

## ATON RESOURCES INC.

### MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CIRCULAR

#### SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

This management information circular (the “**Circular**”) is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the management of Aton Resources Inc. (the “**Corporation**”) for use at the annual general meeting (the “**Meeting**”) of holders (collectively, the “**Shareholders**” or individually, a “**Shareholder**”) of common shares in the capital of the Corporation (“**Common Shares**”) to be held at the time and place and for the purposes set forth in the attached Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders (the “**Notice**”). The solicitation will be primarily by mail, but proxies may also be solicited personally or by telephone by regular employees of the Corporation. The cost of solicitation will be borne by the Corporation.

Except as noted below, the Corporation has distributed or made available for distribution, copies of the Notice, the Circular and form of proxy or voting instruction form (if applicable) (the “**Meeting Materials**”) to clearing agencies, securities dealers, banks and trust companies or their nominees (collectively, the “**Intermediaries**”) for distribution to Beneficial Shareholders (as defined below) whose Common Shares are held by or in custody of such Intermediaries. Such Intermediaries are required to forward such documents to Beneficial Shareholders unless a Beneficial Shareholder has waived the right to receive them. The Corporation has elected to pay for the delivery of the Meeting Materials to objecting Beneficial Shareholders by the Intermediaries. The Corporation is sending proxy-related materials directly to non-objecting Beneficial Shareholders, through the services of its transfer agent and registrar, Computershare Investor Services. The solicitation of proxies from Beneficial Shareholders will be carried out by the Intermediaries or by the Corporation if the names and addresses of the Beneficial Shareholders are provided by Intermediaries. The Corporation will pay the permitted fees and costs of Intermediaries incurred in connection with the distribution of the Meeting Materials. The Corporation is not relying on the notice-and-access provisions of securities laws for delivery of the Meeting Materials to registered Shareholders or Beneficial Shareholders.

#### APPOINTMENT AND REVOCATION OF PROXIES

The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy are officers and/or directors of the Corporation. **A Shareholder has the right to appoint a person (who need not be a Shareholder) to attend and act for such Shareholder and on his, her or its behalf at the Meeting other than the persons designated in the enclosed form of proxy.** Such right may be exercised by inserting in the blank space provided for that purpose the name of the desired person or by completing another proper form of proxy and, in either case, delivering the completed and executed proxy to the Corporation’s transfer agent and registrar, Computershare Investor Services, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 510 Burrard Street, V6C 3A8 not later than the close of business on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 or delivering it to the chairperson of the Meeting on the day of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof prior to the time of voting. A proxy must be executed by the registered Shareholder or his, her or its attorney duly authorized in writing or, if the Shareholder is a corporation, by an officer or attorney thereof duly authorized.

Proxies given by Shareholders for use at the Meeting may be revoked prior to their use:

- (a) by depositing an instrument in writing executed by the Shareholder or by such Shareholder’s attorney duly authorized in writing or, if the Shareholder is a corporation, by an officer or attorney thereof duly authorized indicating the capacity under which such officer or attorney is signing:

- (i) at the registered office, 1700 – 666 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2X8, at any time up to and including Wednesday, November 20, 2024; or
  - (ii) with the chairperson of the Meeting on the day of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof; or
- (b) in any other manner permitted by law.

### EXERCISE OF DISCRETION BY PROXIES

The persons named in the accompanying form of proxy will vote the Common Shares in respect of which they are appointed in accordance with the direction of the Shareholders appointing them. **In the absence of such direction, such Common Shares will be voted in favour of the passing of the matters set out in the Notice. The form of proxy confers discretionary authority upon the persons named therein with respect to amendments or variations to matters identified in the Notice and with respect to other matters which may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.** At the time of the printing of this Circular, the management of the Corporation knows of no such amendments, variations or other matters to come before the Meeting other than the matters referred to in the Notice. **However, if any other matters which at present are not known to the management of the Corporation should properly come before the Meeting, the proxy will be voted on such matters in accordance with the best judgment of the named proxies.**

### ADVICE TO BENEFICIAL SHAREHOLDERS

**Shareholders should note that only proxies deposited by Shareholders whose names appear on the records of the Corporation as the registered holders of Common Shares, or non-objecting beneficial owners whose names has been provided to the Corporation’s registrar and transfer agent, can be recognized and acted upon at the Meeting.** The information set forth in this section is therefore of significant importance to a substantial number of Shareholders who do not hold their Common Shares in their own name (referred to in this section as “**Beneficial Shareholders**”). If Common Shares are listed in an account statement provided to a Shareholder by an Intermediary, then in almost all cases those Common Shares will not be registered in such Shareholder’s name on the records of the Corporation. Such Common Shares will more likely be registered under the name of the Shareholder’s Intermediary or an agent of that Intermediary. In Canada, the vast majority of such Common Shares are registered under the name of CDS & Co., as nominee for CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc., which acts as a depository for many Canadian Intermediaries. Common Shares held by Intermediaries or their nominees can only be voted for or against resolutions upon the instructions of the Beneficial Shareholder. Without specific instructions, Intermediaries are prohibited from voting Common Shares for their clients.

Applicable regulatory policy requires Intermediaries to seek voting instructions from Beneficial Shareholders in advance of shareholders’ meetings. Every Intermediary has its own mailing procedures and provides its own return instructions, which should be carefully followed by Beneficial Shareholders in order to ensure that their Common Shares are voted at the Meeting. Often the form of proxy supplied to a Beneficial Shareholder by its Intermediary is identical to the form of proxy provided by the Corporation to the Intermediaries. However, its purpose is limited to instructing the Intermediary how to vote on behalf of the Beneficial Shareholder. The majority of Intermediaries now delegate responsibility for obtaining instructions from clients to Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (“**Broadridge**”). Broadridge typically mails the voting instruction forms or proxy forms to the Beneficial Shareholders and asks the Beneficial Shareholders to return the voting instruction forms or proxy forms to Broadridge. Broadridge then tabulates the results of all instructions received and provides appropriate instructions respecting the voting of Common Shares to be represented at the Meeting. A Beneficial Shareholder receiving a proxy or voting

instruction form from Broadridge cannot use that proxy to vote Common Shares directly at the Meeting - the proxy must be returned to Broadridge well in advance of the Meeting in order to have the Common Shares voted.

Although Beneficial Shareholders may not be recognized directly at the Meeting for the purposes of voting Common Shares registered in the name of their Intermediary, a Beneficial Shareholder may attend the Meeting as proxyholder for the Intermediary and vote their Common Shares in that capacity. Beneficial Shareholders who wish to attend the Meeting and indirectly vote their own Common Shares as proxyholder for the Intermediary should enter their own names in the blank space on the management form of proxy or voting instruction form provided to them and return the same to their Intermediary (or the agent of such Intermediary) in accordance with the instructions provided by such Intermediary or agent well in advance of the Meeting. **Beneficial Shareholders should carefully follow the instructions of their Intermediaries and their service companies.**

All references to shareholders in this Circular and the accompanying form of proxy and Notice are to Shareholders of record unless specifically stated otherwise.

#### **NOTE TO NON-OBJECTING BENEFICIAL OWNERS**

The Meeting Materials are being sent to both registered and Beneficial Shareholders. If you are a Beneficial Shareholder, and the Corporation or its agent has sent the Meeting Materials directly to you, your name and address and information about your holdings of Common Shares, have been obtained in accordance with applicable securities regulatory requirements from the Intermediary holding on your behalf. By choosing to send the Meeting Materials to you directly, the Corporation (and not the Intermediary holding on your behalf) has assumed responsibility for (i) delivering the Meeting Materials to you, and (ii) executing your proper voting instructions. Please return your voting instructions as specified in the request for voting instructions.

#### **VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF**

The Corporation has fixed the close of business on Friday, October 18, 2024 as the record date (the “**Record Date**”) for the purposes of determining Shareholders entitled to receive the Notice and vote at the Meeting. As at the Record Date, 127,454,413 Common Shares carrying the right to one vote per share at the Meeting were issued and outstanding.

To the knowledge of the directors and executive officers of the Corporation, as at the date of this Circular, the only persons who beneficially own, or control or direct, directly or indirectly, voting securities of the Corporation carrying 10% or more of the voting rights attached to the Common Shares are as follows:

Name	Number of Shares Owned (Percentage of Class and Type of Ownership)	
	Common Shares <sup>(1)</sup>	Percentage of Voting Rights
OU Hektik <sup>(1)</sup>	21,375,774	16.77%
OU Moonrider	89,701,789	70.38%

**Notes:**

- (1) Tonno Vahk, a director and CEO of the Corporation, is a control person of OU Hektik.

This information, not being within the knowledge of the Corporation, has been obtained from publicly available information.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

The general objectives of the Corporation's compensation strategy are to: (a) compensate management in a manner that encourages and rewards a high level of performance and outstanding results with a view to increasing long-term shareholder value; (b) align management's interests with the long-term interests of shareholders; and (c) attract and retain highly qualified executive officers.

#### *Elements of Compensation*

##### Base Salary

Each Named Executive Officer (as such term is defined below) receives a base salary, which constitutes a significant portion of the Named Executive Officer's compensation package. Base salary is recognition for discharging day to day duties and responsibilities and reflects the Named Executive Officer's performance over time, as well as that individual's particular experience and qualifications. A Named Executive Officer's base salary is reviewed by the board of directors of the Corporation (the "**Board**") on an annual basis and may be adjusted to take into account performance contributions for the year and to reflect sustained performance contributions over a number of years. Beginning in fiscal 2015, the Corporation has the discretion to pay such Named Executive Officer's base salary in cash or a combination of cash and Common Shares. The number of Common Shares issued to such Named Executive Officer will not exceed 50% of the base salary in any given year. No Named Executive Officers received payment in Common Shares in 2023.

