



**BLACK IRON INC.**

**CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**1. PURPOSE OF THIS CHARTER**

The Audit Committee (the “**Committee**”) is appointed by the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of Black Iron Inc. (the “**Corporation**”) to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to financial accounting and reporting process and internal controls for the Corporation. The Committee’s primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- a) conduct such reviews and discussions with management and the external auditors relating to the audit and financial reporting as are deemed appropriate by the Committee;
- b) assess the integrity of internal controls and financial reporting procedures of the Corporation and ensure implementation of such controls and procedures;
- c) ensure that there is an appropriate standard of corporate conduct for senior financial personnel and employees including, if necessary, adopting a corporate code of ethics;
- d) review the quarterly and annual financial statements and management’s discussion and analysis of the Corporation’s financial position and operating results and in the case of the annual financial statements and related management’s discussion and analysis, report thereon to the Board for approval of same;
- e) select and monitor the independence and performance of the Corporation’s external auditors, including attending at private meetings with the external auditors and reviewing and approving all renewals or dismissals of the external auditors and their remuneration; and
- f) provide oversight of all disclosure relating to, and information derived from, financial statements, management’s discussion and analysis and information.

The Committee has the authority to conduct any investigation appropriate to its responsibilities, and it may request the external auditors, as well as any officer of the Corporation, or outside counsel for the Corporation, to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or advisors to, the Committee. The Committee shall have unrestricted access to the books and records of the Corporation and has the authority to retain, at the expense of the Corporation, special legal, accounting, or other consultants or experts to assist in the performance of the Committee's duties.

The Committee shall review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually and submit any proposed revisions to the Board for approval.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Committee will carry out the specific duties set out in Part 4 of this Charter.

## **2. AUTHORITY OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall have the authority to:

- a) engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties;
- b) set and pay the compensation for advisors employed by the Committee; and
- c) communicate directly with the internal and external auditors.

## **3. COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS**

The Committee and its membership shall meet all applicable legal, regulatory and listing requirements, including, without limitation, those of the Ontario Securities Commission ("OSC"), the Toronto Stock Exchange, the *Business Corporations Act* (Ontario) and all applicable securities regulatory authorities.

- a) The Committee shall be composed of three or more directors as shall be designated by the Board from time to time. The members of the Committee shall appoint from among themselves a member who shall serve as Chair. The position description and responsibilities of the Chair are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
- b) Each member of the Committee shall be "independent" and "financially literate". An "independent" director is a director who has no direct or indirect material relationship with the Corporation. A "material relationship" is a relationship which, in the view of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, could be reasonably expected to interfere with the exercise of the director's independent judgement or a relationship deemed to be a material relationship pursuant to Sections 1.4 and 1.5 of National Instrument 52-110 — *Audit Committees*, as set out in Schedule "B" hereto. A "financially literate" director is a director who has

the ability to read and understand a set of financial instruments that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the accounting issues that can be reasonably expected to be raised in the Corporation's financial statements.

- c) Each member of the Committee shall sit at the appointment of the Board of Directors, and in any event, only so long as he or she shall be independent. The Committee shall report to the Board of Directors.
- d) The Committee shall meet at least quarterly, at the discretion of the Chair or a majority of its members, as circumstances dictate or as may be required by applicable legal or listing requirements. A minimum of two and at least 50% of the members of the Committee present, either in person or by telephone, shall constitute a quorum.
- e) If within one hour of the time appointed for a meeting of the Committee, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same hour on the next business day following the date of such meeting at the same place. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum as hereinbefore specified is not present within one hour of the time appointed for such adjourned meeting, such meeting shall stand adjourned to the same hour on the second business day following the date of such meeting at the same place. If at the second adjourned meeting a quorum as hereinbefore specified is not present, the quorum for the adjourned meeting shall consist of the members then present.
- f) If, and whenever a vacancy shall exist, the remaining members of the Committee may exercise all of its powers and responsibilities so long as a quorum remains in office.
- g) The time and place at which meetings of the Committee shall be held, and procedures at such meetings, shall be determined from time to time by the Committee. A meeting of the Committee may be called by letter, telephone, facsimile, email or other communication equipment, by giving at least 48 hours' notice, provided that no notice of a meeting shall be necessary if all of the members are present either in person or by means of conference telephone or if those absent have waived notice or otherwise signified their consent to the holding of such meeting.
- h) Any member of the Committee may participate in the meeting of the Committee by means of conference telephone or other communication equipment, and the member participating in a meeting pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed, for purposes hereof, to be present in person at the meeting.

