

Multilateral Instrument 62-104
Take-Over Bids and Issuer Bids

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Multilateral Instrument 62-104
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PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In this Instrument,

“Act” means, in the jurisdiction, the statute referred to in Appendix B to National Instrument 14-101 *Definitions*;

“associate”, when used to indicate a relationship with a person, means

- (a) an issuer of which the person beneficially owns or controls, directly or indirectly, voting securities entitling the person to more than 10% of the voting rights attached to outstanding securities of the issuer,
- (b) any partner of the person,
- (c) any trust or estate in which the person has a substantial beneficial interest or in respect of which a person serves as trustee or in a similar capacity,
- (d) a relative of that person, including
 - (i) the spouse or, in Alberta, adult interdependent partner of that person, or
 - (ii) a relative of the person’s spouse or, in Alberta, adult interdependent partner

if the relative has the same home as that person;

“bid circular” means a bid circular prepared in accordance with section 2.10;

“business day” means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day that is a statutory holiday in the jurisdiction;

“class of securities” includes a series of a class of securities;

“consultant” has the same meaning as in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions*;

“equity security” means a security of an issuer that carries a residual right to participate in the earnings of the issuer and, on liquidation or winding up of the issuer, in its assets;

“issuer bid” means an offer to acquire or redeem securities of an issuer made by the issuer to one or more persons, any of whom is in the local jurisdiction or whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction, and also includes an acquisition or redemption of securities of the issuer by the issuer from those persons, but does not include an offer to acquire or redeem, or an acquisition or redemption if

- (a) no valuable consideration is offered or paid by the issuer for the securities,
- (b) the offer to acquire or redeem, or the acquisition or redemption is a step in an amalgamation, merger, reorganization or arrangement that requires approval in a vote of security holders, or
- (c) the securities are debt securities that are not convertible into securities other than debt securities;

“offer to acquire” means

- (a) an offer to purchase, or a solicitation of an offer to sell, securities,
- (b) an acceptance of an offer to sell securities, whether or not the offer has been solicited, or
- (c) any combination of the above;

“offeree issuer” means an issuer whose securities are the subject of a take-over bid, an issuer bid or an offer to acquire;

“offeror” means, except in Division 1 of Part 2 of this Instrument, a person that makes a take-over bid, an issuer bid or an offer to acquire;

“offeror’s securities” means securities of an offeree issuer beneficially owned, or over which control or direction is exercised, on the date of an offer to acquire, by an offeror or any person acting jointly or in concert with the offeror;

“person” includes

- (a) an individual,
- (b) a corporation,
- (c) a partnership, trust, fund and an association, syndicate, organization or other organized group of persons, whether incorporated or not, and
- (d) an individual or other person in that person’s capacity as a trustee, executor, administrator or personal or other legal representative;

“published market” means, with respect to any class of securities, a market in Canada or outside of Canada on which the securities are traded, if the prices at which they have been traded on that market are regularly

- (a) disseminated electronically, or
- (b) published in a newspaper or business or financial publication of general and regular paid circulation;

“standard trading unit” means

- (a) 1,000 units of a security with a market price of less than \$0.10 per unit,
- (b) 500 units of a security with a market price of \$0.10 or more per unit and less than \$1.00 per unit, and
- (c) 100 units of a security with a market price of \$1.00 or more per unit;

“subsidiary” means an issuer that is controlled directly or indirectly by another issuer and includes a subsidiary of that subsidiary;

“take-over bid” means an offer to acquire outstanding voting securities or equity securities of a class made to one or more persons, any of whom is in the local jurisdiction or whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction, where the securities subject to the offer to acquire, together with the offeror’s securities, constitute in the aggregate 20% or more of the outstanding securities of that class of securities at the date of the offer to acquire but does not include an offer to acquire if the offer to acquire is a step in an amalgamation, merger, reorganization or arrangement that requires approval in a vote of security holders.

1.2 Definitions for purposes of the Act

(1) ~~Except in Saskatchewan, in the Act,~~

(a) except in a CMR Jurisdiction, “offer to acquire” has the same meaning as in this Instrument, and

(b) “offeror” has the same meaning as in section 1.1 of this Instrument.

(2) In the definition of “issuer bid” in the Act, the prescribed class of issuer bids is that set out in the definition of “issuer bid” in this Instrument.

(3) In the definition of “take-over bid” in the Act, the prescribed class of take-over bids is that set out in the definition of “take-over bid” in this Instrument.

[Note: In a CMR Jurisdiction, “offer to acquire” is defined in section 2 [Definitions] of the *Capital Markets Act*. The definition in this Instrument is substantively the same as in the *Capital Markets Act*.]

1.3 Affiliate

In this Instrument, an issuer is an affiliate of another issuer if

- (a) one of them is the subsidiary of the other, or
- (b) each of them is controlled by the same person.

1.4 Control

In this Instrument, a person controls a second person if

- (a) the first person, directly or indirectly, beneficially owns or exercises control or direction over securities of the second person carrying votes which, if exercised, would entitle the first person to elect a majority of the directors of the second person, unless the first person holds the voting securities only to secure an obligation,
- (b) the second person is a partnership, other than a limited partnership, and the first person holds more than 50% of the interests of the partnership, or
- (c) the second person is a limited partnership and the general partner of the limited partnership is the first person.

1.5 Computation of time

In this Instrument, a period of days is to be computed as beginning on the day following the event that began the period and ending at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the period if that day is a business day or at 11:59 p.m. on the next business day if the last day of the period does not fall on a business day.

1.6 Expiry of bid

A take-over bid or an issuer bid expires at the later of

- (a) the end of the period, including any extension, during which securities may be deposited under the bid, and
- (b) the time at which the offeror becomes obligated by the terms of the bid to take up or reject securities deposited under the bid.

1.7 Convertible securities

In this Instrument,

- (a) a security is deemed to be convertible into a security of another class if, whether or not on conditions, it is or may be convertible into or exchangeable for, or if it carries the right or obligation to acquire, a security of the other class, whether of the same or another issuer, and
- (b) a security that is convertible into a security of another class is deemed to be convertible into a security or securities of each class into which the second-mentioned security may be converted, either directly or through securities of one or more other classes of securities that are themselves convertible.

1.8 Deemed beneficial ownership

- (1) In this Instrument, in determining the beneficial ownership of securities of an offeror or of any person acting jointly or in concert with the offeror, at any given date, the offeror or the person is deemed to have acquired and to be the beneficial owner of a security, including an unissued security, if the offeror or the person
 - (a) is the beneficial owner of a security convertible into the security within 60 days following that date, or
 - (b) has a right or obligation permitting or requiring the offeror or the person, whether or not on conditions, to acquire beneficial ownership of the security within 60 days by a single transaction or a series of linked transactions.
- (2) The number of outstanding securities of a class in respect of an offer to acquire includes securities that are beneficially owned as determined in accordance with subsection (1).
- (3) If 2 or more offerors acting jointly or in concert make one or more offers to acquire securities of a class, the securities subject to the offer or offers to acquire are deemed to be securities subject to the offer to acquire of each offeror for the purpose of determining whether an offeror is making a take-over bid.
- (4) In this section, an offeror is not a beneficial owner of securities solely because there is an agreement, commitment or understanding that a security holder will tender the securities under a take-over bid or an issuer bid, made by the offeror, that is not exempt from Part 2.
- (5) In Québec, for the purposes of this Instrument, a person that beneficially owns securities means a person that owns the securities or that holds securities registered under the name of an intermediary acting as nominee, including a trustee or agent.