##### Annual Performance Bonus

The Board may also set, throughout the year, discretionary annual performance bonuses to serve as incentive mechanisms to reward officers for reaching strategic objectives and short-term goals. The annual performance bonus is designated to encourage the attainment of particular corporate goals and objectives, or for the Corporation's financial performance. No annual performance bonuses were awarded in fiscal 2023.

##### Stock Options

The Corporation's directors, officers, employees and consultants, if any, are eligible under the Corporation's stock option plan (the "**Stock Option Plan**") to receive grants of stock options. The Stock Option Plan is an important part of the Corporation's long-term incentive strategy for its officers and directors, permitting them to participate in appreciation of the market value of the Common Shares over a stated period of time. The Stock Option Plan is intended to reinforce commitment to long-term growth in profitability and shareholder value. The size of the stock option grants to officers and directors is dependent on each officer's and director's level of responsibility, authority and importance to the Corporation and to the degree to which such officer's or director's long term contribution to the Corporation will be key to its long term success.

The Stock Option Plan is designed to encourage share ownership and entrepreneurship on the part of the senior management and other employees. The Board believes that the Stock Option Plan aligns the interests of the Named Executive Officers and the Board with shareholders by linking a component of executive compensation to the longer term performance of the Corporation.

Options are granted by either the Board or the Compensation Committee of the Corporation (the “**Compensation Committee**”). In monitoring or adjusting the option allotments, the Board or the Compensation Committee, as the case may be, takes into account its own observations on individual performance (where possible) and its assessment of individual contribution to shareholder value, previous option grants and the objectives set for the Named Executive Officers. The scale of options is generally commensurate to the appropriate level of base compensation for each level of responsibility. The Board or the Compensation Committee will make these determinations subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Option Plan.

### ***Compensation of Directors***

The Compensation Committee will recommend how much, if any, cash compensation will be paid to directors for services rendered by directors, in such capacity, to the Corporation. The directors of the Corporation may be paid cash compensation commensurate with the prevailing level of compensation for directors in the same industry in which the Corporation operates. Beginning in fiscal 2015, the Corporation has the discretion to compensate directors for services rendered by directors in cash or a combination of cash and Common Shares. The number of Common Shares issued to a director will not exceed 50% of the cash compensation to which the director is entitled. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is currently anticipated that directors will be primarily compensated for their services as directors through the granting of stock options in such amounts and upon such terms as may be approved by the Compensation Committee from time to time. No director fees were paid in Common Shares in 2023.

Named Executive Officers who also act as directors of the Corporation will not receive any additional compensation for services rendered in such capacity, other than as paid by the Corporation to such Named Executive Officers in their capacity as executive officers.

### ***Compensation Risk***

The Board and, as applicable, the Compensation Committee, considers and assesses the implications of risks associated with the Corporation’s compensation policies and practices and devotes such time and resources as is believed to be necessary in the circumstances. The Corporation’s practice of compensating its officers primarily through a mix of salary and stock options is designed to mitigate risk by: (i) ensuring that the Corporation retains such officers; and (ii) aligning the interests of its officers with the short-term and long-term objectives of the Corporation and its shareholders. As at the date of this Circular, the Board had not identified risks arising from the Corporation’s compensation policies and practices that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Corporation.

### ***Financial Instruments***

Pursuant to the terms of the Corporation’s Insider Trading Policy, the Named Executive Officers and directors are prohibited from purchasing financial instruments, such as prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, collars or units of exchange funds, that are designed to hedge or offset a decrease in market value of equity securities of the Corporation granted as compensation or held, directly or indirectly, by a Named Executive Officer or director.

### ***Compensation Governance***

In order to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to compensation matters, the Board has established the Compensation Committee and has reviewed and approved the Compensation Committee’s Charter. The Compensation Committee is composed of Tonno Vahk, Assem Soliman and Anthony Clements. Anthony Clements and Assem Soliman are independent as such term is defined in

National Instrument 58-101 – *Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices* (“NI 58-101”). Tonno Vahk is not considered independent as he serves as CEO.

The Compensation Committee meets on compensation matters as and when required with respect to executive compensation. The primary goal of the Compensation Committee as it relates to compensation matters is to ensure that the compensation provided to the Named Executive Officers and the Corporation’s other executive officers is determined with regard to the Corporation’s business strategies and objectives, such that the financial interest of the executive officers is aligned with the financial interest of shareholders, and to ensure that their compensation is fair and reasonable and sufficient to attract and retain qualified and experienced executives. The Compensation Committee is given the authority to engage and compensate any outside advisor that it determines to be necessary to carry out its duties.

As a whole, the members of the Compensation Committee have direct experience and skills relevant to their responsibilities in executive compensation, including with respect to enabling the Compensation Committee in making informed decisions on the suitability of the Corporation’s compensation policies and practices. Each of the members of the Compensation Committee has experience on the board of directors and related committees of other public companies, as described under “Particulars of Matters to be Acted Upon - Election of Directors” in this Circular.

### ***Executive Compensation-Related Fees***

In 2023, neither the Board nor the Compensation Committee retained a compensation consultant or advisor to assist the Board or the Compensation Committee in determining the compensation for any of the Corporation’s executive officers’ or directors’ compensation.

### **Summary Compensation Table - Named Executive Officers**

For the purpose of this document:

“CEO” of the Corporation means an individual who acted as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, or acted in a similar capacity, for any part of the most recently completed financial year;

“CFO” of the Corporation means an individual who acted as Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation, or acted in a similar capacity, for any part of the most recently completed financial year;

“Executive Officer” of an entity means an individual who is:

- (a) the chair of the Corporation, if any;
- (b) the vice-chair of the Corporation, if any;
- (c) the president of the Corporation;
- (d) a vice-president of the Corporation in charge of a principal business unit, division or function including sales, finance or production;
- (e) an officer of the Corporation (or subsidiary, if any) who performs a policy-making function in respect of the Corporation; or
- (f) any other individual who performs a policy-making function in respect of the Corporation;

“Named Executive Officers or NEOs” means:

- (a) the CEO of the Corporation;
- (b) the CFO of the Corporation;
- (c) each of the Corporation’s three most highly compensated executive officers, or the three most highly compensated individuals acting in a similar capacity, other than the CEO

- and CFO, at the end of the most recently completed financial year whose total compensation was, individually, more than \$150,000;
- (d) any additional individuals for whom disclosure would have been provided under paragraph (i) above except that the individual was not serving as an executive officer of the Corporation, nor in a similar capacity, as at the end of the most recently completed financial year end.

As of December 31, 2023, the Corporation had three “Named Executive Officers”, namely Tonno Vahk, CEO, Bobby Dhaliwal CFO of the Corporation.

### Director and Named Executive Officer Compensation

The following table (presented in accordance with National Instrument Form 51-102F6V, is a summary compensation (excluding compensation securities) paid, payable, awarded, granted, given or otherwise provided, directly or indirectly, to the directors and NEOs for each of the Corporation’s two most recently completed financial years.

Table of compensation excluding compensation securities							
Name and position	Year	Salary, consulting fee, retainer or commission (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Committee or meeting fees (\$)	Value of perquisites (\$)	Value of all other compensation (\$)	Total compensation (\$)
Tonno Vahk <sup>(1)</sup> , CEO and Director	2023	15,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,000
	2022	15,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,000
Bobby Dhaliwal <sup>(2)</sup> , CFO	2023	59,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	59,000
Stella Chen <sup>(3)</sup> , Former CFO	2023	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	2022	48,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	48,000
Anthony Clements, Director	2023	15,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,000
	2022	15,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,000
Assem Soliman, Director	2023	15,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,000
	2022	15,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,000

Notes:

- Mr. Vahk was appointed as Interim CEO of the Company on October 1, 2021. He was promoted to CEO on January 19, 2024.
- Mr. Dhaliwal was appointed as CFO of the Company on January 16, 2023, and provides services through Red Fern Consulting Ltd.
- Ms. Chen was appointed as CFO of the Company on August 13, 2021, and provided services through Red Fern Consulting Ltd. Ms. Chen resigned as CFO of the Company on January 16, 2023.

## Stock Options and Other Compensation Securities

### *Outstanding Share-Based Awards and Option-Based Awards*

No compensation securities were granted or issued to any NEO or director by the Corporation or its subsidiaries in the year ended December 31, 2023, for the services provided or to be provided, directly or indirectly to the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries.

The following table discloses the total amount of compensation securities held by the NEOs and directors as at the Corporation's financial year ended December 31, 2023, and at October 18, 2024.

<b>Name and Position</b>	<b>Number of Options as at December 31, 2023</b>	<b>Number of Options as at October 18, 2024</b>
Tonno Vahk, CEO and Director	300,000	300,000
Bobby Dhaliwal, CFO	200,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	200,000 <sup>(1)</sup>
Anthony Clements, Director	300,000	300,000
Assem Soliman, Director	300,000	300,000

Note:

1. Granted to Red Fern Consulting Ltd., a company of which Mr. Dhaliwal is an employee.

No compensation securities were re-priced, cancelled and replaced, had their term extended, or otherwise materially modified in the Corporation's financial year ended December 31, 2023.

There are no restrictions or conditions for converting, exercising or exchanging the compensation securities.

There were no exercises of compensation securities by NEOs and directors during the financial year ended December 31, 2023.

## Employment, consulting and management agreements

Except as described below, the Corporation does not have any contracts, agreements, plans or arrangements that provides for payments to a director or NEO at, following or in connection with any termination (whether voluntary, involuntary or constructive), resignation, retirement, a change in control of the Corporation or a change in an NEO's responsibilities.

