

**AMENDMENTS TO POLICY STATEMENT TO REGULATION 51-102
RESPECTING CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS**

Securities Act
(R.S.Q., c.V-1.1, s. 274 ; 2006, c. 50)

1. Paragraph 3 of section 1.4 of Policy Statement to *Regulation 51-102 respecting Continuous Disclosure Obligations* is amended by adding, at the end, the following paragraph:

“Similarly, the terms chief executive officer and chief financial officer should be read to include the individuals who have the responsibilities normally associated with these positions or act in a similar capacity. This determination should be made irrespective of an individual’s corporate title or whether that individual is employed directly or acts pursuant to an agreement or understanding.”.

2. The Policy Statement is amended by adding the following after section 4.2,

“PART 4A FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

4A.1 Application

Section 4A.1 of the Regulation indicates that Part 4A applies to forward-looking information that is disclosed by a reporting issuer other than forward-looking information contained in oral statements. Reporting issuers should consider broadly the various instances of forward-looking information made available to the public in considering the scope of forward-looking information that is disclosed. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Information that a reporting issuer files with securities regulators
- Information contained in news releases issued by a reporting issuer
- Information published on a reporting issuer’s website
- Information published in marketing materials or other similar materials prepared by a reporting issuer or distributed to the public by a reporting issuer.

4A.2 Reasonable Basis

Section 4A.2 of the Regulation requires a reporting issuer to have a reasonable basis for any forward-looking information it discloses. When interpreting "reasonable basis", reporting issuers should consider:

- (a) the reasonableness of the assumptions underlying the forward-looking information; and
- (b) the process followed in preparing and reviewing forward-looking information.

4A.3 Material Forward-Looking Information

Section 4A.3 and section 5.8 of the Regulation require a reporting issuer to include specified disclosure in material forward-looking information it discloses. Reporting issuers should exercise judgement when determining whether information is material. If a reasonable investor’s decision whether or not to buy, sell or hold securities of the reporting issuer would be influenced or changed if the information were omitted or misstated, then the information is likely material. This concept of materiality is consistent with the one contained in the Handbook.

Section 1.1 contains definitions of the terms “financial outlook” and “FOFI”. We consider FOFI and most financial outlooks to be material forward-looking information. Examples of financial outlooks include expected revenues, net income, earnings per share and R&D spending. A financial outlook relating to earnings is commonly referred to as “earnings guidance”.

An example of forward-looking information that is not a financial outlook or FOFI would be an estimate of future store openings by an issuer in the retail industry. This type of information may or may not be material, depending on whether a reasonable investor’s decision whether or not to buy, sell or hold securities of that issuer would be influenced or changed if the information were omitted or misstated.

4A.4 Location of Disclosure

Section 4A.3 of the Regulation requires that any material forward-looking information include specified disclosure. This disclosure should be presented in a manner that allows an investor who reads the document or other material containing the forward-looking information to be able to readily:

- (a) understand that the forward-looking information is being provided in the document or other material;
- (b) identify the forward-looking information; and
- (c) inform himself or herself of the material assumptions underlying the forward-looking information and the material risk factors associated with the forward-looking information.

4A.5 Disclosure of Cautionary Language and Material Risk Factors

(1) Paragraph 4A.3(b) of the Regulation requires a reporting issuer to accompany any material forward-looking information with disclosure that cautions users that actual results may vary from the forward-looking information and identifies material risk factors that could cause material variation. The material risk factors identified in the cautionary language should be relevant to the forward-looking information and the disclosure should not be boilerplate in nature.

(2) The cautionary statements required by paragraph 4A.3(b) of the Regulation should identify significant and reasonably foreseeable factors that could reasonably be expected to cause results to differ materially from those projected in the material forward-looking statement. Reporting issuers should not interpret this as requiring a reporting issuer to anticipate and discuss everything that could conceivably cause results to differ.

4A.6 Disclosure of Material Factors or Assumptions

Paragraph 4A.3(c) of the Regulation requires a reporting issuer to disclose the material factors or assumptions used to develop material forward-looking information. The factors or assumptions should be relevant to the forward-looking information. Disclosure of material factors or assumptions does not require an exhaustive statement of every factor or assumption applied – a materiality standard applies.

4A.7 Date of Assumptions

Management of a reporting issuer that discloses material forward-looking information should satisfy itself that the assumptions are appropriate as of the date management discloses the material forward-looking information even though the material forward-looking information may have been prepared at an earlier time, and may be based on information accumulated over a period of time.