1.9 Acting jointly or in concert

- (1) In this Instrument, it is a question of fact as to whether a person is acting jointly or in concert with an offeror and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing,
 - (a) the following are deemed to be acting jointly or in concert with an offeror:
 - (i) a person that, as a result of any agreement, commitment or understanding with the offeror or with any other person acting jointly or in concert with the offeror, acquires or offers to acquire securities of the same class as those subject to the offer to acquire;
 - (ii) an affiliate of the offeror;
 - (b) the following are presumed to be acting jointly or in concert with an offeror:
 - (i) a person that, as a result of any agreement, commitment or understanding with the offeror or with any other person acting jointly or in concert with the offeror, intends to exercise jointly or in concert with the

offeror or with any person acting jointly or in concert with the offeror any voting rights attaching to any securities of the offeree issuer;

- (ii) an associate of the offeror.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a registered dealer acting solely in an agency capacity for the offeror in connection with a bid and not executing principal transactions in the class of securities subject to the offer to acquire or performing services beyond the customary functions of a registered dealer.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, a person is not acting jointly or in concert with an offeror solely because there is an agreement, commitment or understanding that the person will tender securities under a take-over bid or an issuer bid, made by the offeror, that is not exempt from Part 2.

1.10 Application to direct and indirect offers

In this Instrument, a reference to an offer to acquire or to the acquisition or ownership of securities or to control or direction over securities includes a direct or indirect offer to acquire or the direct or indirect acquisition or ownership of securities, or the direct or indirect control or direction over securities, as the case may be.

1.11 Determination of market price

- (1) In this Instrument,
 - (a) the market price of a class of securities for which there is a published market, at any date, is an amount equal to the simple average of the closing price of securities of that class for each of the business days on which there was a closing price in the 20 business days preceding that date,
 - (b) if a published market does not provide a closing price, but provides only the highest and lowest prices of securities traded on a particular day, the market price of the securities, at any date, is an amount equal to the average of the simple averages of the highest and lowest prices for each of the business days on which there were highest and lowest prices in the 20 business days preceding that date, and
 - (c) if there has been trading of securities in a published market for fewer than 10 of the 20 business days preceding the date as of which the market price of the securities is being determined, the market price is the average of the following prices established for each day of the 20 business days preceding that date:
 - (i) the average of the closing bid and ask prices for each day on which there was no trading; and
 - (ii) either the closing price of securities of the class for each day that there has been trading, if the published market provides a closing price, or the average of the highest and lowest prices of securities of that class for

each day that there has been trading, if the published market provides only the highest and lowest prices of securities traded on a particular day

- (2) If there is more than one published market for a security, the market price in paragraphs (1)(a), (b) and (c) must be determined as follows:
- (a) if only one of the published markets is in Canada, the market price must be determined solely by reference to that market;
 - (b) if there is more than one published market in Canada, the market price must be determined solely by reference to the published market in Canada on which the greatest volume of trading in the particular class of securities occurred during the 20 business days preceding the date as of which the market price is being determined;
 - (c) if there is no published market in Canada, the market price must be determined solely by reference to the published market on which the greatest volume of trading in the particular class of securities occurred during the 20 business days preceding the date as of which the market price is being determined.
- (3) Despite subsections (1) and (2) for the purposes of section 4.1, if an offeror acquires securities on a published market, the market price for those securities is the price of the last standard trading unit of securities of that class purchased, before the acquisition by the offeror, by a person who was not acting jointly or in concert with the offeror.

PART 2 BIDS

Division 1 Restrictions on acquisitions or sales

2.1 Definition of “offeror”

In this Division, “offeror” means

- (a) a person making a take-over bid or an issuer bid that is not exempt from Part 2,
- (b) a person acting jointly or in concert with a person referred to in paragraph (a),
- (c) a control person of a person referred to in paragraph (a), or
- (d) a person acting jointly or in concert with a control person referred to in paragraph (c).

2.2 Restrictions on acquisitions during take-over bid

- (1) An offeror must not offer to acquire, or make or enter into an agreement, commitment or understanding to acquire beneficial ownership of any securities of the class that are subject to a take-over bid or securities convertible into securities of that class otherwise

than under the bid on and from the day of the announcement of the offeror's intention to make the bid until the expiry of the bid.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to an agreement between a security holder and the offeror to the effect that the security holder will, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a take-over bid that is not exempt from Part 2, deposit the security holder's securities under the bid.
- (3) Despite subsection (1), an offeror may purchase securities of the class that are subject to a take-over bid and securities convertible into securities of that class beginning on the 3rd business day following the date of the bid until the expiry of the bid if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (a) the intention of the offeror,
 - (i) on the date of the bid, is to make purchases and that intention is stated in the bid circular, or
 - (ii) to make purchases changes after the date of the bid and that intention is stated in a news release issued and filed at least one business day prior to making such purchases;
 - (b) the number of securities beneficially acquired under this subsection does not exceed 5% of the outstanding securities of that class as at the date of the bid;
 - (c) the purchases are made in the normal course on a published market;
 - (d) the offeror issues and files a news release immediately after the close of business of the published market on each day on which securities have been purchased under this subsection disclosing the following information:
 - (i) the name of the purchaser;
 - (ii) if the purchaser is a person referred to in paragraph 2.1(b), (c) or (d), the relationship of the purchaser and the offeror;
 - (iii) the number of securities purchased on the day for which the news release is required;
 - (iv) the highest price paid for the securities on the day for which the news release is required;
 - (v) the aggregate number of securities purchased on the published market during the currency of the bid;
 - (vi) the average price paid for the securities that were purchased on the published market during the currency of the bid; and
 - (vii) the total number of securities owned by the purchaser after giving effect to the purchases that are the subject of the news release;

- (e) no broker acting for the offeror performs services beyond the customary broker's functions in regard to the purchases;
 - (f) no broker acting for the offeror receives more than the usual fees or commissions in regard to the purchases than are charged for comparable services performed by the broker in the normal course;
 - (g) the offeror or any person acting for the offeror does not solicit or arrange for the solicitation of offers to sell securities of the class subject to the bid, except for the solicitation by the offeror or members of the soliciting dealer group under the bid;
 - (h) the seller or any person acting for the seller does not, to the knowledge of the offeror, solicit or arrange for the solicitation of offers to buy securities of the class subject to the bid.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 2.2(3)(b), the acquisition of beneficial ownership of securities that are convertible into securities of the class that is subject to the bid shall be deemed to be an acquisition of the securities as converted.

2.3 Restrictions on acquisitions during issuer bid

- (1) An offeror must not offer to acquire, or make or enter into an agreement, commitment or understanding to acquire, beneficial ownership of any securities of the class that are subject to an issuer bid, or securities that are convertible into securities of that class, otherwise than under the bid on and from the day of the announcement of the offeror's intention to make the bid until the expiry of the bid.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not prevent the offeror from purchasing, redeeming or otherwise acquiring any securities of the class subject to the bid in reliance on an exemption under paragraph 4.6(a), (b) or (c).