The following is a description of the employment contracts of each of the Corporation's Named Executive Officers as at December 31, 2023, including a description of the termination and change of control provisions of their respective contracts.

### *Bobby Dhaliwal*

The Red Fern Agreement may be terminated as follows:

- (a) by the Corporation at any time:
  - (i) if Mr. Dhaliwal commits or acts in a fraudulent or negligent manner in the provision of the services;
  - (ii) if Mr. Dhaliwal becomes bankrupt, is charged with a criminal offence or is the subject of a cease trade order of a securities regulatory authority;



- (iii) upon the breach or default of any material term of the Red Fern Agreement by Mr. Dhaliwal or the failure of Mr. Dhaliwal to meet in all material respects annual performance objectives established by the Board of the Corporation in consultation with Mr. Dhaliwal and communicated in writing to Mr. Dhaliwal, if such breach, default or failure has not been remedied to the satisfaction of the Corporation within 30 days after written notice of the breach or default has been delivered by the Corporation to Red Fern, as the case may be;
  - (iv) if Red Fern fails to provide the services upon the terms and conditions of the Red Fern Agreement or otherwise breach any terms and conditions of the Red Fern Agreement; or
  - (v) by the Corporation upon 30 days' prior written notice to Red Fern;
- (b) by Red Fern at any time:
- (i) if the Corporation breaches or defaults in any material term of the Red Fern Agreement by the Corporation if such breach or default has not been remedied to the satisfaction of Red Fern, within 30 days after written notice of the breach or default has been delivered by Red Fern to the Corporation;
  - (ii) if the Corporation becomes bankrupt or makes statutory arrangement with its creditors; or
  - (iii) upon 30 days' prior written notice to the Corporation.

### SECURITIES AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS

The following table provides information regarding the number of Common Shares to be issued upon the exercise of outstanding options and the weighted-average exercise price of the outstanding options in connection with the Stock Option Plan as at December 31, 2023:

Plan Category	Number of Common Shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options	Number of Common Shares remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans
	#	\$	#
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	3,000,000	0.21	4,875,434
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	3,000,000	0.21	4,875,434

**Notes:**

- (1) Since the year end of December 31, 2023, 300,000 options to purchase Common Shares have been granted, no options to purchase Common Shares have been exercised, and no options to purchase Common Shares have expired. As at the date hereof there are 3,300,000 options outstanding to purchase Common Shares.
- (2) As at the date hereof there are options available for grant to purchase 9,445,440 Common Shares.

## INDEBTEDNESS OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

As at the date of this Circular, no individual who is an executive officer, director, employee or former executive officer, director or employee of the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries is indebted to the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to the purchase of securities or otherwise.

No individual who is, or at any time during the financial year ended December 31, 2023 was, a director or executive officer of the Corporation, a proposed management nominee for election as a director of the Corporation, or an associate of any such director, executive officer or proposed nominee, was indebted to the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries during the financial year ended December 31, 2023 or as at the date of this Circular in connection with security purchase programs or other programs.

## REPORT ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Maintaining a high standard of corporate governance is a priority for the Board and the Corporation's management as both believe that effective corporate governance will help create and maintain shareholder value in the long term. A description of the Corporation's corporate governance practices, which addresses the matters set out in NI 58-101, is set out at Schedule "A" to this Circular.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee's primary purpose is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the financial reporting process, the system of internal control over financial reporting and accounting compliance, the audit process and processes for identifying, evaluating and monitoring the management of the Corporation's principal risks impacting financial reporting. The committee also assists the Board with the oversight of financial strategies and overall risk management.

The Audit Committee is composed of Tonno Vahk, Anthony Clements, and Assem Soliman each of whom is a director of the Corporation. In accordance with Exchange Policy 3.1, the majority of the Audit Committee are not employees, Control Persons (as defined by the rules and policies of the Exchange) or officers of the Corporation.

Messrs. Clements and Soliman are "independent" as such term is defined in National Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committees* ("NI 52-110"). Mr. Vahk is not considered independent due to his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. The Corporation is of the opinion that all three members of the Audit Committee are "financially literate" as such term is defined in NI 52-110. A copy of the charter of the Audit Committee (the "**Audit Committee Charter**") is attached as Schedule "B" to this Circular.

### Relevant Education and Experience

All the members of the Audit Committee have the education and/or practical experience required to understand and evaluate financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Corporation's financial statements.

Tonno Vahk is a former derivatives and financial engineering specialist with over 20 years of experience in the financial markets. Since 2012 Mr. Vahk has been managing private equity investments in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, with a focus on mining and real estate. Mr. Vahk began his career as a financial derivatives specialist at Swedbank, specializing in mezzanine and private equity financings for companies operating in the Baltics. After Swedbank, Mr. Vahk went on to manage several different Eastern

European pensions funds, hedge funds and mezzanine funds. Mr. Vahk holds a B.Sc. in Economics and Business Administration from the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga.

Having gained a B.Sc. in Economics in 1968, Anthony Clements spent 2 years with a Manchester based firm of stockbrokers before joining the Electricity Council Pension Fund in 1970 as a Senior Investment Analyst. In 1973 Mr Clements was appointed by the Post Office Pension Fund as a Portfolio Manager; the Fund was subsequently renamed Postel and is now called Hermes Investment Management. As an Investment Manager, Mr. Clements spent several years managing Postel's resource portfolios, before moving on to manage the multi billion dollar North American portfolio.

In 1987 Mr. Clements moved over to the 'sales' side of the investment industry, becoming involved in corporate finance for North American and Australian resource issuers in particular. Mr. Clements has worked with several securities firms, including T. Hoare and Co between 1994 and 1998 (now called Canaccord) and Yorkton Securities Inc. from 1998 to 2000.

Between 2000 and 2010, Mr. Clements was Head of Corporate Finance at ODL Securities before joining Fox Davies Capital Limited, a London-based firm specializing in mining and oil and gas corporations. Mr. Clements is now a retired investment banker, but currently serves as a corporate advisor and director of several resource companies.

Assem Soliman is an Egyptian business entrepreneur with vast experience in the fields of investment banking and capital markets. Mr. Soliman has founded numerous businesses in Egypt and has extensive relationships with investors in the MENA region. Mr. Soliman holds a B.A. of Management Sciences from the Sadat Academy for Management Sciences.

#### Audit Committee Oversight

At no time since the commencement of the Corporation's most recently completed financial year have any recommendations by the Audit Committee respecting the appointment and/or compensation of the Corporation's external auditors not been adopted by the Board.

#### Reliance on Certain Exemptions

At no time since the commencement of the Corporation's most recently completed financial year has the Corporation relied on exemptions in relation to "*De Minimis Non-audit Services*" or any exemption provided by Part 8 of NI 52-110.

#### Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

Pursuant to the terms of the Audit Committee Charter, the Audit Committee shall pre-approve all non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation or its subsidiary entities by the Corporation's external auditor.

#### External Auditor Service Fees (By Category)

- (a) *Audit Fees* - The Corporation's external auditors billed the Corporation approximately \$57,000 and \$52,000 during the financial years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, for audit fees.
- (b) *Audit-Related Fees* - The Corporation's external auditors billed approximately \$nil and \$610 during the financial years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, for audit-related fees related to financing activity.

- (c) *Tax Fees* – The Corporation’s external auditors billed approximately \$nil and \$nil during the financial years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, for tax fees.
- (d) *All Other Fees* – The Corporation’s external auditors billed approximately \$nil and \$nil during the financial years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, for fees related to reviewing interim financial statements.

### **INTERESTS OF INFORMED PERSONS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS**

No “informed person” (as such term is defined in NI 51-102) or proposed nominee for election as a director of the Corporation or any associate or affiliate of the foregoing has any material interest, direct or indirect, in any transaction in which the Corporation has participated since the commencement of the Corporation’s most recently completed financial year or in any proposed transaction which has materially affected or will materially affect the Corporation.

### **PARTICULARS OF MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON**

#### **1. Setting the Number of Directors**

The number of directors was last determined at three, and it is proposed that the size of the board of directors be set at three persons for the ensuing year. Shareholders will be asked to approve an ordinary resolution that the number of directors be set at three.

**COMMON SHARES REPRESENTED BY PROXIES IN FAVOUR OF MANAGEMENT WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOUR OF SETTING THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS AT THREE, IN THE ABSENCE OF DIRECTION TO THE CONTRARY FROM THE SHAREHOLDER. AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST BY SHAREHOLDERS AT THE MEETING IS SUFFICIENT FOR APPROVAL.**

#### **2. Election of Directors**

The Board presently consists of three directors, namely, Tonno Vahk, Anthony Clements, and Assem Soliman. An affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Meeting is sufficient for the election of directors. Each director elected will hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until his successor is duly elected or appointed pursuant to the by-laws of the Corporation.

**COMMON SHARES REPRESENTED BY PROXIES IN FAVOUR OF MANAGEMENT WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOUR OF EACH OF THE PROPOSED NOMINEES UNLESS A SHAREHOLDER HAS SPECIFIED IN HIS, HER OR ITS PROXY THAT HIS, HER OR ITS COMMON SHARES ARE TO BE WITHHELD FROM VOTING IN RESPECT OF ANY PARTICULAR NOMINEE OR NOMINEES. MANAGEMENT DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE THAT ANY OF SUCH NOMINEES WILL BE UNABLE TO SERVE AS DIRECTORS. HOWEVER, IF FOR ANY REASON, ANY OF THE PROPOSED NOMINEES DO NOT STAND FOR ELECTION OR ARE UNABLE TO SERVE AS SUCH, PROXIES IN FAVOUR OF MANAGEMENT NOMINEES WILL BE VOTED FOR ANOTHER NOMINEE IN THEIR DISCRETION UNLESS THE SHAREHOLDER HAS SPECIFIED IN HIS, HER OR ITS PROXY THAT HIS, HER OR ITS COMMON SHARES ARE TO BE WITHHELD FROM VOTING IN RESPECT OF ANY PARTICULAR NOMINEE OR NOMINEES.**

The following tables set out certain information as of the date of this Circular (unless otherwise indicated) with respect to the persons being nominated at the Meeting for election as directors. Information regarding Common shares owned by each director of the Corporation is presented to the best knowledge of management of the Corporation and has been furnished to management of the Corporation by such directors.