- i) The Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings which shall be submitted to the Board. The Committee may, from time to time, appoint any person who need not be a member, to act as a secretary at any meeting.
- j) The Committee may invite such officers, directors and employees of the Corporation and its subsidiaries as the Committee may see fit, from time to time, to attend at meetings of the Committee.
- k) Any matters to be determined by the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes cast at a meeting of the Committee called for such purpose. Actions of the Committee may be taken by an instrument or instruments in writing signed by all of the members of the Committee, and such actions shall be effective as though they had been decided by a majority of votes cast at a meeting of the Committee called for such purpose. The Committee shall report its determinations to the Board at the next scheduled meeting of the Board, or earlier as the Committee deems necessary. All decisions or recommendations of the Committee shall require the approval of the Board prior to implementation, other than those relating to non-audit services and annual audit fees which do not require the approval of the Board.
- l) The Committee members will be elected annually at the first meeting of the Board following the annual general meeting of shareholders.
- m) The Board may at any time amend or rescind any of the provisions hereof, or cancel them entirely, with or without substitution.

#### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **a) Financial Accounting and Reporting Process and Internal Controls**

- i) The Committee shall review the annual audited and interim financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis before the Corporation publicly discloses this information to satisfy itself that the financial statements are presented in accordance with applicable accounting principles and in the case of the annual audited financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis, report thereon and recommend to the Board whether or not same should be approved prior to their being filed with the appropriate regulatory authorities. With respect to the annual audited financial statements, the Committee shall discuss significant issues regarding accounting principles, practices, and judgments of management with management and the external auditors as and when the Committee deems it appropriate to do so. The Committee shall satisfy itself that the information contained in the annual audited financial statements is not significantly erroneous,

misleading or incomplete and that the audit function has been effectively carried out.

- ii) The Committee shall review any internal control reports prepared by management and the evaluation of such report by the external auditors, together with management's response.
- iii) The Committee shall be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation's financial statements, management's discussion and analysis and annual and interim earnings press releases, and periodically assess the adequacy of these procedures.
- iv) The Committee shall review any press releases containing disclosure regarding financial information that are required to be reviewed by the Committee under any applicable laws before the Corporation publicly discloses this information.
- v) The Committee shall meet no less than annually with the external auditors and the Chief Financial Officer or, in the absence of a Chief Financial Officer, with the officer of the Corporation in charge of financial matters, to review accounting practices, internal controls and such other matters as the Committee, Chief Financial Officer or, in the absence of a Chief Financial Officer, the officer of the Corporation in charge of financial matters, deem appropriate.
- vi) The Committee shall inquire of management and the external auditors about significant risks or exposures, both internal and external, to which the Corporation may be subject, and assess the steps management has taken to minimize such risks.
- (vii) The Committee shall provide oversight of the Corporation's policies, procedures and practices with respect to the maintenance of the books, records and accounts, and the filing of reports, by the Corporation with respect to third party payments in compliance with the *Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act* (Canada), the *Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act* (Canada) and similar applicable laws.
- viii) The Committee shall review the post-audit or management letter containing the recommendations of the external auditors and management's response and subsequent follow-up to any identified weaknesses.

- ix) The Committee shall ensure that there is an appropriate standard of corporate conduct including, if necessary, adopting a corporate code of ethics for senior financial personnel and all employees.
- x) The Committee shall establish and monitor procedures for:
  - the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding: (a) accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; or (b) violations of the Corporation’s policies including the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy; and Corporate Disclosure, Confidentiality and Insider Trading Policy; and
  - the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters or violations of any of the Corporation’s policies (as described above).

The Corporation’s whistleblower policy will be extended to cover any concerns or complaints regarding the aforementioned matters.
- xi) The Committee shall provide oversight to related party transactions entered into by the Corporation.
- xii) The Committee shall establish the budget process, which shall include the setting of spending limits and authorizations, as well as periodic reports from the Chief Financial Officer comparing actual spending to the budget.
- xiii) The Committee shall have the authority to adopt such policies and procedures as it deems appropriate to operate effectively.

**b) Independent Auditors**

- i) The Committee shall recommend to the Board the external auditors to be nominated for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditors’ report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation, shall set the compensation for the external auditors, provide oversight of the external auditors and shall ensure that the external auditors’ report directly to the Committee.
- ii) The Committee shall be directly responsible for overseeing the work of the external auditors, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditors regarding financial reporting.
- iii) The pre-approval of the Committee shall be required as further set out in Schedule “C” prior to the undertaking of any non-audit services not

prohibited by law to be provided by the external auditors in accordance with this Charter.