2.4 Restrictions on acquisitions before take-over bid

- (1) If, within the period of 90 days immediately preceding a take-over bid, an offeror acquired beneficial ownership of securities of the class subject to the bid in a transaction not generally available on identical terms to holders of that class of securities,
 - (a) the offeror must offer
 - (i) consideration for securities deposited under the bid at least equal to and in the same form as the highest consideration that was paid on a per security basis under any such prior transaction, or
 - (ii) at least the cash equivalent of that consideration, and
 - (b) the offeror must offer to acquire under the bid that percentage of the securities of the class subject to the bid that is at least equal to the highest percentage that the number of securities acquired from a seller in any such prior transaction

was of the total number of securities of that class beneficially owned by that seller at the time of that prior transaction.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a transaction that occurred within 90 days preceding the bid if either of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (a) the transaction is a trade in a security of the issuer that had not been previously issued;
 - (b) the transaction is a trade by or on behalf of the issuer in a previously issued security of that issuer that had been redeemed or purchased by, or donated to, that issuer.

2.5 Restrictions on acquisitions after bid

During the period beginning with the expiry of a take-over bid or an issuer bid and ending at the end of the 20th business day after that, whether or not any securities are taken up under the bid, an offeror must not acquire or offer to acquire beneficial ownership of securities of the class that was subject to the bid except by way of a transaction that is generally available to holders of that class of securities on identical terms.

2.6 Exception

Subsection 2.4(1) and section 2.5 do not apply to purchases made by an offeror in the normal course on a published market if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) no broker acting for the offeror performs services beyond the customary broker's functions in regard to the purchases;
- (b) no broker acting for the offeror receives more than the usual fees or commissions in regard to the purchases than are charged for comparable services performed by the broker in the normal course;
- (c) the offeror or any person acting for the offeror does not solicit or arrange for the solicitation of offers to sell securities of the class subject to the bid, except for the solicitation by the offeror or members of the soliciting dealer group under the bid;
- (d) the seller or any person acting for the seller does not, to the knowledge of the offeror, solicit or arrange for the solicitation of offers to buy securities of the class subject to the bid.

2.7 Restrictions on sales during bid

- (1) An offeror, except under a take-over bid or an issuer bid, must not sell, or make or enter into an agreement, commitment or understanding to sell, any securities of the class subject to the bid, or securities that are convertible into securities of that class, beginning on the day of the announcement of the offeror's intention to make the bid until the expiry of the bid.

- (2) Despite subsection (1), an offeror may, before the expiry of a bid, make or enter into an agreement, commitment or understanding to sell securities that may be taken up by the offeror under the bid, after the expiry of the bid, if the intention to sell is disclosed in the bid circular.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to an offeror under an issuer bid in respect of the issue of securities under a dividend plan, dividend reinvestment plan, employee purchase plan or another similar plan.

Division 2 Making a bid

2.8 Duty to make bid to all security holders

An offeror must make a take-over bid or an issuer bid to all holders of the class of securities subject to the bid who are in the local jurisdiction by sending the bid to

- (a) each holder of that class of securities whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction, and
- (b) each holder of securities that, before the expiry of the deposit period referred to in the bid, are convertible into securities of that class, whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction.

2.9 Commencement of bid

- (1) An offeror must commence a take-over bid by
 - (a) publishing an advertisement containing a brief summary of the take-over bid in at least one major daily newspaper of general and regular paid circulation in the local jurisdiction in English, and in Québec in French or in French and English, or
 - (b) sending the bid to security holders described in section 2.8.
- (2) An offeror must commence an issuer bid by sending the bid to security holders described in section 2.8.

2.10 Offeror's circular

- (1) An offeror making a take-over bid or an issuer bid must prepare and send, either as part of the bid or together with the bid, a take-over bid circular or an issuer bid circular, as the case may be, in the following form:
 - (a) Form 62-104F1 Take-Over Bid Circular, for a take-over bid; or
 - (b) Form 62-104F2 Issuer Bid Circular, for an issuer bid.

- (2) An offeror commencing a take-over bid under paragraph 2.9(1)(a) must,
 - (a) on or before the date of first publication of the advertisement,
 - (i) deliver the bid and the bid circular to the offeree issuer's principal office,
 - (ii) file the bid, the bid circular and the advertisement,
 - (iii) request from the offeree issuer a list of security holders described in section 2.8, and
 - (b) not later than 2 business days after receipt of the list of security holders referred to in subparagraph (a)(iii), send the bid and the bid circular to those security holders.
- (3) An offeror commencing a take-over bid under paragraph 2.9(1)(b) must file the bid and the bid circular and deliver them to the offeree issuer's principal office on the day the bid is sent, or as soon as practicable after that.
- (4) An offeror making an issuer bid must file the bid and the bid circular on the day the bid is sent, or as soon as practicable after that.

2.11 Change in information

- (1) If, before the expiry of a take-over bid or an issuer bid or after the expiry of a bid but before the expiry of all rights to withdraw the securities deposited under the bid, a change has occurred in the information contained in the bid circular or any notice of change or notice of variation that would reasonably be expected to affect the decision of the security holders of the offeree issuer to accept or reject the bid, the offeror must promptly
 - (a) issue and file a news release, and
 - (b) send a notice of the change to every person to whom the bid was required to be sent and whose securities were not taken up before the date of the change.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a change that is not within the control of the offeror or of an affiliate of the offeror unless it is a change in a material fact relating to the securities being offered in exchange for securities of the offeree issuer.
- (3) In this section, a variation in the terms of a bid does not constitute a change in information.
- (4) A notice of change must be in the form of Form 62-104F5 Notice of Change or Notice of Variation.

2.12 Variation of terms

- (1) If there is a variation in the terms of a take-over bid or an issuer bid, including any extension of the period during which securities may be deposited under the bid, and whether or not that variation results from the exercise of any right contained in the bid, the offeror must promptly
 - (a) issue and file a news release, and
 - (b) send a notice of variation to every person to whom the bid was required to be sent under section 2.8 and whose securities were not taken up before the date of the variation.
- (2) A notice of variation must be in the form of Form 62-104F5 Notice of Change or Notice of Variation.
- (3) If there is a variation in the terms of a take-over bid or an issuer bid, the period during which securities may be deposited under the bid must not expire before 10 days after the date of the notice of variation.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (3) do not apply to a variation in the terms of a bid consisting solely of the waiver of a condition in the bid and any extension of the bid resulting from the waiver where the consideration offered for the securities consists solely of cash, but in that case the offeror must promptly issue and file a news release announcing the waiver.
- (5) A variation in the terms of a take-over bid or an issuer bid, other than a variation that is the waiver by the offeror of a condition that is specifically stated in the bid as being waivable at the sole option of the offeror, must not be made after the expiry of the period, including any extension of the period, during which the securities may be deposited under the bid.

2.13 Filing and sending notice of change or notice of variation

A notice of change or notice of variation in respect of a take-over bid or an issuer bid must be filed and, in the case of a take-over bid, delivered to the offeree issuer's principal office, on the day the notice of change or notice of variation is sent to security holders of the offeree issuer, or as soon as practicable after that.

