Prior Reports and other Court-filed documents and notices in these CCAA Proceedings are available on the Monitor's website at <a href="mailto:cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/searscanada/">cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/searscanada/</a> (the "**Monitor's Website**").

#### B. PURPOSE

- 11. The purpose of this nineteenth report of the Monitor (the "Nineteenth Report") is to provide the Court with updated information, and where appropriate the Monitor's comments and recommendations, regarding the following:
  - (a) the steps being taken by the Sears Canada Group to market its Remaining Real Estate Assets; and
  - (b) the Sears Canada Group's motion for approval of a sale transaction for the former Sears Canada store located at the shopping centre commonly referred to as Place Vertu in St. Laurent, Quebec (the "Place Vertu Property").

#### C. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 12. In preparing this Nineteenth Report, the Monitor has relied upon audited and unaudited financial information of the Sears Canada Group, the Sears Canada Group's books and records, certain financial information and forecasts prepared by the Sears Canada Group, and discussions with various parties, including senior management ("Management") of, and advisors to, Sears Canada (collectively, the "Information").
- 13. Except as otherwise described in this Nineteenth Report:
  - (a) the Monitor has not audited, reviewed or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of the Information in a manner that would comply with Generally Accepted Assurance Standards pursuant to the *Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Handbook*; and
  - (b) the Monitor has not examined or reviewed the financial forecasts or projections referred to in this Nineteenth Report in a manner that would comply with the procedures described in the *Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Handbook*.
- 14. Future-oriented financial information reported in or relied on in preparing this Nineteenth Report is based on Management's assumptions regarding future events. Actual results will vary from these forecasts and such variations may be material.

- 15. The Monitor has prepared this Nineteenth Report in connection with the hearing on June 5, 2018. The Monitor also anticipates that this Report will be relied upon at future hearings seeking approval of further transactions for the Remaining Real Estate Assets.
- 16. Unless otherwise stated, all monetary amounts contained herein are expressed in Canadian Dollars.
- 17. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the following documents filed as part of the CCAA Proceedings: (i) the affidavits of Mr. Billy Wong, the Chief Financial Officer of Sears Canada; (ii) the affidavit of Ms. Becky Penrice, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Sears Canada; (iii) the affidavits of Mr. Philip Mohtadi, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Sears Canada; (iv) the Affidavit of Mark Caiger, sworn May 29, 2018 (the "Caiger Affidavit") and (v) the Prior Reports.

#### D. UPDATES ON REAL PROPERTY MARKETING PROCESS

- 18. Shortly following the approval of the SISP on July 13, 2017, Sears Canada, with the assistance of BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. as financial advisor to the Sears Canada Group ("BMO" or the "Sale Advisor"), sought offers for, among other things, the purchase of Sears Canada's owned real property.
- 19. As required by the SISP Approval Order, the Monitor and the Special Committee (as defined in the SISP Approval Order) supervised the implementation of the SISP by the Sears Canada Group and its advisors.

#### 20. In particular, the Monitor:

- (a) ensured that appropriate protections were put in place to preserve the integrity and fairness of the SISP:
- (b) was consulted on documentation used to implement the SISP;

- (c) participated in extensive meetings, negotiations and discussions with SISP participants interested in all or part of the business and assets of the Sears Canada Group;
- (d) reviewed and provided feedback to the Sale Advisor, the Sears Canada Group and the Special Committee regarding the bids and expressions of interest received through the SISP; and
- (e) worked with the Sears Canada Group to provide disclosure of information regarding the progress and results of the SISP to various stakeholder groups in accordance with their access to information rights under the SISP and the term sheet regarding the suspension of special payments under the Sears Canada Pension Plan, certain payments in connection with supplemental pension plans and certain payments under post-retirement benefit plans.
- 21. The SISP solicited interest in a broad range of transactions to refinance, restructure, sell or reorganize the business and assets, including owned real estate assets, of the Sears Canada Group.
- 22. The implementation of the SISP, including steps taken to solicit interest from potential bidders, are described in greater detail in the Caiger Affidavit and the Exhibits thereto.
- 23. Expressions of interest were received for Sears Canada's owned real property by the August 31, 2017 bid deadline under the SISP.
- 24. Subsequent to the bid deadline, transactions for the sale of the Winnipeg Garden City and the Upper Canada Home Store locations were approved by the Court and completed.
- 25. In light of the expressions of interest that were received by the August 31<sup>st</sup> bid deadline for Sears Canada's remaining real estate assets, Sears Canada, in consultation with BMO, and the Monitor, as well as Pension Representative Counsel, Employee Representative Counsel, the Ontario Superintendent of Financial Services (the "Superintendent") and Morneau Shepell Limited, as administrator of the Sears Canada Pension Plan (the "Plan Administrator"), and their respective financial and/or real estate advisors, (collectively,

the "Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties") determined that additional time should be provided for the completion of further due diligence, including making available further environmental studies and related materials to potential purchasers.