<b>ANTHONY CLEMENTS</b>		<b>Principal Occupation and Biographical Information</b>	
Surrey, United Kingdom Director Since: May 12, 2016 <b>INDEPENDENT</b>		Mr. Clements is currently a corporate advisor and director, and a retired investment banker.  Anthony Clements is a former investment banker with Fox Davies Capital Limited, a London-based firm specializing in mining and oil and gas corporations. Mr. Clements began his career specializing in natural resources, having gained a B.Sc. in Economics followed by a post-graduate course in accountancy. He joined the Electricity Pension Fund in 1970 as Senior Investment Analyst before moving on in 1973 to the Post Office Pension Fund, latterly renamed Postel and then Hermes. As an Investment Manager, Mr. Clements spent several years managing Postel's resource portfolio before moving on to manage billion dollar North American portfolio. In 1987 Mr. Clements moved over to the 'sales' side of the investment industry, becoming involved with corporate finance and North American resource issuers in particular. Mr. Clements was formerly Head of Corporate Finance at ODL Securities, and prior to taking up his position with ODL Securities, Mr. Clements worked with securities firms, including T. Hoare and Co, renamed Canaccord, in 1994 and Yorkton Securities Inc., now McQuarie.	
<b>Current Board/Committee Membership</b>		<b>Other Public Board Memberships</b>	
Member of the Board Member of the Audit Committee Member of the Compensation Committee		Vatic Ventures Corp. (TSXV)	
<b>Number of Common Shares Beneficially Owned, Controlled or Directed</b>		83,333	

<b>TONNO VAHK</b>		<b>Principal Occupation and Biographical Information</b>	
Tallinn, Estonia Director Since: March 24, 2017 <b>NOT INDEPENDENT<sup>(2)</sup></b>		Mr. Vahk is a former derivatives and financial engineering specialist with over 20 years' experience in the financial markets. Since 2012, Mr. Vahk has been managing private equity investments in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, with a focus on mining and real estate. Mr. Vahk began his career as a financial derivatives specialist at Swedbank, specializing in mezzanine and private equity financings for companies operating in the Baltics. After Swedbank, Mr. Vahk went on to manage several different Eastern European pension funds, hedge funds and mezzanine funds. Mr. Vahk holds a B.Sc. in Economics and Business Administration from the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga.	
<b>Current Board/Committee Membership</b>		<b>Other Public Board Memberships</b>	
Member of the Board Member of the Audit Committee <sup>(2)</sup> Member of the Compensation Committee		None	

<b>Number of Common Shares Beneficially Owned, Controlled or Directed</b>	21,375,774 <sup>(1)</sup>
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**Notes:**

- (1) Controlled through OU Hektik.
- (2) Mr. Vahk currently serves as Chief Executive Officer.

<b>ASSEM ADEL SOLIMAN</b>		<b>Principal Occupation and Biographical Information</b>	
Cairo, Egypt Director Since March 22, 2021 <b>INDEPENDENT</b>		<p>Mr. Soliman is an Egyptian business entrepreneur with vast experience in the fields of investment banking and capital markets. Mr. Soliman has founded numerous businesses in Egypt and has extensive relationships with investors in the MENA region. Mr. Soliman holds a B.A. of Management Sciences from the Sadat Academy for Management Sciences.</p> <p>Mr. Soliman is the Co-founder and Board Chairman of the Arab African Agricultural Investment Company and Medcom Aswan for Cement, Company both based in Egypt.</p>	
<b>Current Board/Committee Membership</b>		<b>Other Public Board Memberships</b>	
Member of the Board Member of the Audit Committee Member of the Compensation Committee		None	
<b>Number of Common Shares Beneficially Owned, Controlled or Directed</b>		894,500	

***Corporate Cease Trade Orders***

Except as disclosed below, to the knowledge of the Corporation, no proposed director is, as at the date of this Circular, or has been, within 10 years before the date of this Circular, a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company (including the Corporation) that:

- (a) was subject to a cease trade order, an order similar to a cease trade order, or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under applicable securities legislation, and which in all cases was in effect for a period of more than 30 consecutive days (an “**Order**”), which Order was issued while the proposed director was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of such company; or
- (b) was subject to an Order that was issued after the proposed director ceased to be a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer and which resulted from an event that occurred while that person was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of such company.

The foregoing information, not being within the knowledge of the Corporation, has been furnished by the proposed directors.

***Bankruptcies, or Penalties or Sanctions***

To the knowledge of the Corporation, no proposed director:

- (a) is, as at the date of this Circular, or has been within 10 years before the date of this Circular, a director or executive officer of any company (including the Corporation) that, while that person was acting in that capacity, or within a year of that person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets;
- (b) has, within 10 years before the date of this Circular, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or become subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold his assets;
- (c) has been subject to any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority or has entered into a settlement agreement with a securities regulatory authority; or
- (d) has been subject to any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable securityholder in deciding whether to vote for a proposed director.

The foregoing information, not being within the knowledge of the Corporation, has been furnished by the proposed directors.

Vatic Ventures Corp. (“**Vatic**”), a company for which Anthony Clements serves as a director, was subject to a failure-to-file cease trade order issued by the British Columbia and Ontario Securities Commission, on August 18, 2020 (the “**FFCTO**”) relating to the late filing of the audited annual financial statements for the year ended February 29, 2020 and related management discussion and analysis and officer’s certificates, which were required to be filed on or before June 29, 2020. On January 29, 2021, Vatic announced that it had submitted an application to the regulators in British Columbia and Ontario for a revocation of the FFCTO. The revocation order was granted on March 22, 2021.

### **3. Appointment of Auditor**

Unless otherwise specified, the persons named in the enclosed instrument of proxy will vote for the re-appointment of Baker Tilly WM LLP, Chartered Accountants, Vancouver, British Columbia, as auditor of the Corporation for the ensuing year, at a remuneration to be fixed by the directors. Baker Tilly WM LLP was first appointed auditor of the Corporation in 2022, after replacing Davidson & Company LLP, the Corporation’s previous auditor.

**COMMON SHARES REPRESENTED BY PROXIES IN FAVOUR OF MANAGEMENT WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE APPOINTMENT OF BAKER TILLY WM LLP, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AS AUDITOR OF THE CORPORATION AND THE AUTHORIZING OF THE DIRECTORS TO FIX ITS REMUNERATION, UNLESS THE SHAREHOLDER HAS SPECIFIED IN THE PROXY THAT HIS, HER OR ITS COMMON SHARES ARE TO BE WITHHELD FROM VOTING IN RESPECT THEREOF.**

### **4. Approval of Stock Option Plan**

#### ***Summary of Stock Option Plan***

The policies of the Exchange provide that the Board may from time to time, in its discretion, and in accordance with the Exchange requirements, grant to directors, officers, employees, management company employees and consultants of the Corporation and its Affiliates, non-transferable options to purchase Common Shares for a period of up to ten years from the date of grant, provided that the number of Common Shares reserved for issuance may not exceed 10% of the total issued and outstanding Common Shares at the date of the grant.

The purpose of the incentive stock option plan (the “**Plan**”) established by the Corporation, pursuant to which the Corporation may grant incentive stock options, is to promote the profitability and growth of the Corporation by facilitating the efforts of the Corporation to obtain and retain key individuals. The Plan provides an incentive for and encourages ownership of the Common Shares by its key individuals so that they may increase their stake in the Corporation and benefit from increases in the value of the Common Shares. Pursuant to the Plan, the maximum number of Common Shares reserved for issuance in any 12 month period to any one optionee other than a consultant may not exceed 5% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares at the date of the grant. The maximum number of Common Shares reserved for issuance in any 12 month period to any consultant may not exceed 2% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares at the date of the grant and the maximum number of Common Shares reserved for issuance in any 12 month period to all persons engaged in investor relations activities may not exceed 2% of the issued and outstanding number of Common Shares at the date of the grant. Incentive stock options may be exercised until the earlier of: (a) the expiry time of such option; and (b) 90 days (or such other period as may be determined by the Board, provided such period is not more than one year) following the date the optionee ceases to be a director, officer or employee of the Corporation or its Affiliates or a consultant or a management company employee, provided that if the cessation of such position or arrangement was by reason of death, the option may be exercised within a maximum period of one year after such death, subject to the expiry date of such option. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of termination for cause, all options held by such terminated optionee will be cancelled immediately. In the term of any option expires within or immediately following a “blackout period” imposed by the Corporation, the option shall expire on the date that is ten business days following the end of such blackout period. In the event that the Corporation becomes listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Plan provides that the Board may grant options which allow an optionee to elect to exercise its option on a “cashless basis”, whereby the optionee, instead of making a cash payment for the aggregate exercise price, shall be entitled to be issued such number of Common Shares equal to the number which results when: (i) the difference between the aggregate Fair Market Value of the Common Shares underlying the option and the aggregate exercise price of such option is divided by (ii) the Fair Market Value of each Common Share. “Fair Market Value” as defined in the Plan means the closing price as reported by the Toronto Stock Exchange (in the event that the Corporation becomes listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange) on the last trading day immediately preceding the exercise date. Options may be granted with a maximum expiry term of 10 years. The Plan contains a detailed amending provision that sets out the circumstances where Exchange and Shareholder approval will be required and those circumstances where Exchange and Shareholder approval will not be required.