2.14 Change or variation in advertised take-over bid

- (1) If a change or variation occurs to a take-over bid that was commenced by means of an advertisement, and if the offeror has complied with paragraph 2.10(2)(a) but has not yet sent the bid and the bid circular under paragraph 2.10(2)(b), the offeror must
 - (a) publish an advertisement that contains a brief summary of the change or variation in at least one major daily newspaper of general and regular paid circulation in the local jurisdiction in English, and in Québec in French or in French and English,

- (b) concurrently with the date of first publication of the advertisement,
 - (i) file the advertisement, and
 - (ii) file and deliver a notice of change or notice of variation to the offeree issuer's principal office, and
 - (c) subsequently send the bid, the bid circular and the notice of change or notice of variation to the security holders of the offeree issuer before the expiration of the period set out in paragraph 2.10(2)(b).
- (2) If an offeror satisfies the requirements of subsection (1), the notice of change or notice of variation is not required to be filed and delivered under section 2.13.

2.15 Consent of expert – Bid circular

- (1) In this section and section 2.21, an expert includes a notary in Québec, solicitor, auditor, accountant, engineer, geologist or appraiser or any other person whose profession or business gives authority to a report, valuation, statement or opinion made by that person.
- (2) If a report, valuation, statement or opinion of an expert is included in or accompanies a bid circular or any notice of change or notice of variation to the circular, the written consent of the expert to the use of the report, valuation, statement or opinion must be filed concurrently with the bid circular, notice of change or notice of variation.

2.16 Delivery and date of bid documents

- (1) A take-over bid, an issuer bid, a bid circular and every notice of change or notice of variation must be
- (a) mailed by pre-paid mail to the intended recipient, or
 - (b) delivered to the intended recipient by personal delivery, courier or other manner acceptable to the regulator or securities regulatory authority.
- (2) Except for a take-over bid commenced by means of an advertisement in accordance with paragraph 2.9(1)(a), a bid, bid circular, notice of change or notice of variation sent in accordance with this section is deemed to be dated as of the date it was sent to all or substantially all of the persons entitled to receive it.
- (3) If a take-over bid is commenced by means of an advertisement in accordance with paragraph 2.9(1)(a), a bid, bid circular, notice of change or notice of variation is deemed to have been dated as of the date of first publication of the relevant advertisement.

2.17 Duty to prepare and send directors' circular

- (1) If a take-over bid has been made, the board of directors of the offeree issuer must prepare and send, not later than 15 days after the date of the bid, a directors' circular to every person to whom the bid was required to be sent under section 2.8.
- (2) The board of directors of the offeree issuer must evaluate the terms of the take-over bid and, in the directors' circular,
 - (a) must recommend to security holders that they accept or reject the bid and state the reasons for the recommendation,
 - (b) must advise security holders that the board is unable to make, or is not making, a recommendation and state the reasons for being unable to make a recommendation or for not making a recommendation, or
 - (c) must advise security holders that the board is considering whether to make a recommendation to accept or reject the bid, must state the reasons for not making a recommendation in the directors' circular and may advise security holders that they should not deposit their securities under the bid until they receive further communication from the board of directors in accordance with paragraph (a) or (b).
- (3) If paragraph (2)(c) applies, the board of directors must communicate to security holders a recommendation to accept or reject the bid or the decision that it is unable to make, or is not making, a recommendation, together with the reasons for the recommendation or decision, at least 7 days before the scheduled expiry of the period during which securities may be deposited under the bid.
- (4) A directors' circular must be in the form of Form 62-104F3 Directors' Circular.

2.18 Notice of change

- (1) If, before the expiry of a take-over bid or after the expiry of a take-over bid but before the expiry of all rights to withdraw the securities deposited under the bid, a change has occurred in the information contained in a directors' circular or in any notice of change to the directors' circular that would reasonably be expected to affect the decision of the security holders to accept or reject the bid, the board of directors of the offeree issuer must promptly issue and file a news release relating to the change and send a notice of the change to every person to whom the take-over bid was required to be sent disclosing the nature and substance of the change.
- (2) A notice of change must be in the form of Form 62-104F5 Notice of Change or Notice of Variation.

2.19 Filing directors' circular or notice of change

The board of directors of the offeree issuer must concurrently file the directors' circular or a notice of change in relation to it and deliver it to the principal office of the offeror not later than the date on which it is sent to the security holders of the offeree issuer, or as soon as practicable after that date.

2.20 Individual director's or officer's circular

- (1) An individual director or officer may recommend acceptance or rejection of a take-over bid if the director or officer sends with the recommendation a separate director's or officer's circular to every person to whom the take-over bid was required to be sent under section 2.8.
- (2) If, before the expiry of a take-over bid or after the expiry of a take-over bid but before the expiry of all rights to withdraw the securities deposited under the bid, a change has occurred in the information contained in a director's or officer's circular or any notice of change in relation to it that would reasonably be expected to affect the decision of the security holders to accept or reject the bid, other than a change that is not within the control of the director or officer, as the case may be, that director or officer must promptly send a notice of change to every person to whom the take-over bid was required to be sent under section 2.8.
- (3) A director's or officer's circular must be in the form of Form 62-104F4 Director's or Officer's Circular.
- (4) A director's or officer's obligation to send a circular under subsection (1) or to send a notice of change under subsection (2) may be satisfied by sending the circular or the notice of change, as the case may be, to the board of directors of the offeree issuer.
- (5) If a director or officer sends to the board of directors of the offeree issuer a circular under subsection (1) or a notice of change under subsection (2), the board, at the offeree issuer's expense, must promptly send a copy of the circular or notice to every person to whom the take-over bid was required to be sent under section 2.8.
- (6) The board of directors of the offeree issuer or the individual director or officer, as the case may be, must concurrently file the director's or officer's circular or a notice of change in relation to it and send it to the principal office of the offeror not later than the date on which it is sent to the security holders of the offeree issuer, or as soon as practicable after that.
- (7) A notice of change in relation to a director's or officer's circular must be in the form of Form 62-104F5 Notice of Change or Notice of Variation.

2.21 Consent of expert – Directors' circular/individual director's or officer's circular

If a report, valuation, statement or opinion of an expert is included in or accompanies a directors' circular, an individual director's or officer's circular or any notice of change to either

circular, the written consent of the expert to the use of the report, valuation, statement or opinion must be filed concurrently with the circular or notice.

2.22 Delivery and date of offeree issuer's documents

- (1) A directors' circular, an individual director's or officer's circular and every notice of change must be
 - (a) mailed by pre-paid mail to the intended recipient, or
 - (b) delivered to the intended recipient by personal delivery, courier or other manner acceptable to the regulator or securities regulatory authority.
- (2) Any circular or notice sent in accordance with this section is deemed to be dated as of the date it was sent to all or substantially all of the persons entitled to receive it.

Division 4 Offeror's obligations

2.23 Consideration

- (1) If a take-over bid or an issuer bid is made, all holders of the same class of securities must be offered identical consideration.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not prohibit an offeror from offering an identical choice of consideration to all holders of the same class of securities.
- (3) If a variation in the terms of a take-over bid or an issuer bid before the expiry of the bid increases the value of the consideration offered for the securities subject to the bid, the offeror must pay that increased consideration to each person whose securities are taken up under the bid, whether or not the securities were taken up by the offeror before the variation of the bid.