- 26. Sears Canada currently continues to own the following real estate assets:
  - (a) Upper Canada Mall full-line store (Newmarket, ON);
  - (b) Distribution centre (Belleville, ON);
  - (c) Fleur de Lys full-line store (Quebec City, QC);
  - (d) Windsor full-line store (Windsor, ON);
  - (e) Peterborough full-line store (Peterborough, ON);
  - (f) Barrie full-line store (Barrie, ON);
  - (g) Trois-Rivières full-line store (Trois-Rivières, QC);
  - (h) Place Vertu liquidation store (Montréal, QC);
  - (i) Lévis full-line store (Lévis, QC);
  - (j) Charlottetown store (Charlottetown, PEI);
  - (k) Chicoutimi residual land (Chicoutimi, QC);
  - (l) Edmonton residual land (Edmonton, AB); and
  - (m) Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts residual land (Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, QC),

(collectively, the "Remaining Real Estate Assets").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The above noted parties were identified as appropriate consultation parties by Sears Canada and the Monitor as they represent a significant portion of the unsecured creditor class and do not have conflicting interests as they would have no interest in acquiring any of the Remaining Real Estate Assets for their own benefit. All of these consultation parties have entered into non-disclosure agreements with Sears Canada.

- 27. As of February 7, 2018, the additional due diligence information referenced above had been obtained and Sears Canada, in consultation with BMO, the Monitor and the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties, determined that the sale process for the Remaining Real Estate Assets should continue.
- 28. On February 7, 2018, BMO delivered an updated sale process letter (the "Updated Sale Process Letter") to those parties who had previously expressed an interest in the Remaining Real Estate Assets under the SISP and parties who had contacted BMO expressing interest subsequent to the original bid deadline. BMO also delivered the Updated Sale Process Letter to other potentially interested parties identified by the real estate advisor to the Superintendent.
- 29. As noted in the Caiger Affidavit, the Sale Advisor contacted or was contacted by approximately 100 potentially interested parties regarding their interest in Sears Canada's owned real estate assets. These parties included landlords, institutional real estate investors and parties identified by the real estate advisor to the Superintendent.
- 30. The Updated Sale Process Letter solicited bids for all of the Remaining Real Estate Assets other than the assets located in Charlottetown, Edmonton, Chicoutimi and Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (which properties are being marketed by CBRE Limited). The Updated Sale Process Letter provided for a bid deadline of March 7, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern).
- 31. A template transaction document was prepared for the Remaining Real Estate Assets containing the following material provisions:
  - (a) A deposit of 10% of the cash purchase consideration must be submitted by the acquirer to be held in escrow by the Monitor.
  - (b) The purchase consideration would be subject to customary adjustments.
  - (c) Any taxes associated with the closing of these transactions would be paid by the acquirer.

- (d) The acquirer would acquire Sears Canada's interest in any outstanding realty tax appeals and would be entitled to assume and retain carriage of such appeals.
- (e) Transactions would be completed on an 'as is, where is' basis without representations and warranties other than minimal warranties expressly stated in the transaction documents that are customary for transactions of this type in an insolvency context.
- (f) Sears Canada would have no obligations to repair or otherwise remediate the applicable property. The acquirer would be responsible for the condition of the property on closing.
- (g) Closing would be conditional upon court approval.
- 32. On March 7, 2018, BMO and the Monitor received a number of competing offers to purchase the Remaining Real Estate Assets that were the subject of the Updated Sale Process Letter. Subsequently, the Sears Canada Group, in consultation with the Sale Advisor, the Monitor and the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties, have reviewed bids received and engaged in extensive discussions with bidders to seek to improve and finalize value maximizing executable transactions. This process is ongoing.
- 33. The Monitor intends to serve and file supplements to this Nineteenth Report to the Court as transactions for the Remaining Real Estate Assets are finalized and brought for approval by the Court.