As at October 18, 2024, a total of 3,300,000 Common Shares were issuable under the Plan, representing 2.59% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares.

### ***Approval of the Plan***

As the Plan provides for a rolling maximum number of Common Shares which may be issuable upon the exercise of options granted under the Plan, Exchange Policy 4.4 requires that the Plan receive shareholder approval each year at the annual shareholders’ meeting. Accordingly, Shareholders will be asked to consider and, if thought appropriate, pass an ordinary resolution approving the Plan. A copy of the Plan is attached as Schedule “C” to this Circular.



**The Board has unanimously approved the Plan and recommends that Shareholders vote FOR the resolution regarding the Plan. An affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Meeting is sufficient to pass the resolution approving the resolution regarding the Plan.**

The complete text of the resolution which management intends to place before the Meeting for approval, confirmation and adoption, with or without modification, is as follows:

“**WHEREAS** the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange require annual shareholder approval for the continuation of the rolling stock option plan of the Corporation (the “**Plan**”);

**BE IT RESOLVED AS AN ORDINARY RESOLUTION THAT:**

1. the Plan, in the form attached as Schedule “C” to the management information circular of the Corporation dated October 18, 2024, is hereby authorized and approved; and
2. any one officer and director of the Corporation be and is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Corporation to execute and deliver all such instruments and documents and to perform and do all such acts and things as may be deemed advisable in such individual’s discretion for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution, the execution of any such document or the doing of any such other act or thing being conclusive evidence of such determination.”

**COMMON SHARES REPRESENTED BY PROXIES IN FAVOUR OF MANAGEMENT WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PLAN IN THE ABSENCE OF DIRECTION TO THE CONTRARY FROM THE SHAREHOLDER APPOINTING THEM. AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST BY SHAREHOLDERS AT THE MEETING IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE PLAN.**

**INTEREST OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON**

Except as described above, no person or company who is, or at any time during the financial year ended December 31, 2023 was, a director or executive officer of the Corporation, a proposed management nominee for election as a director of the Corporation, or an associate or affiliate of any such director, executive officer or proposed nominee, has any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership or otherwise, in matters to be acted upon at the Meeting other than the election of directors, and the approval of the Plan, as described above.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information relating to the Corporation is available on SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca). Financial information is provided in the Corporation’s audited financial statements and Management’s Discussion and Analysis (“**MD&A**”) for the year ended December 31, 2023. In addition, copies of the Corporation’s annual financial statements and MD&A and this Circular may be obtained upon request to the Corporation. The Corporation may require the payment of a reasonable charge if the request is made by a person who is not a shareholder of the Corporation.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The contents of this Circular and the sending of it to each director of the Corporation, to the auditor of the Corporation, to the Shareholders and to the appropriate governmental agencies, have been approved by the directors of the Corporation.

Dated: October 18, 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

*“Tonno Vahk”*

Tonno Vahk  
Director and Chief Executive Officer

**SCHEDULE "A"**  
**STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE PRACTICES**

Governance Disclosure Requirement Under the Corporate Governance National Instrument 58-101 ("NI 58-101")	Comments
<b>Board of Directors</b>	
<p>1. Board of Directors—Disclose how the board of directors (the “<b>Board</b>”) of Aton Resources Inc. (the “<b>Corporation</b>”) facilitates its exercise of independent supervision over management, including</p> <p>(i) the identity of directors that are independent, and</p> <p>(ii) the identity of directors who are not independent, and the basis for that determination.</p>	<p>The Board currently consists of a total of three directors of which Messrs. Clements and Soliman are considered “independent”, as such term is defined in NI 58-101. Mr. Vahk is not considered independent as he is currently acting as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.</p>
<p>2. Directorships—If a director is presently a director of any other issuer that is a reporting issuer (or the equivalent) in a jurisdiction or a foreign jurisdiction, identify both the director and the other issuer.</p>	<p>Please refer to the accompanying management information circular dated October 18, 2024 under the heading “Particulars of Matters to be Acted Upon - Election of Directors”.</p>
<b>Orientation and Continuing Education</b>	
<p>3. Describe what steps, if any, the Board takes to orient new Board members, and describe any measures the Board takes to provide continuing education for directors.</p>	<p>Each director ultimately assumes responsibility for keeping himself informed about the Corporation’s business and relevant developments outside the Corporation that affect its business. Management assists directors by providing them with regular updates on relevant developments and other information that management considers of interest to the Board. Directors may also attend other Board committee meetings if they are not active members, to broaden their knowledge base and receive additional information on the Corporation’s business and developments in areas where they are not commonly exposed.</p> <p>From time to time, the directors undertake site visits which include a visit to the Cairo office, meeting senior local staff, and visits to the project sites.</p>
<b>Ethical Business Conduct</b>	
<p>4. Describe what steps, if any, the Board takes to encourage and promote a culture of ethical business conduct.</p>	<p>The Board is responsible for promoting an ethical business culture and fostering an environment that places an emphasis on compliance. The Board monitors compliance, including through receipt by the Audit Committee of reports of unethical behaviour. To ensure that an ethical business culture is maintained and promoted, directors are encouraged to exercise their independent judgment. If a director has a material interest in any transaction or agreement that the Corporation proposes to enter into, such director is expected to disclose such interest to the Board in compliance with the applicable laws, rules and policies which govern conflicts of interest in connection with such transaction or agreement. Further, any director who has a material interest in any proposed transaction or agreement will be excluded from the portion of the Board meeting concerning such matters and will be further precluded from voting on such matters.</p>
<b>Nomination of Directors</b>	
<p>5. Disclose what steps, if any, are taken to identify new candidates for Board nomination, including: (i) who identifies new candidates, and (ii) the process of identifying new candidates.</p>	<p>The Board is responsible for the identification and assessment of potential directors. While no formal nomination procedures are in place to identify new candidates, the Board does review the experience and performance of nominees for election to the Board. Members of the Board are canvassed with respect to the qualifications of a prospective candidate and each candidate is evaluated with respect to his or her experience and expertise,</p>

<b>Governance Disclosure Requirement Under the Corporate Governance National Instrument 58-101 (“NI 58-101”)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	with particular attention paid to those areas of expertise that could complement and enhance current management. The Board also assesses any potential conflicts, independence or time commitment concerns that the candidate may present.
<b>Compensation</b>	
6. Disclose what steps, if any, are taken to determine compensation for the directors and CEO, including: (i) who determines compensation, and (ii) the process of determining compensation.	The process undertaken by the Board and the Compensation Committee in respect of compensation is more fully described in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of the accompanying Circular.
<b>Other Board Committees</b>	
7. If the Board has standing committees other than the audit, compensation and nominating committees, identify the committees and describe their function.	The Board does not have any standing committees other than the Compensation Committee and the Audit Committee.
<b>Assessments</b>	
8. Disclose what steps, if any, that the Board takes to satisfy itself that the Board, its committees, and its individual directors are performing effectively.	The Board is currently responsible for assessing the effectiveness and size of the Board, the individual directors and the Audit Committee.

**SCHEDULE "B"**  
**AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

(Implemented pursuant to National Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committees*)

National Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committees* (the “**Instrument**”) relating to the composition and function of audit committees was implemented for reporting issuers and, accordingly, applies to every TSX Venture Exchange listed company, including the Corporation. The Instrument requires all affected issuers to have a written audit committee charter which must be disclosed, as stipulated by Form 52-110F2, in the management information circular of the Corporation wherein management solicits proxies from the security holders of the Corporation for the purpose of electing directors to the board of directors. The Corporation, as a TSX Venture Exchange-listed company is, however, exempt from certain requirements of the Instrument.

This Charter has been adopted by the board of directors in order to comply with the Instrument and to more properly define the role of the Committee in the oversight of the financial reporting process of the Corporation. Nothing in this Charter is intended to restrict the ability of the board of directors or Committee to alter or vary procedures in order to comply more fully with the Instrument, as amended from time to time.

**PART 1**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Committee is to:

1. improve the quality of the Corporation’s financial reporting;
2. assist the board of directors to properly and fully discharge its responsibilities;
3. provide an avenue of enhanced communication between the directors and external auditors;
4. enhance the external auditor’s independence;
5. increase the credibility and objectivity of financial reports; and
6. strengthen the role of the directors by facilitating in depth discussions between directors, management and external auditors.

**1.1 Definitions**

“**accounting principles**” has the meaning ascribed to it in National Instrument 52-107 *Acceptable Accounting Principles, Auditing Standards and Reporting Currency*;

“**Affiliate**” means a Corporation that is a subsidiary of another Corporation or companies that are controlled by the same entity;

“**audit services**” means the professional services rendered by the Corporation’s external auditor for the audit and review of the Corporation’s financial statements or services that are normally provided by the external auditor in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements;

“**Charter**” means this audit committee charter;

“**Committee**” means the committee established by and among certain members of the board of directors for the purpose of overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Corporation and audits of the financial statements of the Corporation;

“**Control Person**” means any individual or company that holds or is one of a combination of individuals or companies that holds a sufficient number of any of the securities of the Corporation so as to affect materially the control of the Corporation, or that holds more than 20% of the outstanding voting shares of the Corporation except where there is evidence showing that the holder of those securities does not materially affect the control of the Corporation;

“**financially literate**” has the meaning set forth in Section 1.2;

“**immediate family member**” means a person’s spouse, parent, child, sibling, mother or father-in-law, son or daughter-in-law, brother or sister-in-law, and anyone (other than an employee of either the person or the person’s immediate family member) who shares the individual’s home;

“**Instrument**” means National Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committees*;

“**MD&A**” has the meaning ascribed to it in National Instrument 51-102;

“**Member**” means a member of the Committee;

“**National Instrument 51-102**” means National Instrument 51-102 - *Continuous Disclosure Obligations*; and

“**non-audit services**” means services other than audit services.