2.24 Prohibition against collateral agreements

If a person makes or intends to make a take-over bid or an issuer bid, the person or any person acting jointly or in concert with that person must not enter into any collateral agreement, commitment or understanding that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of providing a security holder of the offeree issuer with consideration of greater value than that offered to the other security holders of the same class of securities.

2.25 Collateral agreements – Exception

- (1) Section 2.24 does not apply to an employment compensation arrangement, severance arrangement or other employment benefit arrangement that provides
 - (a) an enhancement of employee benefits resulting from participation by the security holder of the offeree issuer in a group plan, other than an incentive plan, for

employees of a successor to the business of the offeree issuer, if the benefits provided by the group plan are generally provided to employees of the successor to the business of the offeree issuer who hold positions of a similar nature to the position held by the security holder, or

- (b) a benefit not described in paragraph (a) that is received solely in connection with the security holder's services as an employee, director or consultant of the offeree issuer, of an affiliated entity of the offeree issuer, or of a successor to the business of the offeree issuer, if
 - (i) at the time the bid is publicly announced, the security holder and its associates beneficially own or exercise control or direction over less than 1% of the outstanding securities of each class of securities of the offeree issuer subject to the bid, or
 - (ii) an independent committee of directors of the offeree issuer, acting in good faith, has determined that
 - (A) the value of the benefit, net of any offsetting costs to the security holder, is less than 5% of the amount referred to in paragraph 3(a), or
 - (B) the security holder is providing at least equivalent value in exchange for the benefit.
- (2) In order to rely on an exception under paragraph (1)(b) the following conditions must be satisfied:
 - (a) the benefit is not conferred for the purpose, in whole or in part, of increasing the amount of the consideration paid to the security holder for securities deposited under the bid or providing an incentive to deposit under the bid;
 - (b) the conferring of the benefit is not, by its terms, conditional on the security holder supporting the bid in any manner; and
 - (c) full particulars of the benefit are disclosed in the issuer bid circular or, in the case of a take-over bid, in the take-over bid circular or directors' circular.
- (3) In order to rely on an exception under subparagraph 1(b)(ii) the following conditions must be satisfied:
 - (a) the security holder receiving the benefit has disclosed to the independent committee the amount of consideration that the security holder expects it will be beneficially entitled to receive under the terms of the bid in exchange for the securities beneficially owned by the security holder; and
 - (b) the determination of the independent committee under subparagraph 1(b)(ii) is disclosed in the issuer bid circular or, in the case of a take-over bid, in the take-over bid circular or directors' circular.

- (4) In this section, in determining the beneficial ownership of securities of a holder at a given date, any security or right or obligation permitting or requiring the security holder or any person acting jointly or in concert with the security holder, whether or not on conditions, to acquire a security, including an unissued security, of a particular class within 60 days by a single transaction or a series of linked transactions is deemed to be a security of a particular class.

2.26 Proportionate take up and payment

- (1) If a take-over bid or an issuer bid is made for less than all of the class of securities subject to the bid and a greater number of securities is deposited under the bid than the offeror is bound or willing to acquire under the bid, the offeror must take up and pay for the securities proportionately, disregarding fractions, according to the number of securities deposited by each security holder.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not prohibit an offeror from acquiring securities under the terms of an issuer bid that, if not acquired, would constitute less than a standard trading unit for the security holder.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to securities deposited under the terms of an issuer bid by security holders who
- (a) are entitled to elect a minimum price per security, within a range of prices, at which they are willing to sell their securities under the bid, and
 - (b) select a minimum price which is higher than the price that the offeror pays for securities under the bid.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1), any securities acquired in a pre-bid transaction to which subsection 2.4(1) applies are deemed to have been deposited under the take-over bid by the person who was the seller in the pre-bid transaction.

2.27 Financing arrangements

- (1) If a take-over bid or an issuer bid provides that the consideration for the securities deposited under the bid is to be paid in cash or partly in cash, the offeror must make adequate arrangements before the bid to ensure that the required funds are available to make full payment for the securities that the offeror has offered to acquire.
- (2) The financing arrangements required to be made under subsection (1) may be subject to conditions if, at the time the take-over bid or the issuer bid is commenced, the offeror reasonably believes the possibility to be remote that, if the conditions of the bid are satisfied or waived, the offeror will be unable to pay for the securities deposited under the bid due to a financing condition not being satisfied.

2.28 Minimum deposit period

An offeror must allow securities to be deposited under a take-over bid or an issuer bid for at least 35 days from the date of the bid.

2.29 Prohibition on take up

An offeror must not take up securities deposited under a take-over bid or an issuer bid until the expiration of 35 days from the date of the bid.

2.30 Withdrawal of securities

- (1) A security holder may withdraw securities deposited under a take-over bid or an issuer bid
 - (a) at any time before the securities have been taken up by the offeror,
 - (b) at any time before the expiration of 10 days from the date of a notice of change under section 2.11 or a notice of variation under section 2.12, or
 - (c) if the securities have not been paid for by the offeror within 3 business days after the securities have been taken up.
- (2) The right of withdrawal under paragraph (1)(b) does not apply if
 - (a) the securities have been taken up by the offeror before the date of the notice of change or notice of variation, or
 - (b) one or both of the following circumstances occur:
 - (i) a variation in the terms of the bid consisting solely of an increase in consideration offered for the securities and an extension of the time for deposit to not later than 10 days after the date of the notice of variation;
 - (ii) a variation in the terms of the bid consisting solely of the waiver of one or more of the conditions of the bid where the consideration offered for the securities subject to the take-over bid or the issuer bid consists solely of cash.
- (3) The withdrawal of any securities under subsection (1) is made by sending a written notice to the depository designated in the bid circular and becomes effective on its receipt by the depository.
- (4) If notice is given in accordance with subsection (3), the offeror must promptly return the securities to the security holder.

2.31 Effect of market purchases

If an offeror purchases securities as permitted by subsection 2.2(3), those purchased securities must be counted in determining whether a condition as to the minimum number of securities to be deposited under a take-over bid has been fulfilled, but must not reduce the number of securities the offeror is bound to take up under the bid.

2.32 Obligation to take up and pay for deposited securities

- (1) If all the terms and conditions of a take-over bid or an issuer bid have been complied with or waived, the offeror must take up and pay for securities deposited under the bid not later than 10 days after the expiry of the bid or at the time required by subsection (2) or (3), whichever is earliest.
- (2) An offeror must pay for any securities taken up under a take-over bid or an issuer bid as soon as possible, and in any event not later than 3 business days after the securities deposited under the bid are taken up.
- (3) Securities deposited under a take-over bid or an issuer bid subsequent to the date on which the offeror first takes up securities deposited under the bid must be taken up and paid for by the offeror not later than 10 days after the deposit of the securities.
- (4) An offeror may not extend its take-over bid or issuer bid if all the terms and conditions of the bid have been complied with or waived, unless the offeror first takes up all securities deposited under the bid and not withdrawn.
- (5) Despite subsections (3) and (4), if a take-over bid or an issuer bid is made for less than all of the class of securities subject to the bid, an offeror is only required to take up, by the times specified in those subsections, the maximum number of securities that the offeror can take up without contravening section 2.23 or section 2.26 at the expiry of the bid.
- (6) Despite subsection (4), if the offeror waives any terms or conditions of a take-over bid or an issuer bid and extends the bid in circumstances where the rights of withdrawal conferred by paragraph 2.30(1)(b) are applicable, the bid must be extended without the offeror first taking up the securities which are subject to the rights of withdrawal.