4A.8 Time Period

Paragraph 4B.2(2)(a) of the Regulation requires a reporting issuer to limit the period covered by FOFI or a financial outlook to a period for which the information can be reasonably estimated. In many cases that time period will not go beyond the end of the reporting issuer's next fiscal year. Some of the factors a reporting issuer should consider include the reporting issuer's ability to make appropriate assumptions, the nature of the reporting issuer's industry, and the reporting issuer's operating cycle.

4A.9 FOFI

Section 4250 *Future-Oriented Financial Information* (Section 4250) of the CICA Handbook is relevant to reporting issuers who disclose FOFI. If a reporting issuer determines that it has a reasonable basis for FOFI prepared using one or more hypotheses, as that term is defined in CICA Handbook Section 4250, the hypotheses should be consistent with the courses of action that the reporting issuer intends to adopt.”

3. Part 5 is amended by adding the following after section 5.4,

“5.5 Previously disclosed material forward-looking information

(1) Subsection 5.8(2) of the Regulation requires a reporting issuer to discuss certain events and circumstances that occurred during the period to which its MD&A relates. The events to be discussed are those that are reasonably likely to cause actual results to differ materially from material forward-looking information for a period that is not yet complete. This discussion is only required if the reporting issuer previously disclosed the forward-looking information to the public. Subsection 5.8(2) also requires a reporting issuer to discuss the expected differences.

For example, assume that a reporting issuer published FOFI for the current year assuming no change in the prime interest rate, but by the end of the second quarter the prime interest rate went up by 2%. In its MD&A for the second quarter, the reporting issuer should discuss the interest rate increase and its expected effect on results compared to those indicated in the FOFI.

A reporting issuer should consider whether the events and circumstances that trigger MD&A or MD&A supplement disclosure under subsection 5.8(2) of the Regulation might also trigger material change reporting requirements under Part 7 of the Regulation.

(2) Subsection 5.8(4) of the Regulation requires a reporting issuer to disclose and discuss material differences between actual results for the annual or interim period to which its MD&A or MD&A supplement relates and any FOFI or financial outlook for that period that the reporting issuer previously disclosed to the public. A reporting issuer should disclose and discuss material differences for material individual items included in the FOFI or financial outlook, including assumptions.

For example, if the actual dollar amount of revenue approximates forecasted revenue but the sales mix or sales volume differs materially from what the reporting issuer expected, the reporting issuer should explain the differences.

(3) Subsection 5.8(5) of the Regulation addresses a reporting issuer's decision to withdraw previously disclosed material forward-looking information. The subsection requires the reporting issuer to disclose that decision and discuss the events and circumstances that led the reporting issuer to the decision to withdraw the material forward-looking information, including a discussion of the assumptions included in the material forward-looking information that are no longer valid. A reporting issuer should consider whether the events and circumstances that trigger MD&A or MD&A supplement disclosure under subsection 5.8(5) of the Regulation might also trigger material change reporting requirements under Part 7 of the Regulation. We encourage all reporting issuers to

promptly communicate to the market a decision to withdraw material forward-looking information, even if the material change reporting requirements are not triggered.”.

4. The Policy Statement is amended by adding, after section 9.1, the following section:

“9.2 Prospectus-level Disclosure in Certain Information Circulars

Section 14.2 of Form 51-102F5 *Information Circular* requires an issuer to provide prospectus-level disclosure about certain entities if securityholder approval is required in respect of a significant acquisition under which securities of the acquired business are being exchanged for the issuer’s securities or in respect of a restructuring transaction under which securities are to be changed, exchanged, issued or distributed.

Section 14.2 provides that the disclosure must be the disclosure (including financial statements) prescribed by the form of prospectus that the entity would be eligible to use immediately prior to the sending and filing of the information circular in respect of the significant acquisition or restructuring transaction, for a distribution of securities in the jurisdiction.

For example, if disclosure was required in an information circular of Company A for both Company A (an issuer that was only eligible to file a long form prospectus) and Company B (an issuer that was eligible to file a short form prospectus), the disclosure for Company A would be that required by the long form prospectus rules and the disclosure for Company B would be that required by the short form prospectus rules. Any information incorporated by reference in the information circular of Company A would have to comply with paragraph (c) of Part 1 of Form 51-102F5 and be filed under Company A’s profile on SEDAR.”.