## **1.2 Meaning of Financially Literate**

For the purposes of this Charter, an individual is financially literate if he or she has the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Corporation’s financial statements.

## **PART 2**

### **2.1 Audit Committee**

The board of directors has hereby established the Committee for, among other purposes, compliance with the Instrument.

### **2.2 Relationship with External Auditors**

The Corporation will require its external auditor to report directly to the Committee and the Members shall ensure that such is the case.

## 2.3 Committee Responsibilities

1. The Committee shall be responsible for making the following recommendations to the board of directors:
  - (a) the external auditor to be nominated for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation; and
  - (b) the compensation of the external auditor.
2. The Committee shall be directly responsible for overseeing the work of the external auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting. This responsibility shall include:
  - (a) reviewing the audit plan with management and the external auditor;
  - (b) reviewing with management and the external auditor any proposed changes in major accounting policies, the presentation and impact of significant risks and uncertainties, and key estimates and judgements of management that may be material to financial reporting;
  - (c) questioning management and the external auditor regarding significant financial reporting issues discussed during the fiscal period and the method of resolution;
  - (d) reviewing any problems experienced by the external auditor in performing the audit, including any restrictions imposed by management or significant accounting issues on which there was a disagreement with management;
  - (e) reviewing audited annual financial statements, in conjunction with the report of the external auditor, and obtaining an explanation from management of all significant variances between comparative reporting periods;
  - (f) reviewing the post-audit or management letter, containing the recommendations of the external auditor, and management's response and subsequent follow up to any identified weakness;
  - (g) reviewing interim unaudited financial statements before release to the public;
  - (h) reviewing all public disclosure documents containing audited or unaudited financial information before release, including any prospectus, the annual report and management's discussion and analysis;
  - (i) reviewing the evaluation of internal controls by the external auditor, together with management's response;
  - (j) reviewing the terms of reference of the internal auditor, if any;
  - (k) reviewing the reports issued by the internal auditor, if any, and management's response and subsequent follow up to any identified weaknesses; and

- (l) reviewing the appointments of the chief financial officer and any key financial executives involved in the financial reporting process, as applicable.
3. The Committee shall pre-approve all non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation or its subsidiary entities by the issuer's external auditor.
4. The Committee shall review the Corporation's financial statements, MD&A, and annual and interim earnings press releases before the Corporation publicly discloses this information.
5. The Committee shall ensure that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation's financial statements, and shall periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.
6. When there is to be a change of auditor, the Committee shall review all issues related to the change, including the information to be included in the notice of change of auditor called for under National Instrument 51-102, and the planned steps for an orderly transition.
7. The Committee shall review all reportable events, including disagreements, unresolved issues and consultations, as defined in National Instrument 51-102, on a routine basis, whether or not there is to be a change of auditor.
8. The Committee shall, as applicable, establish procedures for:
  - (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the issuer regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and
  - (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the issuer of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
9. As applicable, the Committee shall establish, periodically review and approve the Corporation's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditor of the issuer, as applicable.
10. The responsibilities outlined in this Charter are not intended to be exhaustive. Members should consider any additional areas which may require oversight when discharging their responsibilities.

#### **2.4 De Minimis Non-Audit Services**

The Committee shall satisfy the pre-approval requirement in subsection 2.3(3) if:

- (a) the aggregate amount of all the non-audit services that were not pre-approved is reasonably expected to constitute no more than five per cent of the total amount of fees paid by the issuer and its subsidiary entities to the issuer's external auditor during the financial year in which the services are provided;
- (b) the Corporation or the subsidiary of the Corporation, as the case may be, did not recognize the services as non-audit services at the time of the engagement; and
- (c) the services are promptly brought to the attention of the Committee and approved by the Committee or by one or more of its members to whom authority to grant such approvals has been delegated by the Committee, prior to the completion of the audit.



## **2.5 Delegation of Pre-Approval Function**

1. The Committee may delegate to one or more independent Members the authority to pre-approve non-audit services in satisfaction of the requirement in subsection 2.3(3).
2. The pre-approval of non-audit services by any Member to whom authority has been delegated pursuant to subsection 2.5(1) must be presented to the Committee at its first scheduled meeting following such pre-approval.

## **PART 3**

### **3.1 Composition**

1. The Committee shall be composed of a minimum of three Members.
2. Every Member shall be a director of the issuer.
3. The majority of Members shall not be employees, Control Persons or officers of the Corporation.
4. If practicable, given the composition of the directors of the Corporation, each Member shall be financially literate.
5. The board of directors of the Corporation shall appoint or re-appoint the Members after each annual meeting of shareholders of the Corporation.

## **PART 4**

### **4.1 Authority**

Until the replacement of this Charter, the Committee shall have the authority to:

- (a) engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties;
- (b) set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the Committee;
- (c) communicate directly with the internal and external auditors; and
- (d) recommend the amendment or approval of audited and interim financial statements to the board of directors.

## **PART 5**

### **5.1 Disclosure in Information Circular**

If management of the Corporation solicits proxies from the security holders of the Corporation for the purpose of electing directors to the board of directors, the Corporation shall include in its management information circular the disclosure required by Form 52-110F2 (Disclosure by Venture Issuers).

## **PART 6**

### **6.1 Meetings**

1. Meetings of the Committee shall be scheduled to take place at regular intervals and, in any event, not less frequently than quarterly.
2. Opportunities shall be afforded periodically to the external auditor, the internal auditor and to members of senior management to meet separately with the Members.
3. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the Committee.

## SCHEDULE "C"

### STOCK OPTION PLAN

### ATON RESOURCES INC.

### STOCK OPTION PLAN

(as amended on April 24, 2009, June 23, 2011, June 22, 2012, June 27, 2016, and June 24, 2022)

#### 1. Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Plan is to provide the Participants with an opportunity to purchase Common Shares and benefit from the appreciation thereof. This proprietary interest in the Corporation will provide an increased incentive for the Participants to contribute to the future success and prosperity of the Corporation, thus enhancing the value of the Common Shares for the benefit of all the shareholders and increasing the ability of the Corporation and its Subsidiaries to attract and retain individuals of exceptional skill.

#### 2. Defined Terms

2.1 Where used herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings (all other capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the TSX Venture Exchange Corporate Finance Manual):

- (a) **“Acceleration Right”** means the Participant’s right, in certain circumstances, to exercise its outstanding Option as to all or any of the Common Shares in respect of which such Option has not previously been exercised and which the Participant is entitled to exercise, including in respect of Common Shares not otherwise vested at such time;
- (b) **“Board”** means the board of directors of the Corporation;
- (c) **“Business Day”** means each day other than a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday in Ontario, Canada;
- (d) **“Common Shares”** means the common shares in the capital of the Corporation or, in the event of an adjustment contemplated by Article 8 hereof, such shares to which a Participant may be entitled upon the exercise of an Option as a result of such adjustment;
- (e) **“Corporation”** means Aton Resources Inc., and includes any successor corporation thereof;
- (f) **“Exchange”** means the TSX Venture Exchange or, if the Common Shares are not then listed and posted for trading on the TSX Venture Exchange, then on any stock exchange in Canada on which such shares are listed and posted for trading or any other regulatory body having jurisdiction as may be selected for such purpose by the Board;

- (g) **“Exercise Notice”** means the notice in writing signed by the Participant or the Participant’s legal personal representatives addressed to the Corporation specifying an intention to exercise all or a portion of the Option;
- (h) **“Expiry Time”** means the time at which the Options will expire, being 4:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on a date to be fixed by the Board at the time the Option is granted, which date will not be more than ten years from the date of grant;
- (i) **“Fair Market Value”** means, for the purposes of Sections 4.5 and 9.4 hereof, at any date in respect of the Common Shares, the closing price of the Common Shares as reported by the Toronto Stock Exchange on the last trading day immediately preceding such date or, if the Common Shares are not listed on any stock exchange, a price determined by the Board;
- (j) **“Insider”** has the meaning ascribed thereto in the Exchange Corporate Finance Manual;
- (k) **“Option”** means an option to purchase Common Shares from treasury granted by the Corporation to a Participant, subject to the provisions contained herein;
- (l) **“Option Price”** means the price per share at which Common Shares may be purchased under the Option, as the same may be adjusted herein;
- (m) **“Participants”** means the directors, officers and employees of, and consultants to, the Corporation or its Subsidiaries, as defined by the relevant Exchange and, subject to compliance with the applicable requirements of the Exchange, the Personal Holding Companies of such persons, to whom an Option has been granted by the Board pursuant to the Plan and which Option or a portion thereof remains unexercised;
- (n) **“Personal Holding Company”** means a company of which 100% of the voting shares are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by a director, officer or employee of, or consultant to, the Corporation or its Subsidiaries and such entity shall be bound by the Plan in the same manner as if the Options were held directly;
- (o) **“Plan”** means this stock option plan of the Corporation, as the same may be amended or varied from time to time;
- (p) **“Subsidiary”** means any corporation that is a subsidiary of the Corporation, as such term is defined under the *Canada Business Corporations Act*, as such provision is from time to time amended, varied or re-enacted, or a “related entity” as defined in section 2.22 of National Instrument 45-106; and
- (q) **“Take-Over Bid”** has the meaning ascribed thereto in the *Securities Act* (Ontario), as such provision is from time to time amended, varied or re-enacted.