2.33 Return of deposited securities

If, following the expiry of a take-over bid or an issuer bid, an offeror knows that it will not take up securities deposited under the bid, the offeror must promptly issue and file a news release to that effect and return the securities to the security holders.

2.34 News release on expiry of bid

If all the terms and conditions of a take-over bid or an issuer bid have been complied with or waived, the offeror must issue and file a news release to that effect promptly after the expiry of the bid, and the news release must disclose

- (a) the approximate number of securities deposited, and
- (b) the approximate number that will be taken up.

PART 3 GENERAL

3.1 Language of bid documents

- (1) A person must file a document required under this Instrument in French or English.
- (2) In Québec, a take-over bid circular, issuer bid circular, directors' circular, director's or officer's circular, notice of change or notice of variation required under Part 2 must be in French or in French and English.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to an exempt take-over bid made under section 4.4, or an exempt issuer bid made under section 4.10.
- (4) Despite subsection (1), if a person files a document only in French or English, but delivers to a security holder a version of the document in the other language, the person must file that other version not later than when it is first delivered to the security holder.

3.2 Filing of documents

- (1) An offeror making a take-over bid under Part 2 must file copies of the following documents, and any amendments to those documents:
 - (a) any agreement between the offeror and a security holder of the offeree issuer relating to the take-over bid, including any agreement to the effect that the security holder will deposit its securities to the take-over bid made by the offeror;
 - (b) any agreement between the offeror and directors or officers of an offeree issuer relating to the take-over bid;
 - (c) any agreement between the offeror and an offeree issuer relating to the take-over bid;
 - (d) any other agreement of which the offeror is aware that could affect control of the offeree issuer, including any agreement with change of control provisions, any security holder agreement or any voting trust agreement, that the offeror has access to and can reasonably be regarded as material to a security holder in deciding whether to deposit securities under the bid.
- (2) An offeree issuer whose securities are the subject of a take-over bid under Part 2 must file copies of any agreement of which the offeree issuer is aware that could affect control of the offeree issuer, including an agreement with change of control provisions, a security holder agreement or a voting trust agreement, that the offeree issuer has access to and can reasonably be regarded as material to a security holder in deciding whether to deposit securities under the bid.

- (3) The documents required to be filed
 - (a) under subsection (1) must be filed on the day the take-over bid circular is filed under section 2.10, and
 - (b) under subsection (2) must be filed on the day that the directors' circular is filed under section 2.19.
- (4) If an agreement required to be filed under subsection (1) or (2) is entered into after a take-over bid circular referred to in subsection (1) or the directors' circular referred to in subsection (2) is filed, the agreement must be filed promptly but not later than 2 business days from the date that the agreement was entered into.
- (5) If a document required to be filed under subsection (1) or (2) has already been filed in electronic format under National Instrument 13-101 System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (SEDAR), the requirement to file the document may be satisfied by filing a letter describing the document and stating the filing date and project number.
- (6) A document dated before March 30, 2004 that is required to be filed under subsection (1) or (2) may be filed in paper format if it does not exist in an acceptable electronic format under National Instrument 13-101 System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (SEDAR).
- (7) A provision in a document required to be filed under subsection (1) or (2) may be omitted or marked so as to be unreadable if
 - (a) the filer has reasonable grounds to believe that disclosure of the provision would be seriously prejudicial to the interests of the filer or would violate confidentiality provisions,
 - (b) the provision does not contain information relating to the filer or its securities that would be necessary to understand the document, and
 - (c) in the copy of the document filed by the filer, the filer includes a brief description of the information that has been omitted or marked so as to be unreadable immediately after the provision that has been omitted or marked.

3.3 Certification of bid circulars

- (1) A bid circular or a notice of change or notice of variation in respect of the bid circular required under this Instrument must contain a certificate of the offeror in the required form signed
 - (a) if the offeror is a person other than an individual, by each of the following:
 - (i) the chief executive officer or, in the case of a person that does not have a chief executive officer, the individual who performs similar functions to a chief executive officer,

- (ii) the chief financial officer or, in the case of a person that does not have a chief financial officer, the individual who performs similar functions to a chief financial officer, and
 - (iii) 2 directors, other than the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer, who are duly authorized by the board of directors of that person to sign on behalf of the board of directors, or
- (b) if the offeror is an individual, by the individual.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), if the offeror has fewer than 4 directors and officers, the certificate must be signed by all of the directors and officers.
- (3) A directors' circular or a notice of change in respect of a directors' circular required under this Instrument must contain a certificate of the board of directors of the offeree issuer in the required form signed by 2 directors who are duly authorized by the board of directors of that person to sign on behalf of the board of directors.
- (4) Every person that files and sends an individual director's or officer's circular or a notice of change in respect of an individual director's or officer's circular under this Instrument must ensure that the circular or notice contains a certificate in the required form and signed by or on behalf of the director or officer sending the circular or notice.
- (5) If the regulator or securities regulatory authority is satisfied that either or both of the chief executive officer or chief financial officer cannot sign a certificate required under this Instrument, the regulator or securities regulatory authority may accept a certificate signed by another officer or director.

3.4 Obligation to provide security holder list

- (1) If a person makes or proposes to make a take-over bid under Part 2 for a class of securities of an issuer that is not otherwise required by law to provide a list of its security holders to the person, the issuer must provide a list of holders of that class of securities, and any known holder of an option or right to acquire securities of that class, to enable the person to carry out the bid in compliance with this Instrument.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), section 21 of the *Canada Business Corporations Act* applies with necessary modifications to the person making or proposing to make the take-over bid and to the issuer, except that the affidavit that accompanies the request for the list of security holders must state that the list will not be used except in connection with a bid made under Part 2 for securities of the issuer.

PART 4 EXEMPTIONS

Division 1 Exempt take-over bids

4.1 Normal course purchase exemption

A take-over bid is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the bid is for not more than 5% of the outstanding securities of a class of securities of the offeree issuer;
- (b) the aggregate number of securities acquired in reliance on this exemption by the offeror and any person acting jointly or in concert with the offeror within any period of 12 months, when aggregated with acquisitions otherwise made by the offeror and any person acting jointly or in concert with the offeror within the same 12-month period, other than under a bid that is subject to Part 2, does not exceed 5% of the securities of that class outstanding at the beginning of the 12-month period;
- (c) there is a published market for the class of securities that are the subject of the bid;
- (d) the value of the consideration paid for any of the securities acquired is not in excess of the market price at the date of acquisition, as determined in accordance with section 1.11, plus reasonable brokerage fees or commissions actually paid.

4.2 Private agreement exemption

(1) A take-over bid is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) purchases are made from not more than 5 persons in the aggregate, including persons located outside the local jurisdiction;
- (b) the bid is not made generally to security holders of the class of securities that is the subject of the bid, so long as there are more than 5 security holders of the class;
- (c) if there is a published market for the securities acquired, the value of the consideration paid for any of the securities, including brokerage fees or commissions, is not greater than 115% of the market price of the securities at the date of the bid as determined in accordance with section 1.11;
- (d) if there is no published market for the securities acquired, there is a reasonable basis for determining that the value of the consideration paid for any of the securities is not greater than 115% of the value of the securities.