#### E. THE PLACE VERTU PROPERTY

- 34. The Place Vertu Property is located adjacent to a mall in St. Laurent, Quebec, owned by Place Vertu Nominee Inc. / Fiduciare Place Vertu Inc. (the "Mall Owner").
- 35. Pursuant to an Operating Agreement dated as of June 1, 1975, as amended from time to time (the "Vertu Operating Agreement"), the Mall Owner holds a right of first refusal on the Place Vertu Property, providing the Mall Owner with the right to receive notice of any bona fide offers to purchase the Place Vertu Property, following which the Mall

- Owner has 15 days to elect whether or not to purchase the Place Vertu Property on those same terms (the "**Vertu ROFR**").
- 36. The Vertu Operating Agreement contains certain restrictions on the use of the Place Vertu Property for purposes other than a Sears branded department store. The existence of the Vertu Operating Agreement and the restrictions contained therein as well as the Vertu ROFR would be relevant factors for potential purchasers considering the acquisition of this property.
- On or about the March 7<sup>th</sup> bid deadline, Sears Canada received offers for the Place Vertu Property, including an offer from LaSalle Acquisitions Corp. (the "Place Vertu Purchaser"), an affiliate of the Mall Owner. A summary of offers received for the Place Vertu Property at the initial August 31, 2017 bid deadline under the SISP and the subsequent March 7, 2018 bid deadline is attached hereto as Confidential Appendix "A". The Monitor notes that the Place Vertu Purchaser did submit an offer by the initial August 31, 2017 deadline under the SISP.
- 38. Negotiations ensued with interested parties including the Place Vertu Purchaser in respect of the financial and legal aspects of the offers, draft documents were exchanged by the parties and follow up discussions were held as necessary.
- 39. Following those discussions and exchanges, Sears Canada determined, in consultation with the Sale Advisor, the Monitor and the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties, that the transaction proposed by the Place Vertu Purchaser was in the best interests of the Applicants and their stakeholders, and was formally approved by the board of directors of Sears Canada.
- 40. The Monitor notes that the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties were consulted throughout the process.
- 41. The terms of the successful bid by the Place Vertu Purchaser for this property are contained in an Agreement of Purchase and Sale dated May 17, 2018 between the Place Vertu Purchaser and Sears Canada (the "Place Vertu APS"). An unredacted copy of the Place Vertu APS is attached hereto as Confidential Appendix "B".

- 42. The terms of the Place Vertu APS are substantially similar to the template transaction document described above. Modifications to the template transaction terms include:
  - (a) It is a condition of closing that the Approval and Vesting Order granted in connection with the transaction is not stayed, amended, modified, reversed, dismissed or appealed and that all applicable appeal periods have expired.
  - (b) The outside date for completion of the transaction is July 24, 2018.
  - (c) It is a condition of closing that the Vertu ROFR has expired or has been waived. The Monitor notes that the Mall Owner has provided a signed waiver of the Vertu ROFR in connection with this transaction or in connection with any other transaction to the extent the Place Vertu APS does not close solely as a result of a default by the Place Vertu Purchaser under the Place Vertu APS.
  - (d) The Place Vertu Purchaser must deliver an assumption agreement in favour of Sears Canada and the Mall Owner in accordance with the terms of, among other things, the Vertu Operating Agreement in form and substance acceptable to Sears Canada and providing for the Place Vertu Purchaser's assumption of any amounts owing under, among other things, the Vertu Operating Agreement, other than amounts claimed by the Mall Owner under proofs of claim filed by the Mall Owner pursuant to the Claims Procedure Order in the CCAA Proceedings.
  - (e) The Place Vertu Purchaser must deliver a release in favour of Sears Canada from the Mall Owner of all of Sears Canada's obligations under the Vertu Operating Agreement, other than liabilities, if any, set out in proofs of claim filed by the Mall Owner pursuant to the Claims Procedure Order in the CCAA Proceedings.
  - (f) The Place Vertu Purchaser may assign the Place Vertu APS to a corporation, fund or limited partnership (i) owned by investors of LaSalle Investment Management; and (ii) managed by LaSalle Investment Management, the Place Vertu Purchaser or affiliates thereof; provided that any such assignment may include 10338788 Canada Inc. or an affiliate of such entity as to an approximately 10% interest. In

the case of such assignment, the Place Vertu Purchaser is not relieved of its obligations under the Place Vertu APS until closing.

#### F. SALE APPROVAL MOTION

- 43. Sears Canada now seeks approval for:
  - (a) its entry into and completion of the transactions under the Place Vertu APS; and
  - (b) the sealing of Confidential Appendices "A", "B" and "C" to this Nineteenth Report.
- 44. Section 36(1) of the CCAA states:
  - 36(1) **Restriction on disposition of business assets** A debtor company in respect of which an order has been made under this Act may not sell or otherwise dispose of assets outside the ordinary course of business unless authorized to do so by a court. Despite any requirement for shareholder approval, including one under federal or provincial law, the court may authorize the sale or disposition even if shareholder approval was not obtained.
- 45. Section 36(3) of the CCAA states:
  - (3) Factors to be considered In deciding whether to grant the authorization, the court is to consider, among other things,
  - (a) whether the process leading to the proposed sale or disposition was reasonable in the circumstances;
  - (b) whether the monitor approved the process leading to the proposed sale or disposition;
  - (c) whether the monitor filed with the court a report stating that in their opinion the sale or disposition would be more beneficial to the creditors than a sale or disposition under a bankruptcy;
  - (d) the extent to which the creditors were consulted;
  - (e) the effects of the proposed sale or disposition on the creditors and other interested parties; and
  - (f) whether the consideration to be received for the assets is reasonable and fair, taking into account their market value.