### **3. Administration of the Plan**

3.1 The Board shall administer this Plan. Options granted under the Plan shall be granted in accordance with determinations made by the Board pursuant to the provisions of the Plan as to: (a) the Participants to whom and the time or times at which the Options will be granted; the number of Common Shares which shall be the subject of each Option; (b) any vesting provisions attaching to the

Option; and (c) the terms and provisions of the respective stock option agreements, provided however, that each director, officer, employee or consultant shall have the right not to participate in the Plan and any decision not to participate therein shall not affect the employment by or engagement with the Corporation. The Board shall ensure that Participants under the Plan are eligible to participate under the Plan, and, if required by the Exchange, shall represent and confirm that the Participant is a bona fide employee, consultant or management company employee (as defined in the policies of the Exchange).

3.2 The Board may, from time to time, adopt such rules and regulations for administering the Plan as it may deem proper and in the best interests of the Corporation and may, subject to applicable law, delegate its powers hereunder to administer the Plan to a committee of the Board (the “**Committee**”). The Committee shall be comprised of two or more members of the Board who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. Vacancies occurring on the Committee shall be filled by the Board.

3.3 The Committee (or the Board where the Committee has not been constituted) shall have the power to delegate to any member of the Board or officer so designated (the “**Administrator**”), the power to determine which Participants are to be granted Options and to grant such Options, the number of Common Shares purchasable under each Option, the Option Price and the time or times when and the manner in which Options are exercisable, and the Administrator shall make such determinations in accordance with the provisions of this Plan and with applicable securities and stock exchange regulatory requirements, subject to final approval by the Committee or Board.

#### **4. Granting of Option**

4.1 Participants may be granted Options from time to time. The grant of Options will be subject to the conditions contained herein and may be subject to additional conditions determined by the Board from time to time. Each Option granted hereunder shall be evidenced by an agreement in writing, signed on behalf of the Corporation and by the Participant, in such form as the Board shall approve from time to time. Each such agreement shall recite that it is subject to the provisions of this Plan.

4.2 The aggregate number of Common Shares of the Corporation allocated and made available to be granted to Participants under the Plan shall not exceed 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares of the Corporation as at the date of grant (on a non-diluted basis). Any issuance of Common Shares from treasury pursuant to the exercise of Options shall automatically replenish the number of Common Shares available for Option grants under the Plan. Common Shares in respect of which Options are cancelled or not exercised prior to expiry, for any reason, shall be available for subsequent Option grants under the Plan. No fractional shares may be purchased or issued hereunder.

4.3 The Corporation shall at all times, during the term of the Plan, reserve and keep available such number of Common Shares as will be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Plan.

4.4 Any grant of Options under the Plan shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) the aggregate number of Common Shares reserved for issuance pursuant to any security-based compensation plan granted to any one Participant, other than a Consultant, in any 12 month period may not exceed 5% of the Corporation’s total issued and outstanding Common Shares, unless disinterested shareholder approval is obtained;

- (b) the aggregate number of Common Shares issuable pursuant to Options granted to Insiders pursuant to the Plan and other security-based compensation arrangements may not exceed 10% of the Corporation's total issued and outstanding Common Shares at any point in time, unless disinterested shareholder approval is obtained;
- (c) the aggregate number of Common Shares issued to Insiders pursuant to the Plan and any other security-based compensation arrangements in any 12 month period may not exceed 10% of the Corporation's total issued and outstanding Common Shares at any point in time, unless disinterested shareholder approval is obtained;
- (d) no more than 2% of the total issued and outstanding Common Shares at the time of grant may be granted to any one Consultant in any 12 month period; and
- (e) no more than an aggregate of 2% of the total issued and outstanding Common Shares at the time of grant may be granted to all persons engaged to conduct Investor Relations Activities in any 12 month period.

4.5 Provided that the Corporation is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") and is in compliance with applicable TSX requirements, the Board may grant Options which allow a Participant to elect to exercise its Option on a "cashless basis", whereby the Participant, instead of making a cash payment for the aggregate exercise price, shall be entitled to be issued such number of Common Shares equal to the number which results when: (i) the difference between the aggregate Fair Market Value of the Common Shares underlying the Option and the aggregate exercise price of such Option is divided by (ii) the Fair Market Value of each Common Share. For greater certainty, the Options may not be exercised on a "cashless basis" while the Common Shares are listed on the Exchange.

4.6 All Options granted pursuant to this Plan shall be subject to rules and policies of the Exchange and any other regulatory body having jurisdiction.

4.7 A Participant who has been granted an Option may, if otherwise eligible, and if permitted under the policies of the Exchange, be granted an additional Option if the Board so determines.

## **5. Option Price**

5.1 Subject to applicable Exchange approval, the Option Price shall be fixed by the Board at the time the Option is granted to a Participant. In no event shall the price be less than the Discounted Market Price (as defined in the policies of the Exchange). If a press release fixing the price is not issued, the Discounted Market Price is the closing price per Common Share on the Exchange on the last trading day preceding the date of grant on which there was a closing price (less the applicable discount) or, if the Common Shares are not listed on any stock exchange, a price determined by the Board; provided that, if the Board, in its sole discretion, determines that the closing price on the last trading day preceding the date of grant would not be representative of the market price of the Common Shares, then the Board may base the price on the greater of the closing price and the weighted average price per share for the Common Shares for five (5) consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day preceding the date of grant on which there was a closing price on the Exchange. The weighted average price shall be determined by dividing the aggregate sale price of all Common Shares sold on the Exchange during the said five (5) consecutive trading days, by the total number of Common Shares so sold.

5.2 Once the Option Price has been determined by the Board, accepted by the Exchange and the Option has been granted, if the Optionee is an Insider, the Option Price may only be reduced if disinterested shareholder approval is obtained; provided that such disinterested shareholder approval is then a requirement of the Exchange or other regulatory body having jurisdiction.

## **6. Term of Option**

6.1 The term of the Option shall be a period of time fixed by the Board, not to exceed ten years from the date of grant. Unless the Board determines otherwise, Options shall be exercisable in whole or in part at any time during this period in accordance with such vesting provisions, conditions or limitations (including applicable hold periods) as are herein contained or as the Board may from time to time impose, or as may be required by the Exchange or under applicable securities law.

6.2 Each Option and all rights thereunder shall be expressed to expire at the Expiry Time, but shall be subject to earlier termination in accordance with Section 11 hereof.

6.3 Subject to any specific requirements of the Exchange, the Board shall determine the vesting period or periods within the Option term, during which a Participant may exercise an Option or a portion thereof. Any Option granted to a Participant providing Investor Relations Activities must vest in stages over a period of not less than 12 months with no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Options vesting in any three month period. Participants providing Investor Relations Activities may not receive any security-based compensation other than Options.

6.4 In addition to any resale restriction under securities laws, an Option may be subject to a four month Exchange hold period commencing on the date the Option is granted.

6.5 Except in the case of a Participant's Option that terminates pursuant to Section 11.3 below, in the event that the term of any Option expires within or immediately following a "blackout period" imposed by the Corporation, the Option shall expire on the date (the "Blackout Expiration Date") that is ten Business Days following the end of such blackout period. The Blackout Expiration Date shall not be subject to the discretion of the Board.

6.6 Disinterested Shareholder approval must be obtained for any extension of the term of a Stock Option, if the Participant is an Insider of the Corporation at the time of the proposed amendment.

## **7. Exercise of Option**

7.1 Subject to the provisions of the Plan and the terms of any stock option agreement, an Option or a portion thereof may be exercised, from time to time, by delivery of the Exercise Notice to the Corporation's principal office in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Exercise Notice shall state the intention of the Participant or the Participant's legal personal representative to exercise the said Option or a portion thereof and specify the number of Common Shares in respect of which the Option is then being exercised, and shall be accompanied by the full purchase price of the Common Shares which are the subject of the exercise. The exercise price of the Options must be paid in cash, or by cheque, bank draft or wire transfer. Such Exercise Notice shall contain the Participant's undertaking to comply, to the satisfaction of the Corporation, with all applicable requirements of the Exchange and any applicable regulatory authorities.

## **8. Adjustments in Shares**

8.1 If the outstanding shares of the Corporation are increased, decreased, changed into or exchanged for a different number or kind of shares or securities of the Corporation through a re-organization, plan of arrangement, merger, re-capitalization, re-classification, stock dividend, subdivision or consolidation, an appropriate and proportionate adjustment shall be made by the Board, in its discretion, in the number or kind of shares optioned and the exercise price per share with respect to: (a) previously granted and unexercised Options or portions thereof; and (b) Options which may be granted subsequent to any such change in the Corporation's capital.

8.2 If a Participant is entitled to receive additional security-based compensation in lieu of dividends declared by the Corporation based on their holdings of security-based compensation other than Shares that have already been issued, the maximum aggregate number of Shares that might possibly be issued under the security-based compensation plan must be included in calculating the limits set out in the Plan. The Corporation will make payment in cash if it does not have a sufficient number of Shares available under its security-based compensation Plan to satisfy its obligations in respect of such dividends.

8.3 Subject to the below, determinations by the Board as to what adjustments shall be made, and the extent thereof, shall be final, binding and conclusive. The Corporation shall not be obligated to issue fractional securities in satisfaction of any of its obligations hereunder.

8.4 Any adjustment, other than in connection with a security consolidation or security split, to security-based compensation granted or issued under a security-based compensation plan must be subject to the prior acceptance of the Exchange, including adjustments related to an amalgamation, merger, arrangement, reorganization, spin-off, dividend, or recapitalization.