(2) In subsection (1), if an offeror makes an offer to acquire securities from a person and the offeror knows or ought to know after reasonable enquiry that

- (a) the person acquired the securities in order that the offeror might make use of the exemption under subsection (1), then each person from whom those securities were acquired must be included in the determination of the number of persons to whom an offer to acquire has been made, or
 - (b) the person from whom the acquisition is being made is acting as a nominee, agent, trustee, executor, administrator or other legal representative for one or more other persons having a direct beneficial interest in those securities, then each of those other persons must be included in the determination of the number of persons to whom an offer to acquire has been made.
- (3) Despite paragraph (2)(b), a trust or estate is to be considered a single security holder in the determination of the number of persons to whom an offer to acquire has been made if
- (a) an inter vivos trust has been established by a single settlor, or
 - (b) an estate has not vested in all persons who are beneficially entitled to it.

4.3 Non-reporting issuer exemption

A take-over bid is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the offeree issuer is not a reporting issuer;
- (b) there is no published market for the securities that are the subject of the bid;
- (c) the number of security holders of that class of securities at the commencement of the bid is not more than 50, exclusive of holders who
 - (i) are in the employment of the offeree issuer or an affiliate of the offeree issuer, or
 - (ii) were formerly in the employment of the offeree issuer or in the employment of an entity that was an affiliate of the offeree issuer at the time of that employment, and who while in that employment were, and have continued after that employment to be, security holders of the offeree issuer.

4.4 Foreign take-over bid exemption

A take-over bid is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in Canada hold less than 10% of the outstanding securities of the class subject to the bid at the commencement of the bid;

- (b) the offeror reasonably believes that security holders in Canada beneficially own less than 10% of the outstanding securities of the class subject to the bid at the commencement of the bid;
- (c) the published market on which the greatest volume of trading in securities of that class occurred during the 12 months immediately preceding the commencement of the bid was not in Canada;
- (d) security holders in the local jurisdiction are entitled to participate in the bid on terms at least as favourable as the terms that apply to the general body of security holders of the same class;
- (e) at the same time as material relating to the bid is sent by or on behalf of the offeror to security holders of the class that is subject to the bid, the material is filed and sent to security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction;
- (f) if the bid materials referred to in paragraph (e) are not in English, a brief summary of the key terms of the bid prepared in English, and in Québec in French or French and English, is filed and sent to security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction at the same time as the bid materials are filed and sent;
- (g) if no material relating to the bid is sent by or on behalf of the offeror to security holders of the class that is subject to the bid but a notice or advertisement of the bid is published by or on behalf of the offeror in the jurisdiction where the offeree issuer is incorporated or organized, an advertisement of the bid specifying where and how security holders may obtain a copy of, or access to, the bid documents is filed and published in English, and in Québec in French or French and English, in at least one major daily newspaper of general and regular paid circulation in the local jurisdiction.

4.5 *De minimis* exemption

A take-over bid is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the number of beneficial owners of securities of the class subject to the bid in the local jurisdiction is fewer than 50;
- (b) the securities held by the beneficial owners referred to in paragraph (a) constitute, in aggregate, less than 2% of the outstanding securities of that class;
- (c) security holders in the local jurisdiction are entitled to participate in the bid on terms at least as favourable as the terms that apply to the general body of security holders of the same class;
- (d) at the same time as material relating to the bid is sent by or on behalf of the offeror to security holders of the class that is subject to the bid, the material is filed and sent to security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction.

4.6 Issuer acquisition or redemption exemption

An issuer bid for a class of securities is exempt from Part 2 if any of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the securities are purchased, redeemed or otherwise acquired in accordance with the terms and conditions attaching to the class of securities that permit the purchase, redemption or acquisition of the securities by the issuer without the prior agreement of the owners of the securities, or the securities are acquired to meet sinking fund or purchase fund requirements;
- (b) the purchase, redemption or other acquisition is required by the terms and conditions attaching to the class of securities or by the statute under which the issuer was incorporated, organized or continued;
- (c) the terms and conditions attaching to the class of securities contain a right of the owner to require the issuer of the securities to redeem, repurchase, or otherwise acquire the securities, and the securities are acquired under the exercise of the right.

4.7 Employee, executive officer, director and consultant exemption

An issuer bid is exempt from Part 2 if the securities are acquired from a current or former employee, executive officer, director or consultant of the issuer or of an affiliate of the issuer and, if there is a published market in respect of the securities,

- (a) the value of the consideration paid for any of the securities acquired is not greater than the market price of the securities at the date of the acquisition, determined in accordance with section 1.11, and
- (b) the aggregate number of securities or, in the case of convertible debt securities, the aggregate principal amount of securities acquired by the issuer within any period of 12 months in reliance on the exemption provided by this paragraph does not exceed 5% of the securities of that class outstanding at the beginning of the 12-month period.

4.8 Normal course issuer bid exemptions

- (1) In this section, “designated exchange” means the Toronto Stock Exchange, the TSX Venture Exchange or other exchange recognized or designated by the securities regulatory authorities for the purpose of this Instrument.

(1.1) Despite subsection (1), in a CMR Jurisdiction, Aequitas NEO Exchange Inc. is also a designated exchange.

- (2) An issuer bid that is made in the normal course through the facilities of a designated exchange is exempt from Part 2 if the bid is made in accordance with the bylaws, rules, regulations and policies of that exchange.
- (3) An issuer bid that is made in the normal course on a published market, other than a designated exchange, is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (a) the bid is for not more than 5% of the outstanding securities of a class of securities of the issuer;
 - (b) the aggregate number of securities or, in the case of convertible debt securities, the aggregate principal amount of securities acquired in reliance on this exemption by the issuer and any person acting jointly or in concert with the issuer within any 12-month period does not exceed 5% of the securities of that class outstanding at the beginning of the 12-month period;
 - (c) the value of the consideration paid for any of the securities acquired is not in excess of the market price at the date of acquisition as determined in accordance with section 1.11, plus reasonable brokerage fees or commissions actually paid.
- (4) An issuer making a bid under subsection (2) must promptly file any news release required to be issued by the designated exchange.
- (5) An issuer making a bid under subsection (3) must issue and file, at least 5 days before the commencement of the bid, a news release containing the following information:
 - (a) the class and number of securities or principal amount of debt securities sought;
 - (b) the dates, if known, on which the issuer bid will commence and expire;
 - (c) the value, in Canadian dollars, of the consideration offered per security;
 - (d) the manner in which the securities will be acquired; and
 - (e) the reasons for the issuer bid.

4.9 Non-reporting issuer exemption

An issuer bid is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the issuer is not a reporting issuer;
- (b) there is no published market for the securities that are the subject of the bid;
- (c) the number of security holders of that class of securities at the commencement of the bid is not more than 50, exclusive of holders who
 - (i) are in the employment of the issuer or an affiliate of the issuer, or

- (ii) were formerly in the employment of the issuer or in the employment of an entity that was an affiliate of the issuer at the time of that employment, and who while in that employment were, and have continued after the employment to be, security holders of the issuer.