- iv) The Committee shall monitor and assess the relationship between management and the external auditors and monitor, support and assure the independence and objectivity of the external auditors.
- v) The Committee shall review the external auditors' audit plan, including the scope, procedures and timing of the audit.
- vi) The Committee shall review the results of the annual audit with the external auditors, including matters related to the conduct of the audit.
- vii) The Committee shall obtain timely reports from the external auditors describing critical accounting policies and practices, alternative treatments of information within IFRS that were discussed with management, their ramifications, and the external auditors' preferred treatment and material written communications between the Corporation and the external auditors.
- viii) The Committee shall review fees paid by the Corporation to the external auditors and other professionals in respect of audit and non-audit services on an annual basis.
- ix) The Committee shall review and approve the Corporation's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former auditors of the Corporation.
- x) The Committee shall monitor and assess the relationship between management and the external auditors and monitor and support the independence and objectivity of the external auditors.
- xi) The Committee shall have the authority to engage the external auditors to perform a review of the interim financial statements.

**c) Other Responsibilities**

The Committee shall perform any other activities consistent with this Charter and governing law, as the Committee or the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

## **SCHEDULE “A”**

### **BLACK IRON INC.**

#### **POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

##### **1. PURPOSE**

The Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board shall be an independent director who is elected by the Board to act as the leader of the Committee in assisting the Board in fulfilling its financial reporting and control responsibilities to the shareholders of the Corporation.

##### **2. WHO MAY BE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman will be selected from amongst the independent directors of the Corporation who have a sufficient level of financial sophistication and experience in dealing with financial issues to ensure the leadership and effectiveness of the Committee.

The Chairman will be selected annually at the first meeting of the Board following the annual general meeting of shareholders.

##### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following are the primary responsibilities of the Chairman:

- a) chairing all meetings of the Committee in a manner that promotes meaningful discussion;
- b) ensuring adherence to the Committee’s Charter and that the adequacy of the Committee’s Charter is reviewed annually;
- c) providing leadership to the Committee to enhance the Committee’s effectiveness, including:
  - i) providing the information to the Board relative to the Committee’s issues and initiatives and reviewing and submitting to the Board an appraisal of the Corporation’s independent auditors and internal auditing functions;
  - ii) ensuring that the Committee works as a cohesive team with open communication, as well as ensuring open lines of communication among the independent auditors, financial and senior management and the Board of Directors for financial and control matters;
  - iii) ensuring that the resources available to the Committee are adequate to support its work and to resolve issues in a timely manner;

- iv) ensuring that the Committee serves as an independent and objective party to monitor the Corporation's financial reporting process and internal control systems, as well as to monitor the relationship between the Corporation and the independent auditors to ensure independence;
  - v) ensuring that procedures are in place to assess the audit activities of the independent auditors and the internal audit functions;
  - vi) ensuring that procedures are in place to review the Corporation's public disclosure of financial information and assess the adequacy of such procedures periodically, in consultation with any disclosure committee of the Corporation;
  - vii) ensuring that clear hiring policies are put in place for partners and employees of the auditors;
- d) ensuring that procedures are in place for dealing with complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal controls and auditing matters, and for employees to submit confidential anonymous concerns, ensuring the establishment of a budget process, which shall include the setting of spending limits and authorizations and periodical reports from the Chief Financial Officer of actual spending as compared to the budget regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; and
- e) managing the Committee, including:
- i) adopting procedures to ensure that the Committee can conduct its work effectively and efficiently, including committee structure and composition, scheduling, and management of meetings;
  - ii) preparing the agenda of the Committee meetings and ensuring pre-meeting material is distributed in a timely manner and is appropriate in terms of relevance, efficient format and detail;
  - iii) ensuring meetings are appropriate in terms of frequency, length and content;
  - iv) obtaining and reviewing with the Committee an annual report from the independent auditors, and arranging meetings with the auditors and financial management to review the scope of the proposed audit for the current year, its staffing and the audit procedures to be used;
  - v) overseeing the Committee's participation in the Corporation's accounting and financial reporting process and the audits of its financial statements;

- vi) ensuring that the auditor's report directly to the Committee, as representatives of the Corporation's shareholders; and
- vii) annually reviewing with the Committee its own performance.

