



western
COPPER AND GOLD

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

A. PURPOSE

The Board of Directors of the Corporation has an overall responsibility to oversee the affairs of the Corporation for the benefit of the shareholders. The Committee is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities. The Committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- review the effectiveness of the overall process of identifying and addressing material, financial-related business risk and the adequacy of the related disclosure;
- monitor the integrity of the Corporation's financial reporting process and systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting and legal compliance;
- monitor the independence and the performance of the Corporation's external auditors;
- provide an avenue of communications among the external auditors, management and the Board of Directors;
- encourage adherence to, and continuous improvement of, the Corporation's policies, procedures and practices relating to financial matters at all levels; and
- maintain an effective complaints procedure.

B. COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS

The Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three or more directors, as determined by the Board, each of whom shall meet the independence requirements of the relevant securities exchanges and regulatory agencies as may apply from time to time. Each member will be independent of management and free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment. All members of the Committee must be financially literate. Financially literate means that the member 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.

The Committee members shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting following each annual shareholders' meeting. If the Committee Chair is not designated by the Board, the members of the Committee may designate a Chair by majority vote of the Committee membership.

The Committee shall meet at least four times annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The Committee Chair shall prepare and/or approve an agenda in advance of each meeting. The Committee meetings may be held in person, by telephone conference or by video conference. A majority of the members of the Committee present in person, by teleconferencing or by videoconferencing will constitute a quorum.

The Committee may invite the Corporation's external auditors, the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), and such other persons as deemed appropriate by the Committee, to attend meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall meet at least annually with management and the external auditors to discuss any matters that the Committee or each of these groups believes should be discussed. In addition, a portion of each Committee meeting shall be held, in camera, without any member of management being present.

C. POWER AND AUTHORITY

The Committee shall have:

1. the power to conduct or authorize investigations into any matter within the scope of its responsibilities;
2. the right to engage independent legal, accounting or other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties and the right to set the compensation for any advisors employed by the Committee;
3. the right at any time and without restriction to communicate directly with the CFO, other members of management who have responsibility for the audit process and external auditors; and
4. such other powers and duties as may be delegated to it from time to time by the Board.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES - DETAIL

Review Procedures

The Committee shall:

1. review with the external auditors, in advance of the audit, the audit process and standards, as well as regulatory or Corporation-initiated changes in accounting practices and policies and the financial impact thereof, and selection or application of appropriate accounting principles;
2. review with the external auditors and, if necessary, legal counsel, any litigation, claim or contingency, including tax assessments, that could have a material effect upon the financial position of the Corporation and the manner in which these matters are being disclosed in the financial statements; the appropriateness and disclosure of any off-balance sheet matters; and disclosure of related-party transactions;
3. meet at least annually with the external auditors separately from management to review the integrity of the Corporation's financial reporting processes, including the clarity of financial disclosure and the degree of conservatism or aggressiveness of the accounting policies and estimates, performance of internal audit management, any significant disagreements or difficulties in obtaining information, adequacy of internal controls over financial reporting and the degree of compliance of the Corporation with prior recommendations of the external auditors. The Committee shall review with management any matters raised by the external auditors and direct management to implement such changes as the Committee considers appropriate, subject to any required approvals of the Board arising out of the review;
4. discuss with management significant financial or other risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor, control and report such exposures;
5. review the Corporation's annual audited financial statements and management discussion and analysis prior to public disclosure and make recommendations to the Board respecting approval of the audited financial statements;

6. review with management, the Corporation's interim financial results and management discussion and analysis prior to public disclosure. Discuss any significant changes to the Corporation's accounting principles and any items required to be communicated by the external auditors. If the statements are to be reviewed by the auditors, the Committee shall consult with the auditors as required during the process. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Board respecting approval of the interim financial statements or, if authorized to do so by the Board, approve the interim statements and MD&A; and
7. periodically assess the adequacy of the disclosure policy and procedures in place including procedures for the review of the Corporation's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation's financial statements, other than the public disclosure of the statements themselves, and all FOFI, and satisfy itself that those procedures are satisfactory. If the procedures are not considered satisfactory, the Committee should work with management to revise the procedures appropriately.

External auditors

1. The external auditors shall report and are accountable directly to the Committee. The Committee shall at least annually review the independence and performance of the external auditors. It shall recommend to the Board of Directors the external auditors to be approved at a shareholders' meeting and recommend to the Board any discharge of auditors when circumstances warrant. If the auditors are not to be reappointed, the Committee shall select and recommend a suitable alternative.
2. The Committee is 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.
3. The Committee is responsible for approving the fees and other significant compensation to be paid to the external auditors, and pre-approving, subject to ratification by the Board, any non-audit services that the auditor may provide. The Committee may delegate certain pre-approval functions for non-audit services to one or more independent members of its Committee if it first adopts specific policies and procedures respecting same and provided such decisions are presented to the full Committee for approval at its next meeting.
4. On an annual basis, the Committee should review and discuss with the external auditors all significant relationships they have with the Corporation that could impair the auditor's independence.
5. The Committee shall 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 Corporation.
6. The Committee shall obtain from the external auditors confirmation that the external auditors are a 'participating audit' firm for the purpose of National Instrument 52-108 *Auditor Oversight* and are in compliance with governing regulations.

E. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - GENERAL

The Committee shall:

1. on at least an annual basis, review with the Corporation's counsel, any legal matters that could have a significant impact on the organization's financial statements, the Corporation's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and inquiries received from regulators or governmental agencies;
2. annually prepare a report to shareholders to be included in the Corporation's annual information circular as required by applicable securities laws. The Chairman of the Committee, or other member appointed by the Chair, will review all disclosure documents to be issued by the Corporation relating to financial matters, including news releases, annual information forms and information circulars;
3. review and assess the adequacy of this Charter at least annually and submit it to the Board for approval;
4. annually evaluate the Committee's performance and report its findings to the Board;
5. maintain minutes of meetings and periodically report to the Board on significant results of the Committee's activities; and
6. perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Corporation's documents, and governing law, as the Committee or the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

F. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters may be submitted to the Committee, attention: The Chair. Complaints may be made anonymously and, if not made anonymously, the identity of the person submitting the complaint will be kept confidential. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Chair will conduct or designate a member of the Committee to conduct an initial investigation. If the results of that initial investigation indicate there may be any merit to the complaint, the matter will be brought before the Committee for a determination of further investigation and action. Records of complaints made and the resulting action or determination with respect to the complaint shall be documented and kept in the records of the Committee for a period of three years.