4.10 Foreign issuer bid exemption

An issuer bid is exempt from Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in Canada hold less than 10% of the outstanding securities of the class subject to the bid at the commencement of the bid;
- (b) the offeror reasonably believes that security holders in Canada beneficially own less than 10% of the outstanding securities of the class subject to the bid at the commencement of the bid;
- (c) the published market on which the greatest volume of trading in securities of that class occurred during the 12 months immediately preceding the commencement of the bid was not in Canada;
- (d) security holders in the local jurisdiction are entitled to participate in the bid on terms at least as favourable as the terms that apply to the general body of security holders of the same class;
- (e) at the same time as material relating to the bid is sent by or on behalf of the offeror to security holders of the class that is subject to the bid, the material is filed and sent to security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction;
- (f) if the bid materials referred to in paragraph (e) are not in English, a brief summary of the key terms of the bid prepared in English, and in Québec in French or French and English, is filed and sent to security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction at the same time as the bid materials are filed and sent;
- (g) if no material relating to the bid is sent by or on behalf of the offeror to security holders of the class that is subject to the bid but a notice or advertisement of the bid is published by or on behalf of the offeror in the jurisdiction where the offeree issuer is incorporated or organized, an advertisement of the bid specifying where and how security holders may obtain a copy of, or access to, the bid documents is filed and published in English, and in Québec in French or French and English, in at least one major daily newspaper of general and regular paid circulation in the local jurisdiction.

4.11 De minimis exemption

An issuer bid is exempt from the requirements of Part 2 if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the number of beneficial owners of the class of securities subject to the bid in the local jurisdiction is fewer than 50;
- (b) the securities held by the beneficial owners referred to in paragraph (a) constitute, in aggregate, less than 2% of the outstanding securities of that class;
- (c) security holders in the local jurisdiction are entitled to participate in the bid on terms at least as favourable as the terms that apply to the general body of security holders of the same class;
- (d) at the same time as material relating to the bid is sent by or on behalf of the offeror to security holders of the class that is subject to the bid, the material is filed and sent to security holders whose last address as shown on the books of the offeree issuer is in the local jurisdiction.

PART 5 REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ACQUISITIONS

5.1 Definitions

In this Part,

- (a) “acquiror” means a person who acquires a security, other than by way of a take-over bid or an issuer bid made in compliance with Part 2, and
- (b) “acquiror’s securities” means securities of an offeree issuer beneficially owned, or over which control or direction is exercised, on the date of an offer to acquire, by an acquiror or any person acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror.

5.2 Early warning

- (1) Every acquiror who acquires beneficial ownership of, or control or direction over, voting or equity securities of any class of a reporting issuer or securities convertible into voting or equity securities of any class of a reporting issuer that, together with the acquiror’s securities of that class, would constitute 10% or more of the outstanding securities of that class, must
 - (a) promptly issue and file a news release containing the information required by section 3.1 of National Instrument 62-103 *The Early Warning System and Related Take-Over Bid and Insider Reporting Issues*, and
 - (b) within 2 business days from the day of the acquisition, file a report containing the information required by section 3.1 of National Instrument 62-103 *The Early Warning System and Related Take-Over Bid and Insider Reporting Issues*.

- (2) An acquiror must issue an additional news release and file a report in accordance with subsection (1) each time any of the following events occur:
- (a) the acquiror or any person acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror acquires beneficial ownership of, or control or direction over,
 - (i) an additional 2% or more of the outstanding securities of the class of securities that was the subject of the most recent report required to be filed by the acquiror under this section, or
 - (ii) securities convertible into an additional 2% or more of the outstanding securities referred to in subparagraph (i);
 - (b) there is a change in a material fact contained in the report required under subsection (1) or paragraph (a) of this subsection.
- (3) During the period beginning on the occurrence of an event in respect of which a report or further report is required to be filed under this section and ending on the expiry of one business day after the date that the report or further report is filed, the acquiror required to file the report or any person acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror must not acquire or offer to acquire beneficial ownership of any securities of the class in respect of which the report or further report is required to be filed or any securities convertible into securities of that class.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not apply to an acquiror that has beneficial ownership of, or control or direction over, securities that, together with the acquiror's securities of that class, constitute 20% or more of the outstanding securities of that class.

5.3 Acquisitions during bid

- (1) If, after a take-over bid or an issuer bid has been made under Part 2 for voting or equity securities of a reporting issuer and before the expiry of the bid, an acquiror acquires beneficial ownership of, or control or direction over, securities of the class subject to the bid which, when added to the acquiror's securities of that class, constitute 5% or more of the outstanding securities of that class, the acquiror must, before the opening of trading on the next business day, issue and file a news release containing the information required by subsection (3).
- (2) An acquiror must issue and file an additional news release in accordance with subsection (3) before the opening of trading on the next business day each time the acquirer, or any person acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror, acquires beneficial ownership of, or control or direction over, in aggregate, an additional 2% or more of the outstanding securities of the class of securities that was the subject of the most recent news release required to be filed by the acquiror under this section.
- (3) A news release or further news release required under subsection (1) or (2) must set out
- (a) the name of the acquiror,

- (b) the number of securities of the offeree issuer that were beneficially acquired, or over which control or direction was acquired, in the transaction that gave rise to the requirement under subsection (1) or (2) to issue the news release,
- (c) the number of securities and the percentage of outstanding securities of the offeree issuer that the acquiror and all persons acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror, have beneficial ownership of, or control or direction over, immediately after the acquisition described in paragraph (b),
- (d) the number of securities of the offeree issuer that were beneficially acquired, or over which control or direction was acquired, by the acquiror and all persons acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror, since the commencement of the bid,
- (e) the name of the market in which the acquisition described in paragraph (b) took place, and
- (f) the purpose of the acquiror and all persons acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror in making the acquisition described in paragraph (b), including any intention of the acquiror and all persons acting jointly or in concert with the acquiror to increase the beneficial ownership of, or control or direction over, any of the securities of the offeree issuer.

5.4 Duplicate news release not required

If the facts in respect of which a news release is required to be filed under sections 5.2 and 5.3 are identical, a news release is required only under the provision requiring the earlier news release.

5.5 Copies of news release and report

An acquiror that files a news release or report under sections 5.2 or 5.3 must promptly send a copy of each filing to the reporting issuer.

PART 6 EXEMPTIONS

6.1 Exemption – General

The regulator or the securities regulatory authority may, under the statute referred to in Appendix B of National Instrument 14-101 *Definitions* opposite the name of the local jurisdiction, grant an exemption to this Instrument.

6.2 Exemption – Collateral benefit

The regulator or the securities regulatory authority may decide for the purposes of section 2.24 that an agreement, commitment or understanding with a selling security holder is made for reasons other than to increase the value of the consideration paid to a selling security holder for

the securities of the selling security holder and that the agreement, commitment or understanding may be entered into despite that section.

PART 7 TRANSITION AND COMING INTO FORCE

7.1 Transition

~~The take-over bid or issuer bid provisions in securities legislation that were in force immediately before the effective date of this Instrument, continue to apply in respect of every take-over bid and issuer bid commenced before the effective date of this Instrument.~~ [Intentionally Blank]

7.2 Coming into force

~~This Instrument comes into force on February 1, 2008.~~ [Intentionally Blank]