- 46. The SISP was approved by the Court on July 13, 2017. The Monitor notes that the SISP was the subject of significant media attention, thereby further increasing the notice to all *bona fide* interested parties about the ongoing SISP.
- 47. The Place Vertu Property has been marketed extensively for a period of approximately 10 months.
- 48. The Monitor participated in all stages of the marketing process and is satisfied that the marketing process was carried out in accordance with all orders of the Court, that the opportunity to acquire the asset offered was widely known and that the process that resulted in the Place Vertu APS was fair and reasonable. In the Monitor's view, the Applicants' marketing efforts were appropriate in the circumstances.
- 49. The Monitor approved the process set out in the SISP and the extended marketing process in early 2018 that led to the transaction for the Place Vertu Property.
- 50. The Sears Canada Group have consulted extensively with the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties during the process to market the Place Vertu Property. The Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties were informed of material developments in that marketing process. This consultation included in-person meetings and conference calls regarding the status of the sale process and access to bids received and counter-proposals delivered by Sears Canada through Sears Canada's electronic data room.
- 51. The Monitor has not been advised of any objection to the transaction by the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties. On May 19, 2018, BMO advised the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties, through their financial advisors, of the terms of the Place Vertu APS and sought confirmation of the positions of the Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties on the transaction. The financial advisors for Employee Representative Counsel and Pension and Retiree Representative Counsel advised that their clients were not taking a position on the transaction at that time. The Monitor is not aware of any opposition from the other Owned Real Estate Consultation Parties.

- 52. The proposed transaction maximizes value from all options available at this time for the Place Vertu Property and eliminates ongoing carrying costs of this property, estimated at approximately \$95,000 per month.
- 53. The proposed transaction does not negatively affect the Mall Owner's rights under the Vertu Operating Agreement as: (i) the Vertu ROFR has been waived by the Mall Owner and, (ii) the Vertu Operating Agreement will be assumed by the Place Vertu Purchaser.
- 54. The proposed transaction represent the highest and best executable offer obtained for the Place Vertu Property.
- 55. The Monitor understands an appraisal of the Place Vertu Property was obtained in May 2017, when the property was still operating as a going concern Sears store. A copy of that appraisal is attached as Confidential Appendix "C".

#### G. MONITOR'S RECOMMENDATION

- 56. Based upon the considerations set out above, the Monitor supports the Applicants' motion for approval of the sale of the Place Vertu Property as contemplated in the Place Vertu APS.
- 57. Confidential Appendices "A", "B" and "C" to this Nineteenth Report contain commercially sensitive information, including information on the bids received for the Place Vertu Property, the purchase price for the Place Vertu Property and the appraisal regarding the Place Vertu Property. The public disclosure of this information would be harmful to the integrity of the process to sell the Place Vertu Property, including if the Place Vertu Property needed to be subject to a further marketing process. The Monitor supports the sealing of Confidential Appendices "A", "B" and "C" to this Nineteenth Report.

The Monitor respectfully submits to the Court this, its Nineteenth Report.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2018.

FTI Consulting Canada Inc. in its capacity as Monitor of the Sears Canada Entities

Pal Bisip

Paul Bishop

Senior Managing Director

Greg Watson

Senior Managing Director

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

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 SEARS CANADA INC., et al.

# SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST ONTARIO

Proceeding commenced at TORONTO

# SUBMITTED BY FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., NINETEENTH REPORT TO THE COURT IN ITS CAPACITY AS MONITOR

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#### Confidential Appendix "B"

**Bid Summary** 

#### Confidential Appendix "C"

#### **Unredacted Peterborough APS**

Confidential Appendix "D"

**Unredacted Windsor APS** 

#### Confidential Appendix "E"

#### **Unredacted Charlottetown APS**

#### Confidential Appendix "F"

#### Appraisals

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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 SEARS CANADA INC., *et al.* 

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

## ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

Proceeding commenced at TORONTO

# FOURTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE NINETEENTH REPORT TO THE COURT SUBMITTED BY FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC., IN ITS CAPACITY AS MONITOR

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