## **SCHEDULE “B”**

### **BLACK IRON INC.**

#### **NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 52-110 AUDIT COMMITTEES (“NI 52-110”)**

##### **Section 1.4 — Meaning of Independence**

- (1) An audit committee member is independent if he or she has no direct or indirect material relationship with the issuer.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a “material relationship” is a relationship which could, in the view of the issuer’s board of directors, be reasonably expected to interfere with the exercise of a member’s independent judgment.
- (3) Despite subsection (2), the following individuals are considered to have a material relationship with an issuer:
  - (a) an individual who is, or has been within the last three years, an employee or executive officer of the issuer;
  - (b) an individual whose immediate family member is, or has been within the last three years, an executive officer of the issuer;
  - (c) an individual who:
    - (i) is a partner of a firm that is the issuer’s internal or external auditor,
    - (ii) is an employee of that firm, or
    - (iii) was within the last three years a partner or employee of that firm and personally worked on the issuer’s audit within that time;
  - (d) an individual whose spouse, minor child or stepchild, or child or stepchild who shares a home with the individual:
    - (i) is a partner of a firm that is the issuer’s internal or external auditor,
    - (ii) is an employee of that firm and participates in its audit, assurance or tax compliance (but not tax planning) practice, or
    - (iii) was within the last three years a partner or employee of that firm and personally worked on the issuer’s audit within that time;
  - (e) an individual who, or whose immediate family member, is or has been within the last three years, an executive officer of an entity if any of the issuer’s current

executive officers serves or served at that same time on the entity's compensation committee; and

- (f) an individual who received, or whose immediate family member who is employed as an executive officer of the issuer received, more than \$75,000 in direct compensation from the issuer during any 12 month period within the last three years.
- (4) Despite subsection (3), an individual will not be considered to have a material relationship with the issuer solely because
- (a) he or she had a relationship identified in subsection (3) if that relationship ended before March 30, 2004; or
  - (b) he or she had a relationship identified in subsection (3) by virtue of subsection (8) if that relationship ended before June 30, 2005.
- (5) For the purposes of clauses (3)(c) and (3)(d), a partner does not include a fixed income partner whose interest in the firm that is the internal or external auditor is limited to the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation (including deferred compensation) for prior service with that firm if the compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service.
- (6) For the purposes of clause (3)(f), direct compensation does not include:
- (a) remuneration for acting as a member of the board of directors or of any board committee of the issuer, and
  - (b) the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the issuer if the compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service.
- (7) Despite subsection (3), an individual will not be considered to have a material relationship with the issuer solely because the individual or his or her immediate family member
- (a) has previously acted as an interim chief executive officer of the issuer, or
  - (b) acts, or has previously acted, as a chair or vice-chair of the board of directors or of any board committee of the issuer on a part-time basis.
- (8) For the purpose of section 1.4, an issuer includes a subsidiary entity of the issuer and a parent of the issuer.

## **Section 1.5 — Additional Independence Requirements for Audit Committee Members**

- (1) Despite any determination made under section 1.4 of NI 52-110, an individual who
  - (a) accepts, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the issuer or any subsidiary entity of the issuer, other than as remuneration for acting in his or her capacity as a member of the board of directors or any board committee, or as a part-time chair or vice-chair of the board or any board committee; or
  - (b) is an affiliated entity of the issuer or any of its subsidiary entities,is considered to have a material relationship with the issuer.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the indirect acceptance by an individual of any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee includes acceptance of a fee by
  - (a) an individual's spouse, minor child or stepchild, or a child or stepchild who shares the individual's home; or
  - (b) an entity in which such individual is a partner, member, an officer such as a managing director occupying a comparable position or executive officer, or occupies a similar position (except limited partners, non-managing members and those occupying similar positions who, in each case, have no active role in providing services to the entity) and which provides accounting, consulting, legal, investment banking or financial advisory services to the issuer or any subsidiary entity of the issuer.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), compensatory fees do not include the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the issuer if the compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service.

## **SCHEDULE “C”**

### **BLACK IRON INC.**

#### **Procedures for Approval of Non-Audit Services**

1. The Corporation’s external auditors shall be prohibited from performing for the Corporation the following categories of non-audit services:
  - (a) bookkeeping or other services related to the Corporation’s accounting records or financial statements;
  - (b) appraisal or valuation services, fairness opinion or contributions-in-kind reports;
  - (c) actuarial services;
  - (d) internal audit outsourcing services;
  - (e) management functions;
  - (f) human resources;
  - (g) broker or dealer, investment adviser or investment banking services;
  - (h) legal services; and
  - (i) any other service that the Canadian Public Accountability Board or International Accounting Standards Board or other analogous board which may govern the Corporation’s accounting standards, from time to time determines is impermissible.
2. In the event that the Corporation wishes to retain the services of the Corporation’s external auditors for tax compliance, tax advice or tax planning, the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation shall consult with the Chair of the Committee, who shall have the authority to approve or disapprove on behalf of the Committee, such non-audit services. All other non-audit services shall be approved or disapproved by the Committee as a whole.
3. The Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation shall maintain a record of non-audit services approved by the Chair of the Committee or the Committee for each fiscal year and provide a report to the Committee no less frequently than on a quarterly basis.