## **9. Accelerated Vesting**

9.1 In the event that certain events such as a liquidation or dissolution of the Corporation or a re-organization, plan of arrangement, merger or consolidation of the Corporation with one or more corporations, as a result of which the Corporation is not the surviving corporation, or the sale by the Corporation of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Corporation to another corporation prior to the Expiry Time, are proposed or contemplated, the Board may, notwithstanding the terms of this Plan or any stock option agreements issued hereunder, exercise its discretion, by way of resolution, to permit accelerated vesting of Options on such terms as the Board sees fit at that time. If the Board, in its sole discretion, determines that the Common Shares subject to any Option granted hereunder shall vest on an accelerated basis, all Participants entitled to exercise an unexercised portion of Options then outstanding shall have the right at such time, upon written notice being given by the Corporation, to exercise such Options to the extent specified and permitted by the Board and within the time period specified by the Board, which shall not extend past the Expiry Time. No acceleration of the vesting provisions on Options granted to Participants providing Investor Relations Activities is permitted without prior written acceptance of the TSX Venture Exchange.

9.2 An Option may provide that whenever the Corporation's shareholders receive a Take-Over Bid and the Corporation supports this bid, pursuant to which the "offeror" would, as a result of such Take-Over Bid being successful, beneficially own in excess of 50% of the outstanding Common Shares, the Participant may, subject to 9.1, above, exercise the Acceleration Right. The Acceleration Right shall commence on the date of the mailing of the Board circular recommending acceptance of the Take-Over Bid and end on the earlier of:



- (a) the Expiry Time; and
- (b) (i) in the event the Take-Over Bid is unsuccessful, the expiry date of the Take-Over Bid; and (ii) in the event the Take-Over Bid is successful, the tenth (10th) day following the expiry date of the Take-Over Bid.

9.3 At the time of the termination of the Acceleration Right, the original vesting terms of the Options shall be reinstated with respect to the Common Shares issuable thereunder which were not acquired by the holders of such Options pursuant to the terms thereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Acceleration Right may be extended for such longer period as the Board may resolve.

9.4 Provided that the Corporation is listed on the TSX and is in compliance with applicable TSX requirements, the Corporation may satisfy any obligations to a Participant hereunder by paying to the Participant in cash the difference between the exercise price of all unexercised Options granted hereunder and the Fair Market Value of the Common Shares to which the Participant would be entitled upon exercise of all unexercised Options, regardless of whether all conditions of exercise relating to continuous employment have been satisfied.

## **10. Decisions of the Board**

All decisions and interpretations of the Board respecting the Plan or Options granted thereunder shall be conclusive and binding on the Corporation and the Participants and their respective legal personal representatives and on all directors, officers, employees and consultants of the Corporation who are eligible to participate under the Plan.

## **11. Ceasing to be a Director, Officer, Employee or Consultant**

11.1 Subject to the terms of the applicable stock option agreements and subject to Section 11.4 hereof, in the event of the Participant ceasing to be a director, officer, employee or consultant of the Corporation or a Subsidiary for any reason other than death, including the resignation or retirement of the Participant or the termination by the Corporation or a Subsidiary of the employment of the Participant, prior to the Expiry Time, such Option (including an Option held by a Participant's Personal Holding Company) may be exercised as to such Common Shares in respect of which the Option has not previously been exercised (and as the Participant would have been entitled to exercise) at any time up to and including (but not after) the earlier of: (a) the Expiry Time; and (b) a date that is ninety (90) days (or such other period as may be determined by the Board, provided that such period is not more than one year) following the effective date of such resignation or retirement or a date that is ninety (90) days (or such other period as may be determined by the Board, provided that such period is not more than one year) following the date notice of termination of employment is given by the Corporation or a Subsidiary, whether such termination is with or without reasonable notice, and subject to such shorter period as may be otherwise specified in the stock option agreement, after which date the Option shall forthwith expire and terminate and be of no further force or effect whatsoever.

11.2 In consideration of the Option hereby granted, in the event of the resignation or retirement of the Participant or the termination of employment by the Corporation without cause, the Participant hereby covenants not to sue the Corporation for damages arising from the loss of rights granted hereunder and releases the Corporation from any damages.

11.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of termination for cause, such Option (including an Option held by a Participant's Personal Holding Company) shall expire and terminate immediately at the time of delivery of notice of termination of employment for cause to the Participant

by the Corporation or a Subsidiary and shall be of no further force or effect whatsoever as to the Common Shares in respect of which an Option has not previously been exercised.

11.4 In the event of the death of a Participant on or prior to the Expiry Time, such Option (including an Option held by a Participant's Personal Holding Company) may be exercised as to such of the Common Shares in respect of which such Option has not previously been exercised (and as the Participant would have been entitled to purchase), by the legal personal representatives of the Participant at any time up to and including (but not after) a date one (1) year from the date of death of the Participant, after which date the Option shall forthwith expire and terminate and be of no further force or effect whatsoever.

11.5 Options shall not be affected by any change of employment of the Participant where the Participant continues to be employed by the Corporation or any of its Subsidiaries.

## **12. Transferability**

All benefits, rights and options accruing to any Participant in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Plan shall not be transferable or assignable unless specifically provided herein or to the extent, if any, permitted by the Exchange.

## **13. Amendment or Discontinuance of Plan**

- (a) The approval of the Board and the requisite approval from the Exchange and the shareholders shall be required for any of the following amendments to be made to the Plan:
- (i) any increase to the fixed maximum percentage of Common Shares issuable under the Plan;
  - (ii) a reduction in the exercise price or purchase price of an Option (other than for standard anti-dilution purposes) held by or benefiting an Insider;
  - (iii) an increase in the maximum number of Common Shares that may be issued to Insiders within any one year period or that are issuable to Insiders at any time;
  - (iv) an extension of the term of an Option held by or benefiting an Insider;
  - (v) any change to the definition of "Participants" which would have the potential of broadening or increasing Insider participation;
  - (vi) the addition of any form of loan or financial assistance;
  - (vii) any amendment to a financial assistance provision which is more favourable to Participants;
  - (viii) provided that the Corporation is listed on the TSX, the addition of a cashless exercise feature, payable in cash or securities which does not provide for a full deduction of the number of underlying securities from the Plan reserve;
  - (ix) the addition of a deferred or restricted share unit or any other provision which results in Participants receiving securities while no cash consideration is received by the Corporation; and

- (x) any other amendments that may lead to significant or unreasonable dilution in the Corporation's outstanding securities or may provide additional benefits to Participants, especially Insiders, at the expense of the Corporation and its existing shareholders.
- (b) The Board may, without shareholder approval but subject to receipt of requisite approval as required by the Exchange, in its sole discretion make all other amendments to the Plan that are not of the type contemplated in subsection 13.1 (a) above including, without limitation:
  - (i) amendments of a housekeeping nature;
  - (ii) a change to the vesting provisions of an Option or the Plan;
  - (iii) a change to the termination provisions of an Option or the Plan which does not entail an extension beyond the original expiry date, except as contemplated in Section 6.5 above; and
  - (iv) the addition of a cashless exercise feature, payable in cash or securities, which provides for a full deduction of the number of underlying securities from the Plan reserve.

#### **14. Participants' Rights**

14.1 A Participant shall not have any rights as a shareholder of the Corporation until the issuance of a certificate for Common Shares upon the exercise of an Option or a portion thereof, and then only with respect to the Common Shares represented by such certificate or certificates.

14.2 Nothing in the Plan or any Option shall confer upon any Participant any rights to continue in the employ of the Corporation or any Subsidiary or affect in any way the right of the Corporation or any such Subsidiary to terminate the employment of the Participant at any time; nor shall anything in the Plan or any Option be deemed or construed to constitute an agreement, or an expression of intent, on the part of the Corporation or any such Subsidiary to extend the employment of any Participant beyond the time such Participant would normally retire pursuant to the provisions of any present or future retirement plan of the Corporation or any Subsidiary, or beyond the time at which he would otherwise be retired pursuant to the provisions of any contract of employment with the Corporation or any Subsidiary.

#### **15. Approvals**

15.1 The Plan shall be subject, if applicable, to the approval of the Exchange or other regulatory body having jurisdiction at that time and, if so required thereby, to the approval of the shareholders of the Corporation.

15.2 Any Options granted prior to such approval and acceptance shall be conditional upon such approval and acceptance being given and no such Options may be exercised unless such approval and acceptance is given.

**16. Government Regulation**

16.1 The Corporation's obligation to issue and deliver Common Shares under any Option is subject to:

- (a) the satisfaction of all requirements under applicable securities laws in respect thereof and obtaining all regulatory approvals as the Corporation shall determine to be necessary or advisable in connection with the authorization, issuance or sale thereof;
- (b) the admission of such Common Shares to listing on any stock exchange on which such Common Shares may then be listed; and
- (c) the receipt from the Participant of such representations, warranties, agreements and undertakings as to future dealings in such Common Shares as the Corporation determines to be necessary or advisable in order to safeguard against the violation of the securities laws of any jurisdiction.

16.2 In this regard, the Corporation shall take all reasonable steps to obtain such approvals and registrations as may be necessary for the issuance of such Common Shares and for the listing of such Common Shares on the Exchange, in compliance with applicable securities laws. If any shares cannot be issued to any Participant for whatever reason, the obligation of the Corporation to issue such shares shall terminate and the Option Price paid to the Corporation will be returned to the Participant.

**17. Costs**

The Corporation shall pay all costs of administering the Plan.

**18. Interpretation**

This Plan shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia and the laws of Canada applicable therein.

**19. Compliance with Applicable Law**

If any provision of the Plan or any Option contravenes any law or any order, policy, bylaw or regulation of any regulatory body or the Exchange, then such provision shall be deemed to be amended to the extent required to bring such provision into compliance therewith.